

today. The other \$40 would be put into a special Spirit Plate Proceed Fund. Under the bill, the first \$3 million collected would be appropriated to the University of Nebraska for financial support to former athletes. The second \$2 million would be appropriated to the University of Nebraska for financial support of academic services and, Senator Brashear, my point here isn't to steal his thunder. He'll tell you what that money is going to spent for and where it goes. However, the third part of that fund is where the committee amendment comes in that any money after that initial \$5 million will then be used for the repair, maintenance, upkeep and improvement of Memorial Stadium and then the repair, maintenance, upkeep and improvement of the other athletic facilities of any campus of the University of Nebraska. That did not meet with the general approval of the Transportation Committee, that third part. The committee amendment does this: it says that that money shall be divided equally among the campuses of the state college system and the University of Nebraska system for the repair, maintenance, upkeep and improvement of all athletic facilities at any campus. So instead of running to Memorial Stadium first, our spirits are still hig, but they also are a statewide spirit and so the committee adopted the amendment that would take these proceeds and send them equally to the campuses. Obviously, the University of Nebraska Medical Center does not have an athletic team. I don't know what their mascot would be if they did, but we'll send it to the three state colleges and obviously the campuses of UNK, UNL and UNO for those. The other thing the committee amendment does is it requires that the design of the license plate be selected on marketability and limited their manufacturing cost to \$1.50, which is consistent with other plate manufacturing costs. If for some reason the cost of doing those plates would exceed the \$1.50, that money would then be credited and taken out of the Spirit Plate Proceed Funds going to make the Highway Trust Fund whole at that point in time because, as we all know, the Highway Trust Fund's the one that has to pay for the manufacture of plates and then you reimburse them for the plates actually sold. So if they're going to cost us more than \$1.50, that money is first going to go back to make the Highway Trust Fund whole pursuant to their manufacturing cost. With that, that is the committee amendments, Mr. President. I would yield any of my remaining opening on the bill to Senator Brashear to explain, if he'd like, to give him first crack to explain the purpose of the plates and I'm sure that he's got a speech raring to go to take up that time and I