

slowing of the mental processes.

PREJEAN: That's true. There is a difference. But what I've discovered is that in order to throw out the net to get that heinous, cold-blooded murderer, you haul in the same net the poor, the mentally retarded, the insane...

EDWARDS: Yes, everyone is caught in the net on the theory of equality.

PREJEAN: Except we know that it is not equal. Overwhelmingly it is the poor and those who kills whites who are selected for execution.

EDWARDS: There's no question, as you say, that the status of the victim is sometimes more important than the quality of the crime. A person who kills a president, governor, mayor, local minister or the town doctor is going to be a whole lot more harshly dealt with than someone who kills the town drunk or somebody's yard boy.

PREJEAN: Case in point. I have with me an editorial that appeared in the Times-Picayune this morning. In it, James Gill, a columnist reveals how Congressman, Bob Livingston, had written a scathing attack on New Orleans Mayor Sidney Barthelemy, for failing to curb the city's crime wave. Livingston was especially incensed over the recent death of a judge's son. And Gill, while lamenting the death of the young man, wonders out loud why Mr. Livingston was not equally outraged by the death of another young man, three days earlier, a young black man, who had been killed