

this morning's session because my understanding up until about eleven-thirty today was that we were going to go with 159 to see if it advanced or not. But the decision apparently was made that there wasn't sufficient support for 159, that there was a general disagreement about the policies of 159, and for that reason, I ask that the rules be suspended. It is being done in a direct way. It is being done in a way that other bills have been done in the past, and if you look at the bill and remember the consideration of it, I think you will find that it is a very meritorious piece of legislation. I would ask for the consideration of it. If, in fact, it gets on on Select File, you have until Final Reading, if you have any questions or uncertainties about the bill. Even though it has been debated a lot, you can come, we will be glad to visit with you, glad to tell you the merits of the bill, who testified for it, explain the provisions of it, if you haven't read the bill,...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR McFARLAND: ...and at that point, you can make a decision whether or not on Final Reading to vote it up or down and there can be, you know, the debate on Final Reading can be the decision maker as to whether the bill should pass or not. It is not something I have plotted out or schemed out for days or something like that. It is something that just came up and it is a good bill. And Senator Ashford and I thought about it and we thought about a lot of bills that could have been put on, but this was the bill that seemed to have the least opposition, the most support from everybody, and a bill that was worthy of consideration. And as I said, Coach Osborne has testified in favor of it. The Athletic Director has sent letters. Chancellor Massengale, who I think has been in favor of it, the university, and a lot of the coaches have been in favor of it, and recent events have shown that we need some way to try and regulate sports agents in our state because the problem is getting worse.

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR McFARLAND: And if they continue to operate as they do, unbridled by any rule or regulation within the State of Nebraska, we will never...we are going to have a problem that is going to hit one of our college athletes and it is going to cause a lot of problems with ineligibility and things like that in the past, and we have been dangerously close...