

May 22, 1975

CLERK: I have one more . . . I have two more motions to amend Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Alright.

CLERK: The following is offered by Senator Cavanaugh. Strike "whereas the distribution of free tickets to public officials or others to the University raises questions concerning the propriety of such distribution". Strike everything after "Session" and add "no free tickets shall be distributed to public officials".

PRESIDENT: Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would strike that section that relates to the propriety of the distribution of tickets to public officials. I don't think that it relates to the propriety of the public officials or the University. I think that this situation developed historically as a matter of courtesy probably founded in a time historically when public officials were considered to be entitled to a certain level of courtesy that we do not now believe that they are, and properly so I think. I don't think that there are any special privileges that come with an office other than those . . . or properly that should come with an office other than those delegated in the responsibilities of the office. There is no special treatment that probably should be accorded to public officials due to the fact that they hold office. There certainly nothing improper either by the design or by the implementation of the way tickets have been distributed to the members of this Legislature by the University of Nebraska. Those tickets were not distributed to corrupt the judgement or influence the votes of the members of this body. Any reference that they were, I think, is an invalid attempt to garner publicity in a manner designed to espouse a holier than thou attitude and perhaps cover some hypocrisy. Question of propriety arise, I think, in situations like the lobby bill where people are paid to influence members of this Legislature on legislation. They are paid large sums, \$5,000, \$10,000, \$20,000, to get a bill passed. Yet the public has no right to know that. There are those who say the public has no right to know, should not know. It would be injurious if the public did know that people were paid large sums of money to influence this Legislature. I think that's improper. That should be legislated against. There are those who say that those who attempt to lobby the Legislature have no obligation to inform the public on what matters they attempt to influence the Legislature. The positions they take and the kind of laws they attempt to enact, the public has no right to know that even though they're paid large sums of money to do it. I think that's improper and that should be legislated against. On the very night that we debated the lobby bill in this Legislature the secretaries and staff of this Legislature were being entertained by lobbyists in a hotel room. Now I think that's improper and should be legislated against. Senator Warner is not concerned about any of those things.