

Southern states the prevailing attitude is that the death penalty is warranted in certain, limited circumstances, and I don't think you are going to change it legislatively, politically, or judicially unless you are able to change public opinion.

PREJEAN: Over the past five years or so there have been a number of polls in a dozen states, most recently in California, where people were asked not simply if they were for or against the death penalty, but were presented with an alternative - a life sentence without parole coupled with restitution to the victims' family. In these polls over fifty per cent show that they clearly support life imprisonment over death.<sup>1</sup>

EDWARDS: I think that's a significant key. I think many people are for the death penalty out of fear that this fellow is going to be let out and kill somebody else. And I think if the whole argument were coupled with an assurance that once this person has been convicted of this kind of crime he will never again be free to walk the streets to do this same thing to somebody else, I think there would be a drastic drop in support for the death penalty. It is the fear and the desire for safety, I think, that causes a number of people to go for the death penalty - let's go on and kill him so he won't get a chance to kill somebody again. That's an understandable human emotion.

And another thing that discourages me about the whole thing is whether or not you are actually doing the guy a favor by