

May 22, 1975

CLERK: Read title to LR 52. (See page 1792 of Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I move the adoption of the resolution. Mr. President, the purpose of this resolution I guess generates from some of the media stories in recent months. Comments I've heard from individual citizens is that of concern about the availability of football tickets. The resolution is intended to suggest that the Board of Regents might review their past policies which I think probably evolved over several years. There are probably some complimentary tickets which at this point could properly be discontinued. It would seem to me that the adoption of this resolution by the Legislature would encourage the Regents to take such action and perhaps get rid of one of the more minor sore points that does exist in some parts of the state. I do want to emphasize that the figures that I originally was given and submitted perhaps were a little more . . . were gross figures rather than net figures, perhaps not totally accurate. I think there has been some studies, I understood, on some committee, the Budget Committee, looking into this for some time. The latest figures I have seen that the net income that the Athletic Department might receive is in the vicinity of some \$20,000. The reason being that much of this revenue, of course, is split with the opposing football teams and other regulations which are imposed by the Big 8 in the operation of football programs. Aside from the revenue it seems to me that the policy, while perhaps had merit at the time it was initiated, is one which ought to be discontinued. I would hope the Legislature would adopt the resolution expressing to the Regents the suggestion that they revise this policy that has been in effect for some years.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, question of Senator Warner. Senator Warner, I have two concerns. Number one, historically the Athletic Department has awarded to lettermen in football, at the University of Nebraska, lifetime complimentary tickets. Does your resolution destroy this historical complimentary tickets?

SENATOR WARNER: I suspect, Senator Kelly, that the wording the precise wording would do that possibly, although it was . . . I would acknowledge that there would be some circumstances that perhaps complimentary tickets are not inappropriate. Quite frankly I had not given thought to that particular kind at the time the resolution was adopted. I do think the way it is worded now it would be a suggestion to the Regents to discontinue. Initially it was my intent that that be done.

SENATOR KELLY: You've touched on my second concern. I believe that the Athletic Department must have some flexibility in its use of this public relation tool. I cannot support this resolution if it's so tight that the Athletic Department of the University has no movement whatsoever. If it blocks the lettermens tickets I would absolutely oppose the resolution on just that one single point.