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699.)

PRESIDENT HEINEMAN: The Chair would recognize Senator Chambers to open on his floor amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, and members of the Legislature, I am doing what I can to put this bill into the same shape it was when it passed in 1988. So in line 9 of the committee amendment, I would strike the word "three" and insert "four" and I will tell you what that does. Let me give you a little more detail about the committee amendment. The way the bill was originally drafted, it would have made the players employees of the university. They would have had all the rights and benefits of employees. Any disputes would have been submitted to the CIR and the university would set wages, hours, and conditions of employment. That bill was drafted in that manner to bring it to the appropriate committee, which is the Business and Labor Committee. There was no intention, on my part, to have them ever declared employees and I made this known to the university, and because of that assurance, they testified at the committee in a neutral capacity. Had I left it in the form of making them employees, there is no way anybody would support it. But that brought it to the Business and Labor Committee where I'm a member. I understand the bill. I could answer any questions that were presented. This amendment would raise the number of states that would have to enact similar legislation from three to four. So instead of four states having to act, five would have to. There are seven states with teams in the Big Twelve. I say, again, whether or not those states ever enact is not that crucial because the goal is to put pressure on the NCAA to liberalize its rules, and every time this Legislature has acted on a bill and put it into law, the NCAA has changed its rules with reference to that subject. So now that that amendment is clear, I need to emphasize another point. Even if this were done, there would not be one penny of General Fund money. The athletic program at the university is not funded by tax dollars. The football program brings in the money. Not only does the football program fund football, but it subsidizes all of the other sports on campus. It pays the salaries of athletic department officials and employees. If I could get you to draw in your mind a mental picture, I would