

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 10, 2003 LB 688

little bit reticent about it. And here...and I'll tell you why. I'll try to communicate it a little better than I did last time. The University of Nebraska and its athletic teams, and in particular its football team, are not on an island. Two years ago, and three years ago, it played the University of Notre Dame in a home-and-home series. And Senator Chambers, I know you're up with the issue. University of Notre Dame, totally different revenue generating source. I mean, we're talking about night and day. I mean, they...this university generates more money than any college football program in the land. And that's my point. Nobody tunes in to watch the University of Nebraska and their football team play Lincoln High. That dates back to 1900. It just doesn't happen anymore. This is a big business. But it's not a free market. Nebraska is not on this island alone. My issue, and the reason that I say that it's probably a federal problem, is because I don't know if we can handle that, even if we're trying to handle it from a philosophical standpoint. I don't know if we can handle that here. And I'm not convinced that we can. Let's take it a step further. Let's take it from another angle, the reason that we're not on that island. If we're going to pay our football players in the state of Nebraska a stipend, if we're going to pay them for what this university generates, should we not...and I will actually ask Senator Chambers if he'll yield to this question briefly. Should we not go back...let's look at Johnny Rodgers, let's look at Jerry Tagge, let's look at the gentlemen going all the way back to 1962, that can be just as...I don't know, just as much deserving of some of this stipend revenue than a person like Jammal Lord, or a person like, you know, any defensive player, anybody...aren't those players...don't we have to address that issue? I mean, this...it goes to the whole island issue. I mean, University of Nebraska is not just those guys that are here right now on the football program.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Friend, any program is prospective, or it has effect from and after the date of its implementation. Anybody who is not here working for the University of Nebraska is not paid, just like when professors get increases in salary now, people who worked here before don't get money based on the