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FLOOR DEBATE

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can this kind of thing be done? What fools in the city government allows this to be happening? So you take your cell phone, you dial 911, you say, I want to report a hazard, I want an officer sent immediately to the intersection of 72nd and Dodge, because there's a fool out here with a bucket, creating a hazard and asking for money. And the officer would say very courteously, well, all you need to do is stop your car, park it safely, and go talk to the fool with the bucket, because that is a police officer. (Laughter) So the person, frustrated, folds up the little telephone and drives on. This is not good public policy. My amendment demonstrates that fact. Senator Pedersen is not trying to give the city council the authority to carve out a little area that applies only to firefighters, or only to groups that are considered acceptable by those who run things ordinarily. Any group, any organization, any association which is going to raise this money for charitable or community development or community betterment purposes will be allowed to stand out in the street and beg for money. The city council, if they enact an ordinance, may identify intersections by name. I don't know. I don't know whether they will have the traffic engineer conduct studies to see how heavy the flow of traffic is at differing times of the day on different days of the week and determine, if there is to be this begging, it would have to be done when the traffic is not heavy. And the beggars would come in immediately and say, we don't want it like that, because we couldn't collect much money; we want to be out there when the traffic is flowing. And the city council people, feeling pressure, will say, okay. But I hope, if that ordinance is passed, that all of those groups...if you've ever heard the Beatles sing "My Sweet Lord," there's...when they get toward the end, they start naming all kind of groups, all these different religious groups. Some of them are known to beg in terminals of airports and bus stations, everywhere. They would have this right to stand out in the street and beg, too, because the streets belong to everybody. And if they're going to be made begging preserves, they're going to be begging preserves for everybody or begging preserves for nobody. I did not want anybody to be deceived or misled about how I feel about this bill or what my intentions are in offering this amendment. Even without this amendment, because there are issues of equal protection under the Nebraska Constitution, the council, I do