

PREJEAN: Such a small percentage of people who commit murder are actually chosen for the death penalty anyway. And when you look closely, you find out that the selection process is much more like a lottery than an even-handed, systematic process, having more to do with who was killed and in whose district and whether or not it was election time rather than the heinousness of the crime itself. Maybe the recent elections show that citizens aren't buying politicians' simplistic answers to the crime problem - as if executing four or five people a year is a real anti-crime program.

EDWARDS: I have to tell you that I don't want to be responsible for executions, and I tried to get the legislature to remove the whole process from the governor, but I recognize that in the final analysis some one person has to have the authority to stop an execution, even though you don't have to take an affirmative action to make it happen. The whole process is in the judicial system, then all of a sudden in the last thirty days to have it sitting on the heart and mind and soul of one man is a very difficult position to be in. I do feel that there are instances where, because of society's desire to protect itself and its desire for revenge and because of the heinous, cold-blooded circumstances of the murder, that you can justify executing him or her a lot easier and faster than the person who does so in a fit of passion or where there is some mental retardation or some