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FLOOR DEBATE

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This bill is about a half a page long, so if I don't remember to give you the page number, which is 2, all of them go to this page where the text is found. But it would be page 2, in lines 7 and 8, I would strike the new language, but that's not all I would do. In line 8, I would strike the existing word "fourteen" and insert "ten" in its place. What this would do is say the fee for the annual permit shall be not less than \$10. That, to me, seems reasonable. All of the new language in lines 7 and 8 would be stricken. That language consists of these words, "not less than." Then we go to line 8 for these words, "and not more than twenty dollars." What would be left is this: "The fee for the annual permit shall be ten dollars per permit." I am treating the cost of this permit along the lines of what the economy is experiencing. You're going to cut across the board. There will probably be some cutting of services for people who need Medicaid because they have no way to afford medical care. One of the most unwise decisions will be to cut certain dental benefits. I'm not going to go into detail on that right now, but an infected tooth or infected gums can be the precursor to very serious systemic infections. It's not a long way from the palate to the brain case. It's not a long way into the circulatory system from the gums or the bottom of a rotted tooth. So I guess there will be what you might call cherry-picking when you all decide to come in with a scalpel or the meat ax and cut people out of programs. But you're very concerned about making sure that a blade of grass doesn't grow beyond a certain height because it might offend the aesthetic sensitivities of the people who are coming to that park. You don't want the branches of the trees to grow beyond a certain distance from the trunk of the tree because it just destroys the overall decor of the park. That's what you all are talking about when you say maintain these parks. It's not keeping them open, or closing them. There are many things done in these parks that do not need to be done and the parks would not be hindered in any respect in terms of providing what should be available for a park. If any of you who live in Omaha have gone to Elmwood Park, grass is not cut short every place where grass grows in Elmwood Park. Trees are not trimmed. Poison ivy is not eradicated. But when it comes to the Game and Parks and their preserve, their little domain...all of these senators are so worried about Game and Parks and these parks, not even the