

February 5, 1991 LB 68, 69

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hefner would move to amend the bill. I have AM155 in front of me, Senator. I believe you distributed copies. (See page 549 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I apologize for not having this amendment printed in the Journal but it didn't get to me until just a little while ago, and so I passed it out on the desks. And what this amendment does, this amendment strikes, it strikes the operative date that was to take effect, and this was by the committee amendment that we adopted yesterday, but the one that takes effect February 1, 1992, it would strike that and say it would not take effect until four other states that belong to the Big Eight would adopt that. And the reason I am offering this amendment because I feel that our state, our state university is not big enough to go ahead and fight the NCAA by itself. Therefore, if we have four other states along with us, well, maybe we can get the NCAA to change this rule. Senator Chambers, I am not against what you are trying to do here but I do not want to see the NCAA place sanctions against us. And this is why I am offering this amendment. During the hearing, and I wasn't able to attend the hearing, but during the hearing, James O'Hanlon, who is UNL's representative to the NCAA said that he opposed the measure because he fears of NCAA sanctions. And with our Cornhuskers playing in a bowl game nearly every year, and, also, they have an opportunity to have some of their football games and basketball games broadcast over television, I don't want to see any sanction placed against them. And so this morning I offer you this amendment. This is an amendment about the same as what Senator Chambers has in his other bill of paying the football players, and that is LB 68. So I think this is a fair amendment and I would urge you to vote for it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Discussion on Senator Hefner's amendment. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, when Senator Hefner was rambling yesterday, I was not going to stand him on the floor and demonstrate that he doesn't understand this bill because my aim is not to embarrass. But I would like to ask him some questions in connection with his amendment.