

SENATOR HIGGINS: Well, until we change that amendment, when Senator Chambers closes I would like to hear what all his amendment does if it's going to do anything besides strike this subsection 2 and I will vote for Senator Chambers' subsection 21 until we get this changed so that there is no question that every county is going to pay it. Let's face it, first of all, when it comes to marriage I don't think you've got that many getting married today. So many of them are just going to be living together and they're not going to be paying that marriage fee. Second of all, I'm wondering just how many births you're going to have and how much money we're going to get out of this. I know the bulk of it is going to come from Douglas County, but, by golly, I'm not going to vote for an amendment that says only Douglas County and that's the way the law will read...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR HIGGINS: ...if this committee amendment is adopted. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President and members, with reference to the Chambers amendment I must rise in opposition to it. Omaha or Douglas County is treated separately in this particular section because they have had their own means of issuing birth certificates in the past. In deleting this section from the bill, you will be making an exception, that is Omaha then will not be included under the conditions of the bill. Since 1870 Omaha has been doing its own thing. This simply adds statutory authority for Omaha to do the same thing they've been doing for over a hundred years and also then provides the additional \$3 surcharge to be forwarded to the State Treasurer. It's that simple. We're including Omaha with the amendment. Without the amendment Omaha would be excepted and would not, would not be under the conditions of the bill. There are several states that do have such surcharges, specifically ten states designate a voluntary checkoff. Seven state designate a surcharge on marriage licenses. Five states either charge a fee for live birth registration or duplicate birth certificates. It's my opinion that if we don't do it in this manner, we're going to have a great deal of difficulty in obtaining general fund appropriations for a program of