March 6, 1989   LB 224

PRESIDENT: Senator McFarland, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: What is the procedure at the present time,
Senator, that is followed when an athlete desires an agent?   Is
there a standard procedure or is there a known group of agents
that are available or could the athlete decide that he'd have
his friend and neighbor whom he has confidence in represent him?
What is the procedure at the present time?

SENATOR McFARLAND: There are no real procedures, Senator
Schmit.   It is wide open.   That's one of the reasons we want the
legislation.   The normal procedure that the university and the
athletic department encourages is athletes to look for an agent
after the season is completed, but before the bowl game and then
to sign with an agent after the bowl game.   But often what
happens is for the star athletes, the agents are flocking to
these players to want to represent them, calling them, harassing
them, contacting them during the summer, trying to get them to
sign early with no regard to the student's participation in
college sports.

SENATOR SCHMIT: How many agents would there be available to the
various players any given time, any given season?

SENATOR McFARLAND: I can only speak in the area of football.   I
think there were over a thousand agents who were registered with
the NFL Players Association and that is rather interesting since
there are only about 1,500 football players in the entire NFL,
so you can tell a lot of people want to get into this type of
business.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Is there anything at the present time that
would bar a student from selecting an agent from among his known
friends, his own lawyer, his relative, friend, anything like
that?

SENATOR McFARLAND: Presently, there really isn't.   He could
select his...some athletes have chosen their father to negotiate
their contracts for them, or uncle or whoever.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I see.   I guess the thing that I'm concerned
about is first of all, this process isn't something which just
sneaks up on an athlete.   They are well aware by the time they
arrive at this decision-making process that they will probably

1873