

Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Was it your understanding, when you talked to him, that the purpose is to obtain additional revenues for the city to use for other purposes?

SENATOR HORGAN: No, Senator, the explanation that the mayor provided me was that the cost of collecting refuse is skyrocketing, that we are beginning to get into a recycling program, which is costly, and that the city is facing a budget crunch, and the mayor is very concerned about a zero percent lid perhaps being placed on the city budget, and without such a fee, which would be outside of a lid, they very well may not be able to provide city services to all the citizens that are so needed without moving this particular account out of the city budget and into a separate fee.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, with this money being placed in a separate fee, assuming that a fee would be assessed, there is no limit as to how much the fee would be or how much that fund would contain, is there?

SENATOR HORGAN: No, Senator, there is not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now if a surplus should be built up under the amendment that has been added to this bill, that money, no matter how large a surplus it represented, could be spent for purposes other...it could not be spent for purposes other than those detailed in the bill, is that correct?

SENATOR HORGAN: It can only be spent for a refuse and garbage collection.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if Omaha did decide that they are going to build up a fund, then they could come back to the Legislature and ask that a portion of that fund or all of it be made discretionary with the city as to how it would be spent, they could come in and do that, couldn't they?

SENATOR HORGAN: They could do it but I doubt if they would be very successful, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now they had tried to get the Legislature to allow them to assess...to have authority to assess this fee before, haven't they?