

“The victims were homosexuals. They were out in a homosexual area, picking up teenage boys. Had they not been out there, trying to spread AIDs around, they’d still be alive today. I hope that’s clear. This is an 18 year old boy. You’ve got 30 years in prison. You know, that’s pretty heavy punishment for a kid who has never done anything wrong before. I balance the character of the defendant against the crime he committed. I tried to consider every fact that was presented to me.

“I’ve been prosecuting since 1955, defending, I defended cases 20 years, I’ve been judging them for 7 years and any sentence that I do is done through 33 years’ experience in criminal law. And it does not upset me if someone in the gay rights disagrees with me.” – Texas State District Judge Jack Hampton, 1988

These comments were made to the Associated Press in response to Hampton’s original statement along the same lines to a *Dallas Times Herald* reporter: “I put prostitutes and gays at about the same level. And I’d be hard put to give somebody life for killing a prostitute.”