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LB 743

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Friend and Senator Smith. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President...oh, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, often I speak on this floor and I'm critical, and I may seem to be on occasion ungrateful, so I want to reverse that at my beginning today. I received my monthly expense check and I want to take this opportunity to thank Senator Ernie Chambers, for without him that would not be possible. Had he not pushed a bill through to passage, overridden a Governor's veto with the assistance of 29 other senators, then forced action in the Nebraska Supreme Court, not one of us would have that expense check, which in some cases for some people might be in excess of what that paltry salary is. So I want to show that I'm grateful and I want Senator Chambers to know that I appreciate what he has done. (Laughter) Except for the fact that he can sometimes be wordy, I would ask him a question or two, but I think I'll pass on that this time. I am going to support this bill. I listened to what Senator Bourne said. I listened to Senator Friend's comments and questions, and because of the problems I've had with the NCAA, it makes me very sensitive to situations where another entity has said for years it's going to do something or it's in the process of doing something but it never quite gets it done. The NCAA has been saying for 20 years, at least, that they were going to consider a stipend for players; that they were going to make the amount of aid a player could get cover the cost of attendance, for 20 years, and it hasn't been done yet. So I'm trying to put some outside pressure on them to get them to do what they said they would do. We're in a much better position here because we can enact a statute that actually will do what needs to be done. If we enact this bill into law and the FTC and the FCC will put together some legislation which, when interlocked, will cover the waterfront, we have not lost anything. But if the FTC work that Senator Bourne mentioned to us is in place, but the FCC does not get around to filling in the gaps, then we have that gap where public...where these entities can make calls to members of the public at large and there is really no redress. So I do not see this as anything other than perhaps a redundant system which can do no harm, but it will do a great amount of