

January 15, 1973

SENATOR DICKINSON: To point a personal privilege, Mr. President.

SPEAKER: State your point.

SENATOR DICKINSON: I am sorry I didn't get in here at the beginning of the--without interrupting something that is going on, but I felt compelled this morning to comment a little bit on something that happened last week that has created a lot of furor over the weekend and I am not talking about Senator Proud's resolution of last Wednesday. I am talking about the incident that was not allowed to happen at the University of Omaha campus last week when some young people, Athletes of Action, were denied the privilege of completing the program they had planned. And they were denied it through the whims of a Assistant Professor of Philosophy and the Athletic Director at UNO. I am not the Supreme Court and I don't pretend to determine if this is legal or illegal but we all know we've had all kinds of programs on the University Campus the last few years and most of them viewed unfavorable by many, many people of the state of Nebraska and these many people are basically the people that support this University, create the thousands of jobs that are involved in the University from the President down to the snow shoveler, and they are both honorable jobs. I think when this Assistant Professor of Philosophy or any other has this much power in this great University system, it is time that we appraise and re-evaluate our chain of command and I think it is wrong that this gentleman and whoever else was responsible for this incident taking this kind of action without consulting people on administrative level, at a much higher level, should be severely reprimanded. If what they did stands isn't a next logical step and one of the statements by Mr. Willard was that you cannot have anything to do with religion on state owned property. It seems to me then that we would not have a chaplain in our Legislature anymore. I am sure that we have our clergyman here each morning to start our session because we want them and feel some need for them and I can see this as taking chaplains away from national and state legislative bodies, away from our armed forces, we would not--no longer have services on government owned military installations and I think this is ridiculous and asinine. As I said before, it may be time to take a strong hard look at a system that allows this sort of thing to happen from this level of administrative. Perhaps the wrath of God is already showing in the case of Mr. Willard as I talked to him Saturday on the telephone, he said he was coming down with the mumps. If anyone here happens to have heard anything I am saying this morning, it might be appropriate to say Amen. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes Senator Goodrich. For what purpose do you rise, Senator.

SENATOR GOODRICH. The purpose is in response to what was just said, to correct an error in what was just said. The professor in question only made a recommendation to the Chancellor of the University, of UNO in other words, and that was Roskins and Roskins made the decision. It was not the professor. The chain of command was followed and it was--the decision was made by Roskins, himself. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Do we have motions on the desk?

CLERK: Read. Withdrawal of LB 21

SPEAKER: I think the request will be laid over for a day.

CLERK: A motion on the desk, Mr. President. Read.

SPEAKER: The chair recognizes, Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President, there has been some conversation this past half week since Wednesday of last week regarding the