

SENATOR DUIS: Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, just briefly to kind of cover some of the stuff that Senator Chambers has brought up. He says that Mayor Leahy and Mayor Zorinsky are the two that are responsible for the plight of the City of Omaha. There's a certain amount of truth in this. If you don't bite the bullet you get the financial position of the city into a predicament. You wind up with the same kind of a picture you have got right now which means that the police department, for example, are thirty-five men short of what they should have for a town the size of Omaha. The fire department is twenty-one men short. This is the only part of what Senator Chambers has told you that has any validity at all. That is not the responsibility, however, of the present City Council and the present Mayor because of the fact that the Council is virtually a new Council, at least the majority of it, and the Mayor is a new Mayor, elected in June or at least took office in June of 1977. Now, as far as chuck holes is concerned, I defy Senator Chambers to come up with one spring after a winter in Nebraska when we have not had chuck holes to fill in. We do every spring. You can't blame that on any particular Mayor, any particular Council or anything else. He brings up then another point of information that Senator Newell was having trouble getting information. Senator Newell has been handed a copy of the city budget. It is about two inches thick and I have a copy of it myself. In fact, I saw a copy of this on Senator Schmit's desk. Anybody that wants one can have the entire exact budget of the City of Omaha. Now, how much more information can you ask for? Senator Newell, it's my understanding, is now satisfied with the information he has received. As far as the Washington trip is concerned. Yes, Mayor Veys did go to Washington and, yes, the president of the City Council did go to Washington on the Panama Canal thing, at the invitation of Senator Zorinsky though, a higher level of government, on a cooperative effort with the higher level of government. I see absolutely nothing wrong with that. Now as far as what Senator Chambers says about the hiring of people that Mayor Veys had done in July of 1977. This is when he was quoting out of the paper I guess or wherever he was quoting it from. Why wouldn't Mayor Veys be hiring people in July of 1977? He took office in June of 1977. He's setting up his entire Cabinet of which two of the members that Senator Chambers referred to are now Cabinet members that have not been before. Now, as far as the validity of what Senator Chambers says. There is nothing in any of what he says that has any effect, a material effect, on LB 902. 902 is a proposal to produce, and as is written right now, it will produce about \$10,000,000, between \$9,000,000 and \$10,000,000 to solve a problem that will cost the City of Omaha, a financial problem, eleven and three quarter million dollars. Even with the bill as it is right now, they will have to depend on economic gain, economic improvement in the tax base of the City of Omaha, that's what we all call economic growth, in order to survive, in order to produce this other two and three quarter million dollars. So there will still have to be a very frugal management of the city. As far as the alternatives are concerned, Senator Venditte covered the garbage tax would cost the average citizen \$72 per month, I'm sorry, \$72 per year. The five mills will cost them about \$58 per year. The half cent sales tax will cost between \$25 and \$28. That is the cheapest way we can solve it as far as the citizens of Omaha are concerned. We're asking for this bill to allow the city to be able to solve their own problems or their own