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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR CHAMBERS:      Senator Schrock, by authorizing the university to determine the amount of the stipend, the university can take all of those things into consideration. But here's the point to remember. The grant in aid for athletics is not based on academic achievement, nor is it based on need. There are schools that tried to get those provisions into NCAA rules, but the NCAA fought it, and it never was adopted. So a kid who is the son of a multimillionaire can get a grant in aid. But he can get any amounts of assistance from his family. His roommate came from Rulo, Nebraska, or inner-city Omaha, so we have a poor white kid and poor black kid. Families are impoverished and cannot help them. But they wind up with clothing. They may have access to a car. And they may have a little bit of pocket change. So the only way they can get it is through circumvention of the rules. This is known, and it's winked at. But when it comes to determining how this stipend would be administered, it's in the hands of the university, and they can restrict it or limit it in the way that they see fit. They can take into consideration criteria which will determine the stipend.

SENATOR SCHROCK:      Can they do that on an individual basis, or does it have to be a blanket for all those out for the program?

SENATOR CHAMBERS:      I believe...you mean under what this bill provides?

SENATOR SCHROCK:      Under your bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS:      I believe the university could look at individual cases. But I would not want it based on the fact that somebody plays a particular position or is on the first, second, or third string. I want the whole team to be eligible. And the university could set criteria which would determine the actual out...or payout of the stipend. But that is not the big issue for my part. I would like to see every one of them get the same amount, regardless of their economic standing, just as, if students did work around the university, regardless of the income of their family, they would be paid whatever the going rate is for students doing that kind of work. And that's the way I would like to see this program administered. But