

February 11, 1991 LB 68

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So what the Ivy League did by an official, formal vote of the conference was to allow Columbia University to relax its academic standards in order to recruit some people who could play football and make Columbia competitive. So when Senator Haberman and some of the others who may speak against this bill begin to talk about the NCAA, I hope some of you will think about the players, how these schools themselves have become corrupted and how they place so much above what their true role in education is. There are other things I will try to get into the record but, in order not to go over, I will sit down at this point. I hope you keep an open mind and I hope you will support the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. I will now recognize Senator Haberman, followed by Senators Morrissey, Nelson, Crosby and Hefner. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President...Madam President, I'm sorry, members of the body, Senator Chambers explained or dwelt on the fact that football is a great financial wealth to the university. That's true and I'm glad Senator Chambers brought this up. Senator Chambers has in his bill that four additional states, if they adopt this, it becomes into effect. I, personally, would like to see those four other states adopt a proposition like this and then come to us so that we can be the fifth state. Now, on the handout that I passed out, if you will turn to the second page, the last...next to the last paragraph, "If a state requires specific payments to student athletes, NCAA members in that state could be forced to withdraw from the NCAA or violates their commitments to apply the association rules." Fellow senators, that says it all. They could be forced to withdraw. If this state is forced to withdraw, just forget the football program and forget the whole ball of wax. The NCAA is in charge in this situation. The Nebraska Legislature cannot change their minds. They are their own body, have their own rules and regulations and they do things their way. Under these conditions that we could be kicked out of the NCAA, we could lose the financial wealth of the university. We are the first state in the four-state, those are three good reasons enough for me to oppose LB 68 and I ask you to do the same thing. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Haberman. I will now