

March 31, 1988

LB 1226

at Lincoln shall be paid a stipend, the amount of which shall be determined by the University." So this takes away any concern that anybody may have had of what the Chancellor called a pro-type salary, there will be no reference to the players as employees. And in order that that letter will be a part of the record, I am going to read it into the record and that will be my presentation. If you have any questions, I will answer them. This is dated March 29, 1988, and I handed a copy to everybody.

"Dear Senator Chambers: I am writing you in regard to LB 1226, your proposal to treat football players at the University of Nebraska Lincoln as employees of the institution. Based upon my conversation with you and my reading of press reports of the legislative debate on LB 1226, I understand the objective of the bill to be to encourage the liberalization of National Collegiate Athletic Association rules pertaining to support of athletes. As you know, the concern at UN-L with LB 1226 has been and continues to be that the eligibility of the football program or any other intercollegiate athletic program not be jeopardized by this legislation. This concern appears to have been adequately addressed via the amendments of the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, which have been attached to LB 1226. It is essential that the committee amendments to LB 1226 be retained. It is my understanding that you will amend the present version of LB 1226 to eliminate the language referring to football player employee status and entitlement to the rights and benefits of other university employees. I also understand that your amendments will refer to providing football players stipends rather than making such athletes employees. These changes would, in my opinion, bring the legislation more into conformance with the objective of the bill. I am sure that you are aware that for the past several years personnel at UN-L have advocated and worked for liberalization of the NCAA rules relating to support for athletes. I believe that the objective of LB 1226 is consistent with the efforts of the University of Nebraska Lincoln. In light of my understanding of the objective of LB 1226, the amendments which have been and are to be made to 1226 and the efforts of the University of Nebraska Lincoln to liberalize NCAA rules pertaining to support for athletes, the University of Nebraska Lincoln does not stand in opposition to LB 1226. Sincerely yours, M.A. Massengale, Chancellor." When there are people at the University of Nebraska and other large schools making proposals to the NCAA to liberalize these rules and they meet with virtually no success, they need to have additional tools placed in their hands and that's what this bill will do.

11466