

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, we were cruising along at about 90 miles an hour and I think we just hit the wall. We have worked and worked and worked on this bill for well over a year and now we've got a little problem here. Senator Chambers, I understand where he's coming from, but I don't agree with his amendment. I don't agree with it. And we have talked about it quite a bit. And I will tell you right now that I think if Senator Chambers doesn't get this amendment, we will talk about it for quite some time right here on the floor, possibly eight or more hours. And Senator Horgan, if you remember, had a bill that clearly allows Omaha to change...to change fees for collection of solid waste. I agree they should be able to...they should be allowed to do that. But if you also remember that discussion on that bill, Senator Chambers opposed it and we got basically nowhere after a thorough, thorough, thorough discussion all afternoon long. So here's where we're at. Omaha has a basic pool of money that they are using to finance solid waste now. It's hidden within the system. They want to, I think, and I think they should go to a fee base system. Again, we discussed it earlier, to open up and clearly recognize charges for solid waste. Senator Chambers' concern is what happens to the X amount of dollars that are now being used to fund solid waste. What happened to that? Omaha says we have plenty of things that we can do, justifiably need to be done in Omaha with that money. Senator Chambers, I feel...and I don't want to speak for him, but feel he sees it as a slush fund that will do...will not lower any property taxes in his constituencies' districts and yet they will be hit with the solid waste disposal fee charge. I think the fee is very important. I thought I had a little compromise worked out where Senator Chambers got this amendment and he would reluctantly...he wouldn't vote for Senator Horgan's bill that would then be offered to this bill, but he wouldn't take us, basically, to that new rule we have, I think cloture, on fighting Senator Horgan's amendment. So, I guess, one thing that could happen is if we adopt Senator Chambers' amendment and then Senator Horgan offers his amendment and we adopt that, we clearly give Omaha the ability to charge fees which they don't feel they have in LB 1257, and although I disagree with them, but they would also have to have a special election to do that. Now, again, I don't...I think that's kind of a micromanaging of city systems but I don't have to live and work in Omaha. This maybe should be just a...since it's an amendment to the amendment, maybe it should just be a bill the Omaha senators vote on and no one else. I don't know. We have discussed that