

Senator Kristensen explained that all of a sudden we aren't going to have all these millions of dollars to put in all these little funds that you decided to put in today. I voted against all of those because I think the original idea of the bill is good, and I doubt that any of those ideas were brought to the hearing. Here we are now again taking a bill and trying to put our little ideas into it. I think that's a waste of time. But be that as it may, if that's your game, play it. But just remember that when people are loyal to a school, yes, it's for their English courses, it's for journalism and so on. It's mostly for the athletics or the music, something that they participated in or that they feel they can be a part of. That's what spirit is all about. So thank you for listening to me. I'm going to support the bill now and on Final Reading. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, Jerry Lewis used to be on these telethons and they referred to the children that the telethons were supposed to help as Jerry's Kids. Not trying to low rate these athletes by referring to them as kids, I feel like they're "Ernie's Kids." I defy anybody in this state to establish by their record that they have more concern for these athletes than I have, not just when they're out there on the field winning. See, I got a bill passed that said that when an athlete is hurt the scholarship cannot be lifted. And when I was trying to push that through, the university came over here and said, it's not necessary because that's not done. Fortunately, the bill was passed because when the coach of the women's gymnastics team took two female gymnasts' scholarships because they were injured and said that's why he took them, I got involved and got their scholarships reinstated. This is the only state with a law like that on the books. Senator Maurstad knew of one law that Nebraska was the only state with it and he...we kind of worked our way around that. In addition, Nebraska is the only state which says the university must provide insurance for these athletes; and it must be at least the equivalent of workers' comp. In case of a catastrophic injury, the athletes are covered. Nebraska is the only state with a law like that on the books. Now when we come to something like license plates, Nebraska is one of many. It's like tying tin cans on the tail of a dog and running him through town. If you rearrange some of