

March 7, 1989

LB 224

fact, I have asked him on previous occasions, if he would like to submit them, I would be glad to talk with him about it. We had a chance in the committee hearing where amendments could have been offered. At that time, there were no amendments offered, and now we've spent all day yesterday with a whole series of amendments drafted hastily and filed with the Clerk. There is a problem in this area and it is a problem nationwide. It is a problem that has affected the athletes here in Nebraska. We have heard about certain instances but I can tell you it is a problem that has affected a number of athletes, and a number of athletes have been cheated and misled and taken advantage of by sports agents here in Nebraska, but have had no remedy to try to get their money back or to try to take some kind of legal action or other action against a particular agent. This bill, as a concept, is a good one. I would ask that we suspend the rules today and get on with things. We have already taken most of the day on just one bill. If there are problems and you want to debate the bill more, we can certainly take it up on Select File. I would like the opportunity, though, to have a look at the amendments ahead of time and not be answering questions on the floor and taking up time with debating and visiting across the floor and trying to amend the bill on the floor. That should have been done in committee, and there was every opportunity to do so. And so, for that reason, I would respectfully request your vote to suspend the rules on this occasion, advance the bill to Select File. During that time, I will be glad to discuss with anyone and everyone any amendments that want to be proposed. I will work on it. I don't think the bill needs much change. I will mention there is one change that I will probably make on Select File. I think Senator Chambers did raise one aspect that I think we might need to address and that involved the definition of contacts, how do we define contacts as far as between a sports agent and an athlete. I don't think we want to limit contacts that are by telephone call from out of state or a letter. What we really are aiming at is the direct personal contact, the direct recruitment that goes on. Sometimes it interrupts the seasons, whether it is basketball, or baseball, or football, and interferes with the college athletes who are trying to participate. It is for that reason I have made the motion to suspend the rules. I don't think we need to take up all these other amendments and take valuable time out of the legislative process and debate here in the Legislature and, for that reason, I would ask for your support. Thank you.