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FLOOR DEBATE

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dogs were there first, the people encroached on their terrain. Isn't that true?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, I guess...yeah, I suppose you could call it encroachment probably.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, then why are you going to call what the prairie dogs do encroachment when they, in fact, were there first? So let me ask you, what do you mean by encroachment?

SENATOR LOUDEN: An encroachment would be when they start spreading over into property where they're not particularly wanted. I guess the reason, when you say people encroached on the prairie dogs, they not only encroached on the prairie dogs. They encroached on the buffalo. They encroached on the Indians. They encroached on any other wildlife. There are no more elk around Broken Bow. How many Native Americans have a reservation around Omaha? Those are all encroachments, I guess, when you talk about encroachments.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But what I want to do, because you opened such a broad realm of discussion, I want to restrict it to the bill that you presented to us. There are areas where the prairie dogs who would be affected by this bill were there before human beings came. Would you agree with that?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Probably so, and that's the...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay.

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...reason we put in there that if they so...if they're not bothering anybody then they won't be managed there. That's in the bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. I'm going to still take it step by step, despite the fact that your answer gave a little more than what I asked for. When we talk about prairie dog colonies encroaching onto other property, the only way we know that the property is, quote, other, is that some artificial line or boundary was fixed by somebody. Isn't that true?