

rather than two mediocre institutions, and I think we have gone the mediocre route to a significant degree. Thus, it becomes legitimate to ask whether you can support two major football teams. It is my understanding we are spending about 1.3, 1.4 million on athletics, primarily football, over at UN-O. It is definitely not a self-supporting system, and though I support athletics and think it is good, at the same time, is it not possible for us to at least consider the possibility of not having a football team in Omaha, and giving Omaha some of the things that Lincoln has but apparently which Lincoln doesn't appreciate in terms of drawing crowds. We have one of the best football teams in the United States, as everybody well knows, here in Lincoln, the Big Red. We also have one of the best gymnastic teams in the United States. Maybe, just maybe Omaha should be allowed to have the gymnastic system, the gymnastics team where I am sure they would get the proper attendance and maybe Lincoln should be allowed to have the football team. Maybe it is time we say we are doing a lot of duplication. We have our state colleges almost all trying to be universities. I think they have lost their original role. We have our tech schools which were originally for primarily technical education trying to be colleges and universities, and, all in all, I think our whole system has lost sight of what its goals and roles should be. As a result of that, it has become a very expensive and, unfortunately, somewhat mediocre proposition. I think it is far better to have a really quality university at Lincoln and a quality system at Omaha that is not duplicating each other and that is far more cost efficient. I think this amendment, or I should say I think the original Appropriations Committee amendment takes the first step in suggesting that in the area of athletics it is time to look at that situation more closely both at the Lincoln campus and the Omaha campus and maybe to pare down or even ultimately eliminate a football team over there or some of the more expensive athletic programs and give them those programs which they can support. And having said that, I will quit and hope I don't get shot by somebody here.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman is next but may I introduce 14 students in Journalism at the University of Nebraska and their instructor and they are in the north balcony. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Haberman, please.