

yesterday. The problem comes where you have the individual living in the \$250,000 house and the individual living in the \$30,000, and you go to a flat fee basis, who are you penalizing? You're penalizing the individual who can least afford to pay, even though they may generate the same amount of trash, may generate more, as a matter of fact, but they will be forced to pay at the same rate as any other individual. I think property taxes, frankly, when they're based on services that are provided to the house, to the home, to the property, to the land itself, are fair tax. The only time property taxes become a problem is when they begin to pay for things other than services of the city, of the county that are directly unrelated to the property itself. And that's what, when you're talking about things like education, for example, that's where you run into problems. Waste removal is not a, for me, a problem in terms of having it tied to property taxes. It's functioned very well in terms of the City of Omaha. The argument has been, I guess, that it isn't an efficient or well-run system now, and that somehow by putting a fee in place, and, frankly, ladies and gentlemen, that's exactly what will happen. It's not an issue of will this take place, it's just an argument that we're going to allow the ability if, at some time in the future, it's going to be an automatic, it will be an automatic. If we vote to adopt Senator Horgan's bill into this bill, what you are going to do is allow for the City of Omaha to begin the process, and it may take six months, it may take twelve months, but it's...it's a given that the...the garbage tax, the fee for collection will be put in place. It's not a matter of if,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...it's only a matter of when. And that is my reason for opposing this, because it is not as simple as an authorization provision. It is clearly the ability, on the part of the local officials at the city level, to then argue that, well we have the abil...the Legislature passed this and we're going to implement it. They must have wanted us to do this because they passed this bill to allow us to levy that fee. It is a discriminatory tax in terms of how it's levied, it is one that the city...the repre...the folks that I represent do not want under any circumstances. They feel they pay for it currently in terms of property taxes. They relate it back to their property taxes, and they have no problem continuing to pay for their property taxes for collection of garbage. The...if there were a problem and it was anything more than just a