

February 11, 1991 LB 68

scholarship, they're not based on need, they go to rich kids. So what the NCAA has done is to superimpose all of the existing economic class distinctions in society at large onto the athletic program within the university system. So, instead of doing what it can, by its rules, to mitigate the negative aspects of this sharp, clear line between the haves and the have-nots, the NCAA has burned it into the warp and wolf of college athletics. The rich kid on scholarship, an athletic scholarship, just like the poor kid, can get any amount of assistance from his family. The poor kid, whose family has nothing, can get nothing. But one point that ought to be emphasized about Senator Haberman's letter from the NCAA, if they had meant expelled, they would have said expelled. You'll notice in this letter they don't say anything about sanctions. First of all, the university is not going to be expelled, and, secondly, the letter is correct. If four additional schools do this, then it will kick into operation, and these schools simply will not enforce the NCAA rule that says these players cannot get any assistance. But you'll notice the NCAA's letter, that Senator Haberman gave us, says nothing about sanctions being imposed against the university. I hope you will advance this bill. It's worthwhile. Nebraska has provided leadership already, and I think it should continue to do so. We've got to, if student means anything in that term student athlete, look after the student interests, those things for which the university exists. We, who talk about fair and just laws, should be fair and just ourselves. Senator Haberman, good rules are designed to help virtuous people do good things. They're designed to help you be good. The NCAA rules are such that they make it virtually impossible for virtuous people to do good. You know it, I know it. This bill will do as much as we can to bring pressure to bear for the changes that you, Senator Hefner say that should occur, which we all agree should occur. But, unlike you and Senator Hefner, we know that the NCAA, on its own and left to itself, will not bring about these changes or they would have done so. I hope you'll advance this bill. And, Mr. Speaker, in the interest of time, I would ask for a call of the house.

SPEAKER BAACK: We have a motion for the house to go under call. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 12 ayes, 0 nays to go under call, Mr. President.