

the football program. Again, I want to reiterate I certainly am not saying that Senator Chambers is wrong at all and that these students should be...the Pell Grant should be available to them. One of the big concerns I found out is the recruiting of the nonscholarship athletic and that we would not be able to reduce the amount of money that we gave them, the institutional aid, if we also applied the Pell Grant, and there is a real problem in that one section of the bill. So I guess what I want to say, maybe I ought to explain or reiterate a little bit more on the recruited nonscholarship athlete in either football, basketball or other sports programs and for them to accept the reward the university would either be over on the money and they would have to make the choice whether to accept it or not to accept it and it would probably lead, may or may not, to a decline in the awards that the university could give for the scholarship money. So I guess what I'm saying, hopefully, in a nutshell is that this bill, unless the rest of you understand it a lot better than I do, and I did some homework on it,...

SENATOR HANNIBAL: One minute.

SENATOR NELSON: ...I feel that the best thing to do at this point would be to hold this bill over and study it through the summer. Chancellor Massengale is President of the...Chair of the Council on the NCAA and he could bring staff together this summer and, hopefully, find out that we would understand it. If LB 708, at this time, was enacted, it would force the university to violate the NCAA rules and would jeopardize the university ability to participate. I think Senator Chambers made the remark to the Chronicle of Higher Education that he's been interested in this issue for a number of years, and I commend him on it, that he needed something to keep the issue going while the Legislature is in session and would like to talk more about the bill. I am very willing to accommodate him and I will be willing to introduce a resolution or ask...work with Senator Chambers or Senator McFarland to do that very same thing. But unless...

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Time.

SENATOR NELSON: ...you folks understand it better and are very confident in your vote, I think that it would be a serious thing to the university to put them in a position that they could not protect themselves or that would jeopardize them in any way.