

February 19, 1992 BR 1008

SENATOR MORRISSEY: ...to address solid waste and stimulate reduction, disposal, et cetera. Again, that won't guarantee this, but I think we must move that way. The system now in place is not necessarily fair, and you are concerned that this system won't be fair. In my bill, when it comes along, we are mandating the city must manage solid waste, so they must go into the neighborhoods and pick up waste, whichever neighborhood that would be, they must go in and pick it up and dispose of it. And the fee-based system will be then again left up to them, but they will not be allowed to let the trash pile up. Because of Subtitle D and proper disposal of waste, it will be required of the cities and counties under my bill. So I think I understand your concern quite clearly, but I think we are trying to address fairness in this issue and, again, my bill would allow, and I think this bill would allow, a...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: ...system for low-income charges. Now whether they would do that in Omaha or not, I can't say, and you probably would know that better than me.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Horgan.

SENATOR HORGAN: Thank you, Madam President and members, I would simply rise in opposition to the Chambers amendment. In the spring of 1993, the citizens of Omaha will have an opportunity to do what we do in a democracy and that is to vote on the elected officials in the city. If the citizens don't like their city councilmen or their mayor, they can throw them out, they can elect new people. This bill does not say that the city is even going to implement a fee. It just says if they want to implement a fee, they have the authority to do it. Senator Chambers is incorrect when he says the citizens of Omaha are not paying for the fee currently, they are paying for the fee. It is a hidden tax. It is a tax they don't know about. It is in their property taxes. This will allow them to know how much it costs to have their garbage picked up in the city, and it will be done only with a vote of the city council, the elected members of the city council, and the mayor's approval. If the citizens don't want it, they can voice their opinions to their city council at city council meetings. And very likely, the city may not even implement this, I don't know if I was running for reelection in the City of Omaha right now, coming up next spring, that I would want to implement a fee at this time. It