

whether they will do that or not, I don't know, but how are you going to...it's not our place here to mandate to the City Council of Omaha how they will...to micromanage their business. Now, Omaha was spending, let's use the figure of \$8 million, on their waste disposal, eight million bucks hidden within their taxing structure, not clearly identified. This bill wants to raise \$8 million to address solid waste, clearly identify it and use it for solid waste purposes, as stated in the committee amendments. Now, the question of what happened to the other eight million that they were using is a good legitimate question, Senator Haberman. Is it the P.J. Morgan slush fund? I don't know what happens to that \$8 million. Now, that is a legitimate question. But the thrust of this bill as it was explained to me is to clearly identify solid waste costs and raise those...the monies associated with solid waste disposal through a fee-base system. Now, that is a good intention. That is a very sound thing for the city managers to do. The question of what happened to the other \$8 million that was being used previously for disposal of waste...and the \$8 million I'm just pulling off of Senator Horgan's handout here, now that's a legitimate question. Now, I would urge you to defeat the amendment. And if you want to address the \$8 million that was spent previously and what's going to be done with it now after we raise the eight now through a fee system, that's good, that's fine, I'll listen to that argument. But let's not do...argue here that we're trying to protect the taxpayers. People have to pay for solid waste disposal. It is not free. People have to pay their electric bills. People have to pay their water bills. If you take away solid waste disposal, what happens? What happens? Garbage piles up in the street. Whether it's in Imperial or Omaha or Tecumseh, garbage piles up in the street. Let's face up to the fact that solid waste is a legitimate public utility. We must have a system that manages integrated...or manages solid waste in a progressive integrated manner. And we can continue to hide the cost if we want but that's not the honest thing to do. Now, later on, Senator Haberman, I'm going to have a bill that's going to require the urban and the rural people to work together. Each side won't necessarily like each aspect of the bill, but for the good of the state they're going to have to give on it because we have Subtitle D regulations and recommendations or mandates coming down in 21 months that says you must manage your waste. Now, if we want to harass this bill just to make some point, I think it's wrong because later, on solid waste, that will benefit McCook, Imperial and the western parts of Nebraska, will benefit