

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Senator Chambers, on the advancement of the bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, if anybody has questions on this bill, I wish you would feel free to ask them because we need a solid record on this, and I think there is something I should bring to your attention. First of all, I don't know who from the athletic department of the university might be speaking against this bill, but I got a call yesterday from Jim Moore who is in the Assistant Secretary for Post Education Department of the U.S. Department of Education. They became aware of what we're talking about through an Associated Press article and the Department of Education is very concerned about this practice, not only of UN-L but schools around the country. And the thing that was emphasized is that when a person qualifies for one of these grants, the only one who can manipulate or change it is the federal government. The NCAA, the university and nobody else has the right to manipulate these types of grants and there should be none of this money that in any way goes to the university for any purpose. The money is given directly to the individual student. There are federal criteria which must be met, and once having been met, they are not to be manipulated by anybody at the state level or the NCAA; that if, because of another source of assistance, a person would not be qualified for the full amount of the Pell Grant, any amount over that for which the person qualifies is deemed by the federal government to be an overpayment and is to go back to the federal government and not be used by the athletic department or anybody else. This bill might put Nebraska in a position to protect itself because we would have a procedure by which the university could cease, based on a requirement of the law, discriminating against these students. If the NCAA attempted a sanction, the law provides a protection for the university against that. This law will not have any impact on anything done by the federal government and I would not attempt to restrain the federal government from doing anything. So the failure to enact a law like this would indicate several things. And I would argue this to the Department of Education because I told them I intend to talk to them more and I will give them any views that I have. First of all, the University of Nebraska does, in fact, reach out to encourage players to come here who cannot receive a scholarship because the quota has been met. Secondly, they