

collegiate program will trickle down to a high school level. Good athlete programs and good education programs go hand in hand in Nebraska. Sports have always been an integral part of our educational system. Sports programs teach our young people lessons about working together for a common cause. They teach them the lessons of self-discipline and they teach them how to keep their bodies in good physical health. Sports programs also contribute to communities and their sense of community spirit and entertainment and we saw a lot of that just this last week when the girls basketball tournament was held here in Lincoln. Also we'll see that again the latter part of this week when the boys basketball teams come to town. Sports programs help to support our schools and universities financially too in their athletic programs. I feel that Senator Chambers this morning is being picky and I knew that he would probably oppose this bill as he usually does. In fact, in some of the other years he kept it bottled up in committee. But I believe that it is very important to keep our sports programs in good shape. LB 224 is one way to ensure that the best practices are followed when agents recruit athletics for professional employments. Like Senator McFarland said, many other states have passed legislation such as this. Many other states are anticipating in passing and have introduced legislation to pass bills such as we're talking about. I feel that regulation is necessary to protect the interests of the athletes, the athlete programs of our colleges in our state and also for protection of the public. It is high time that we pass a bill such as this.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Ashford, please, followed by Senator McFarland, then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Mr. President, members, I, too, rise in support of Senator McFarland's bill and I'd like to go point by point over some of the...some of Senator Chambers' concerns and I...as I read the bill I read it somewhat differently than Senator Chambers and I'd like to go over that and maybe debate some of the sections with him rather than talk about the general policy because, obviously, I think all of us would like to see clean sports programs and I don't think there is any problem with public policy in that regard, but I'd like to go over some of the sections that he has raised and to maybe debate those specifically with him and then get to the bottom of it. First of all, in the due process argument that he raised in connection with his bill concerning the NCAA, I supported that bill and I think he raised some excellent points in arguing that