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Death Penalty Statement

George Moscone
EDITORIAL STATEMENT
"NO ON PROPOSITION 17"
(DEATH PENALTY INITIATIVE)

By Senator George R. Moscone
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Proposition 17 is being presented to California voters in a misleading way.
Proposition 17 goes far beyond the death penalty we used to have.
Gone will be any discretion for judge or jury. If the legislature decides that murder should carry the death penalty, a jury will automatically send a defendant to the gas chamber if it returns a guilty verdict. The young housewife who, in a fit of anger kills her husband, would pay the same penalty as the hired Chicago gunman who kills for money.
Most people believe that capital punishment reduces the number of homicides, when in fact figures show that without capital punishment, murder rates go down.
During the first six months without capital punishment, homicides in San Francisco dropped 15% from the previous year, when we did have the death penalty.

Vote No on Proposition 17 and vote for the possibility of real crime deterrence in California. Violence begets violence. Vote No on Proposition 17 and vote for humane solutions to crime control, not useless vengeance.