

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

February 2, 2005 LB 96

university, college, or community college. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Chambers, there are no further...your light is on. Did you wish to speak, or did you wish to close?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: When I put my light on, that means I'd like to speak.

SENATOR CUDABACK: You may do so.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you very much, Mr. President. I owe you. Members of the Legislature, this is an amendment which addresses a subject that used to come up every session on the budget bill. I was opposed to a scholarship, as they called it, which set aside money to be used only at private schools. And that was discriminatory. That was support for these private schools, mainly the religious schools, mainly Creighton, probably, and College of St. Mary. And then they threw a couple of Protestants in there, just to make it look ecumenical. But there were three scholarship programs, and the ones who wanted to go to these private schools would have access to all three of them. But there was that third one set aside just for those religious people. That shows the power of the Catholic Church in this state. So I fought it every session. And the Governor, who was a Catholic, would always put money in it, more than I thought should be there. So we'd battle and fight back and forth, and they would reduce the amount. Finally, I was able to reach an accord, where that program is phased out. There cannot be a continual coming to the Legislature by those who say they favor public education...I do favor it, my votes show it...people who say they favor public education, but nevertheless will let money go to support these private schools and colleges. That's who's being supported, not these students. These schools tell the students to come down here and tell us that they're the ones getting the money. These schools are getting the money. And there was some kind of way that they put it in a pot and let those schools administer it. You're going to come here this session, when we're in the budget negotiations and arguing, and say, give the university a certain amount of