

day I presented this bill. He was the Assistant Commissioner of the Big 8. If you are interested in what I testified about, you can read LB 499 that gives the rationale for what I am talking about. He followed me. The first words out of his mouth were, "It was a delight to sit here and listen to Senator Chambers talk about these matters." And then he read a prepared statement that contained all the provisions that I have in my bill and he couldn't find fault with any of them. The only concern he had was that the NCAA might react negatively, but no fault could be found with a single provision. He agreed, but I couldn't get three members of that committee to work with me on it, that if this bill had been advanced it would help put the outside pressure on the NCAA that might make them change their rules internally to allow compensation. Tom Osborne has talked about it finally. The Big 8, as a conference, has gone to the NCAA and said let us pay these players. They are all saying pay them now. If the NCAA could see that there is outside political pressure that may take over the field, they will then listen to reason from some of these coaches like Osborne, and Joe Paterno, Lou Carnesecca, and these that have high standing in the athletic world, and make some changes to benefit the players. Right now the players are the only victims of the way this system operates. One of the rules that is particularly obnoxious is the one that says a player, if he transfers, will lose a year of eligibility. If football is a part of the academic program, as they want to say it is, they wouldn't make them lose a year of eligibility for transferring. The example I always give is a history major who transfers to another school; they don't have to sit out a year before they take history. If the coach violates his contract--he's got five years on his contract, he does two and then violates the other three, the NCAA doesn't say he has to lose a year before he can coach again. All of the rules hurt the player. To show that they are not interested in the education of the professional level player, the rule of the NFL, which was put on them because the colleges insisted, is that a player cannot turn pro until he either receives a degree from an accredited school, exhausts his eligibility or, for those who try to get around all that by quitting school, waits five years after the day he first set foot in a college. This is what I call the tactic of keeping the studs in the barn. If the logic is that college athletes ought not be paid money, that would be fine. But if that was the principle, they would not allow people in golf to