

SENATOR HIGGINS: I'll yield the rest of my time to Senator Chambers.

SPEAKER NICHOL: All right.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, there are so many things of a factual nature that need to be presented that I need a little time to develop it, and that is what I'm trying to do. I'm glad Senator Johnson did point out to you some of the difficulties encountered by players and former players. Remember this, they are asked to give four of the best years of their life. When other students are at school playing, cavorting and doing other things, these players, who are called amateurs, are spending more time with football related activities than the professionals in the National Football Association, National Football League. In the spring they have training and a spring game. They lift weights, they train during the spring, they have a summer conditioning program, then they reach that period where they have these terrible things called two-a-days, which means you practice twice a day. Then the season starts. While other students, who are not engaged in athletics, are plying themselves with the books and having trouble perhaps getting by, a football player has to practice, lift weights, play, travel, have chalk talks, view films, and then spend maybe as much as two or three days recovering from having played. Eleven games and a bowl game. It is a year round activity and there is no category of students who must be involved with the University year round, or subject themselves to the type of physical and emotional stress of football players. Simple equity indicates that if we pay prisoners in the Penitentiary, who are there for having committed a crime, we ought to be willing to compensate these young men who give more to what they are doing than most public officials. These youngsters, who sometimes are accused of being involved in cheating, and the cheating is only that because of an NCAA definition of compensation, not any moral law, not any statutory law,...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute on Senator Higgins' time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...they are not engaging in activity that brings down banks. They are not engaging in perjury. They are not cheating on their income taxes. They are out there