

money, when I was going to school, which isn't all that long ago, where athletes did receive some kind of compensation to get them by. The dollar figure that he puts out there, I don't know how he arrives at it, but it is a little steep for me when I look at the fact that as a lawmaker and a revenue generator, Senator Chambers, whether or not a non-Revenue Committee or not, we do supply a lot of revenue to this state and I would question whether or not we are compensated to the extent that we should be as well. Maybe an amendment to the amendment would be appropriate that would file a claim for the 49 members of the Legislature as well, Senator Chambers. But the issue I think is one that is not going to go away. Whether or not we support it today probably doesn't make any difference, it won't be adopted onto this bill, but I think that down the road we are going to see this issue probably come to fruition and that Senator Chambers, again, will become a prophet in some respect. With that, thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Chambers, your light is on next, followed by Senator Abboud.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Hall mentioned that the Legislature generates or raises revenue, but that is by imposing taxes and fees on others. The revenue raised or generated through the Legislature's activities does not come out of our hide or as a result of our risking injury or undergoing strenuous, rigorous physical activity in the form of training, weight lifting, running and so forth, then butting heads with people. And Senator Hall asked me, do I think anyone would pay to watch us? One of my colleagues, I won't call him by name, suggested they might pay us more if we stayed home altogether. (Laughter.) But, at any rate, there are problems now of students who are called athletes taking money under the table, as it is called, and they want to punish this player. Many of these players come from poor families, whether it is in the city or from the rural areas. When you are not allowed to hold a job you cannot accept gifts, you cannot accept assistance from anybody. If you come from a wealthy family, your family can give you any amount that they want to. So the class structure that exists in society is superimposed in the athletic field at the college level. The wealthy student or well-off student has parents who can give him a car, any amount of clothing, any amount of spending money to do with what he pleases. The poor student comes there and has to give as much to the program, but he is without means. So being vulnerable, maybe wanting to take his young lady to dinner or to a movie, he