

by not addressing the problem they compound the problem for their neighbors and there are many good citizens in Omaha who attempt to keep their lots clean, who are further penalized by a few irresponsible people and if we leave that as "shall" you can rest assured that when that fee goes on the tax rolls, that is where it is going to be. They are going to pay it and that is it and by the time they pay the actual cost a few times they are going to keep their blooming lots clean. You know I have said many times on this floor, there is an easy way to pass a bill. It has to meet four criteria, helps no one, hurts no one, does nothing, costs nothing. This is a perfect example of the bill. Leave it the way it is. You have got a bill with some muscle in it and the people in the City of Omaha can blame the Legislature for the problem. We are glad to take the blame and they will have an extra few bucks to do it with and I think Senator Pirsch will be famous with the people in Omaha for having them met the problem head on and she will be respected because she did the job the way it ought to be done. I don't think we should weaken the bill to nothing.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, for clarification could I read the language that is stated in this bill? I think there is some misunderstanding. The bill says this: "In any county in which a city of a metropolitan class is located, all statements of taxes shall include special assessments for cutting weeds, removing litter and demolishing buildings." Now this has nothing at all to do with the cutting of weeds or demolishing of buildings. All it has to do is how that is billed. Presently there are two separate billings. One is a tax statement, one as an assessment. What they are attempting to do is to include both. Now this accomplishes two purposes. It saves the City of Omaha having to bill twice. They save that postage of having to bill twice. If it is included in the tax statement they feel that the individuals will know of its importance and will have a tendency to pay that rather than to ignore it, so to Senator Schmit and to Senator Nichol, it is not a forgiveness. It does not allow these people not to tend to this problem. The problem has already been solved, the problem the city has in collecting for this work after it has been completed. This merely cleans up the process, allows them to bill once instead of twice. The reason the language has been changed to permissive is that Douglas County feels that during the transition period there may be a problem in clarifying the billing process so they would like this time to attempt to clear this up so