

called, this man would live, and, if you did not call, this man would die. That kind of power must be awful.

EDWARD: I was on the other end debating with myself whether or not I should do anything about it. But I finally had to make the political decision that I was the governor of all the people in the state and this was the state policy, and I had an obligation to enforce it even though my personal views were very different.

PREJEAN: Just in terms of the costliness of this process. When an execution comes up and the power is in your hands and you must make a decision about a human being's life, it must consume a considerable amount of your time and energy.

EDWARDS: Yes, it consumes all your thoughts for some period of time immediately prior to the execution. But it's part of your job as governor and you just do what you gotta do. I'm not going to suggest to you that I laid down prostrate and cried and turned away from every other effort. I just went on about my business, and I can't say it kept me from doing whatever else I needed to do.

PREJEAN: I want to talk to you more about personal beliefs versus public duty. Take Governor Toney Anaya of New Mexico. As a matter of conscience he commuted the sentences of all the people on death row before leaving office. He knew what the law demanded. He knew that the polls showed overwhelming public support for executions, but he knew that the power to save life or to kill was in his hands and he chose to act out of his conscience. Are