

too many years ago, you remember, legislation and court decisions that said, little girls in school, big girls too, should be allowed to be treated equally when it comes to activities such as recreational activities, a variety of things. It had been a tradition in this country, in this state for a number of years to have boys' football, boys' basketball, boys' track and the girls of course could have a choral group and be cheerleaders and things like that. The new rulings at the federal level and some of them in the courts said, "Now that is not quite the way the game should be played, that whether girls were allowed to play football or whatever, they should be not abused from a financial standpoint or discriminated against simply because they happen to be of the female sex. They should have equal educational opportunities and equal recreational opportunities," so on and so forth. I'll be very frank with you, when those decisions first came down and that legislation first came down from the federal government, I was one of those that sat up in the Nebraska Club with a friend of mine named Bob Devaney and we both talked about how the end of the world was coming because the university's football program would be ruined. All the money would be diverted to the girls, on and on and on. We both expressed grave concerns and I thought it would be a folly. As it was, it turned out to be something I think very necessary, very proper, very good and it has opened up whole new vistas of activity for both sexes in the schools and we have found that girls can indeed become very interested in volleyball and the various other things and we did indeed learn that there was incredible discrimination going on strictly 100% on the basis of the fact that somebody was born a girl and somebody else was born a boy. The federal legislation and Nebraska complied quite well, has complied quite well, did accomplish a great number of things in this area. We now with state legislation and with the directive of Ronald Reagan are trying to follow up at the state level by saying, "Look, there shouldn't be discrimination on the basis of sex. There should be equal treatment and nobody should be disallowed to realize their potential in a school strictly on the basis of sex." And that is the philosophy of the bill. All the rest of the bill is are the mechanics for implementing that philosophy and hopefully there will be no problems because there is pretty much compliance going on. But should there be changes at the federal level, elimination of one thing or another, this on the state level would ensure that we continued with our program in this state of nondiscrimination on the basis of sex. I would urge the support of the Legislature on this concept. I think it is tacitly accepted when we talk that we don't discriminate on the basis of sex and yet we were doing it for a couple hundred years without ever really recognizing it. When we have recognized a problem we have tried to correct it in