

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

April 12, 2005      LB 673

Senator Louden's amendment to the committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion was successful. The amendment was adopted. Mr. Clerk, next motion.

CLERK: Senator Beutler would move to amend with AM1185. (Legislative Journal page 1175.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, to open on AM1185 to AM0867.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, Senator Louden, let me first say that this is the most rational and the most sophisticated effort to deal with the prairie dog problem that I've seen in all my years in the Legislature, and I'm glad you're thoughtfully coming up with something that is not just some kind of flat-out eradication of the prairie dog or some other solution that's really not appropriate to our time and place. So I want to start out by indicating to you, I think this is a good bill in many, many ways. The first amendment really has to do with the right of the county commissioners to come onto a person's land and snoop around for prairie dog towns. Under the provisions of the bill, as I understand it, once that general notice is filed annually, they can, the county commissioners or any one of them, can come onto your land unannounced and simply search around for prairie dog towns on their own initiative or on complaint by somebody else, which I suppose is the way it has to be. But I thought it might lead to a more civil process if you put a provision in that said that before they came on the land they ought to give 48 hours' written advance notice of entrance so that the property owners knew that they were coming and knew who these people were out walking around their property. And since, in the case of prairie dog towns, there doesn't seem to be any particular emergency action sort of necessity, nor does there appear to be any reason not to give notice. You can't hide your prairie dog town, for example. So I was just making this suggestion and I've...I have three amendments and, as I indicated to you earlier, since I couldn't get around to getting them drafted until just this morning and didn't have a chance to talk to you, I'll withdraw one or all of them if you want a chance to think about them or to look at them in more detail. But that's the