

discussed because we are dealing with a complex system. The issue, itself, is not complex but the system created by the NCAA and the university's complicity in that system do combine for complexity. The issue is simple. Should a student be required as a condition of participating in a university activity be forced to give up assistance that no other student would have to give up, impose conditions on these people that are not imposed on other students. When I offered my bill to pay players, there were editorials indicating that Nebraska would be deemed a football crazy state and so forth. Contrary to that reaction, that bill, even though the Governor vetoed it, led to discussion all over the country and athletic directors, coaches, editorial writers, and others came out and have continued to come out in favor of paying the players, whether they call it pay, a stipend or whatever. So the people who indicated what the reception would be simply don't understand this particular issue and this area of human endeavor, but I do say that Nebraska can, indeed, be called a football crazy state if the Legislature, having had brought to it a discriminatory situation, will say we will let that discrimination stand because it is more important that Nebraska play football than that the students' rights be protected. It is an issue. It is a conflict. It is a clash of ideas, and we have to decide which is more important, the Legislature upholding the right of these students to be treated as all other students, or to turn our back on that type of discrimination and say that football is more important. As I told Senator McFarland, in a conflict between the NCAA and any institution, whether it is a college or university, I am anti-NCAA and pro-college, pro-university, no matter what. But when it comes to a combine of the NCAA and an institution against the rights of a player, I am pro-player all the way, no matter what and anti-NCAA/institution. These players have nobody protecting their rights. One of these other students could go to court and have something done if denied aid. The athlete cannot, and you all can sit comfortably with that kind of circumstance. I have heard senators on this floor speak about various incentive programs to help the students who need to go to school, and those are worthy goals, worthy programs, and in some cases, they have been voted up. But when we have a program that is not going to take any money out of the pocket of the taxpayers of this state to help players who demonstrate a need, they don't get it but every other student would. We have got 100 students qualified for this aid, 90 of them are nonathletes, 10 of them are athletes. The 90 get it, the 10 don't, and since the 10 are few in number and they do serf work,