

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 28, 2003 LB 574

looking at one of these sheets and Creighton is going to get \$395,000 for the 2003-04 year; then it goes up to \$443,000 for '04-05; then \$410,000 for '05-06; then \$363,000, '06-07, then \$297,000, '07-08. Just when I'm at the point of trying to go along with something like this, because I know the work that was done, I open the newspaper and I see where Creighton is in the midst of the most ambitious building program in its history, acquiring more land, doing more building, hired a special fund-raiser who is renowned for her ability to raise money. And why during these times should Creighton get this kind of money? I am asking rhetorical questions. I see where Concordia University is getting for those years, \$186,000, \$293,000, \$267,000, \$244,000, \$207,000. Why do I mention Concordia? Because in September of last year, they manifested their religious discrimination against a student. So I would like to ask Senator Raikes a question.

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Raikes, would you yield, please?

SENATOR RAIKES: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Raikes, we know these religious schools, since they are private, can do anything they want to as far as their curricula, their dress codes, and whatever. Do you think they ought to be allowed to discriminate on the basis of religion while they are receiving state funds? I mean if they only want people of their own religion to go there, shouldn't they only get money from their own religious sources rather than from the state? So here's my question, do you think they ought to be able to practice religious discrimination?

SENATOR RAIKES: Well, Senator, that seems like a hard question to ask in the affirmative, I mean, given it includes the word "discrimination." Keep in mind, and I don't want to use up a lot of your time. I was just going to the point that the intent here is to...the money goes with the student, not to the institution. Now we're assuming something about where the students who receive this award...these awards would go. But the money is to the student or in support of the student. It's capped. It can't be based on a tuition if that tuition is higher than the highest...25 percent of the highest public is