

to say, "I'd better not harm this person because if I do, I might get the chair." I don't know anybody who's ever kidnapped anybody, so I don't know this, but it seems possible that when some time for reflection is involved, the death penalty may deter some person from murder.

On the other hand, the argument has been made that the contrary is true, that, since they may be facing the death penalty, they are more apt to kill witnesses to prevent them from testifying against them. I don't know what the answer is.

PREJEAN: What I hear you saying is that you're not sure that the death penalty really deters future murders from being committed.

EDWARDS: There are two issues, now - deterrence and revenge. I'm not convinced that having a death penalty deters a person who is disturbed and full of mad hostility - that they would go that far even to think about it. Now, whether or not society by revenge or retribution should execute these people is another question.

PREJEAN: Let's talk about that - retribution. That's what the death penalty seems to be boiling down to. You don't these days hear even the prosecuting attorneys talking much about deterrence. It does seem to come down to: you took a life, now we're going to take your life. You owe that. In fact, those were Governor Buddy Roemer's words last May to Dalton Prejean over the telephone shortly before his execution. He said, "You owe society your life."

EDWARDS: I have to tell you that in Louisiana and I guess in most