April 12, 2005      LB 673

dogs.   On the Game and Parks, I don't know if I have any
information  right handy on the amount of prairie dogs there are
on Game and Parks, but usually I think somewhere around there we
have something that's there a...about 200,000 acres, I think  it
is, of prairie dogs in the state.

SENATOR STUTHMAN:    So,  in other words, you know, when you're
talking that many  acres,  there's  going  to  be  thousands  of
prairie  dogs is what we're talking about, or is it just a small
area of prairie dogs?

SENATOR LOUDEN:   Well, when you go the state over, yeah, there's
thousands  of  prairie  dogs.    Of  course,  they...this  isn't
eradication.    It's a management plan.   There will be areas that
they'll  probably...nobody  will  bother  them.    I  understand
there's  some  starting  right  out here outside of Lincoln now.
Now, whether or not anybody decides to manage  them  or  not,  I
suppose  it  depends on how big the colony gets and whether they
have rattlesnakes.

SENATOR STUTHMAN:   But this, your plan in your bill, is  just  a
management plan?   It's not a eradication plan?

SENATOR  LOUDEN:     No,  it's a management plan.  If the prairie
dogs aren't bothering anyone and people are satisfied with where
they are and what they're doing, they don't  have  to  eradicate
them  or  do  anything with them.   Don't have to do a thing with
them.

SENATOR STUTHMAN:   How many...how many counties, Senator Louden,
you know, would realistically  be  in  this  or  could  adopt  a
management  plan?   Is it all up in your area, or there's some in
the northeastern part of the state?

SENATOR LOUDEN:   That I...how far northeast I don't know, but  I
know down through the southern part of Nebraska there's a lot of
counties  in  there that have them.   And then, of course, in the
western part of the state nearly every county has prairie  dogs.
In  some  places  they are a problem, so with the APHIS map that
I've looked at, there's, I would say,  oh,  close  to  half  the
counties  probably  contract  with  the  Animal,  Plant,  and