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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CHAMBERS: They reached the point where they said this is to be an amateur activity so the schools cannot give the players anything to encourage them to come to schools. They cannot give them anything to play, and that would make it amateur. The schools disregarded that. They gave inducements to the players. They had recruiters who were coaches. They had booster organizations, alumni organizations that gave inducements to the players, and it brought us close to where we are today. As the debate progresses, I will go into more specifics of the bill, itself. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Chambers. The Chair would recognize Senator Vrtiska on the Business and Labor Committee amendments.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. The Business and Labor Committee heard this bill on the 10th of February and advanced it on the 18th of February. We advanced the bill after attaching AM0074. This committee amendment strikes the original sections of the bill, 4 to 7, and replaces it with a new section. This amendment would delete language stating that the football players are university employees who were to be paid at least federal minimum wage of compensation and covered by the Nebraska Workers' Compensation Act. Replacement language states that the players shall be granted a stipend, the amount of which to be determined by the university. Language was deleted calling for the university to establish rules on wages, hours and work conditions and for disputes to be presented to the Commission of Industrial Relations. Other new language clarifies that a stipend, rather than wages, is to be provided, and this act becomes operative when at least three other states with teams that compete in the Big Twelve Conference enact similar laws. The committee unanimously approved this amendment and I'd ask for your approval here this morning. Thank you.

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Further amendments, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to amend the committee amendment with FA1185. (Legislative Journal page