

April 3, 1987

LB 777

committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendments are adopted. Back to the bill as amended. Any further explanation, Senator Hall, on the bill?

SENATOR HALL: None that I would offer at this time, Mr. President. If there are any questions, I would try to field those.

SPEAKER BARRETT: There is an amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend the bill. (Chambers amendment appears on page 1486 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I would like to amend LB 777 with the proposition that should be on the desk of each of you. It says, "add a new miscellaneous claim for the period February 1986 through January 1987, against the University of Nebraska for a total amount of \$660,000". That is \$660,000. And the purpose of it is to pay each of 110 members of the varsity football team \$500 a month for that 12-month period. I think this is a fair thing to do, but, so that you won't feel that the money is not available, I'll give you just a very brief rundown of some of the amounts brought in by the football team. And what I am giving you is exclusive or does not include television revenue, radio revenue, concessions, or the four games that Nebraska will play away from home, or the bowl game that I'm sure it will go to. The stadium seats 78,000 people. I'm going to calculate on the basis of 76,000 at \$15 a ticket. For each home game, that would produce \$1,140,000. For 7 home games it would be \$7,980,000, or almost \$8 million. So, \$660,000 from \$8 million is a pittance. When we consider that all of this money and the entire program could not exist without the players, they should be given some compensation. If you look at why people are paid, you'd want to consider the nature of the work, the amount of time they put into it, the benefit that accrues to society or the one who employs them. Right now Nebraska stands in the position somewhat between a slave master and the holder of indentured servants. The football players don't get what people call scholarships, they really get contracts of indenture, except that they are not allowed anything in the way of tangible benefit from that contract.