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FLOOR DEBATE

March 11, 2003 LB 688

yesterday, Mr. President. The committee amendments, as well as an amendment by Senator Chambers to the committee amendments, were adopted. When the Legislature adjourned for the day, Senator Beutler had pending AM0743.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Senator Chambers, would you want to bring the body up to speed on LB 688? Then we'll move to the Beutler amendment. This will not be a time...one of your times to speak, but you can sure bring us up to speed, if you'd like.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, the bill was amended yesterday so that instead of requiring a total of four states with teams in the Big 12 to act before this bill would take effect, the number was raised to five. In addition, the committee amendment struck all language that would have made the players employees of the university, and simply said that the university would grant them a stipend. The amount is to be determined by the university. That's the condition of the bill at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler offers AM0743. (Legislative Journal page 775.)

SPEAKER BROMM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Bromm, members of the Legislature, this amendment was offered, you may recall, at the end of the morning yesterday. And you may recall that the purpose of the amendment was to offer not another mandate to the university, but an option to the university, to look at another way of approaching the problem, or what I perceive Senator Chambers perceives as the problem. Senator Chambers says, with regard to the student athlete, you're calling upon that athlete to spend an enormous amount of time in a system for purposes other than perhaps what is the best interest of the athlete as a student. And he says, if you're going to do that, then pay them. If this is part of a big business proposition, then pay them for what they do for that system. But the other approach, that I would