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SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Lieutenant Governor and members of the body. May I ask Senator Chambers a question, please?

PRESIDENT SHEEHY: Senator Chambers, would you yield?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Senator Chambers, as I've listened to your discussion this afternoon, you feel that it shouldn't be put on the property owners. Do you really...are you...do you think that there is a problem with black-tailed prairie dogs in western Nebraska? Do you really...have you ever been out there to check them out? Do you know what the problem is all about?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I've been in western Nebraska but not to investigate the prairie dog situation.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Okay. Now do you feel that if they're devastating areas and those...and that property has to be taken off the tax rolls as grazing land and reduced down to wasteland, do you think that that is something that should be allowed to happen just because the animals are out there devastating that? Do you think that would be...help the property owner?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Louden, I believe that things have a starting point and I would start by saying, who was occupying the land first? If the prairie dogs were there first, they're entitled to stay there.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Okay. Now, along with that, since you're not familiar with what the prairie dogs are doing to the livelihood and that...and to the people out in western Nebraska that are having this problem with it and devastating part of the ecosystem and probably the water quality in different places, now, by using that same...the same method or methodology or same line of thinking you have, do you think, then, that we should give the city of Omaha back to some of the Indian nations?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, I didn't say Omaha, but I did have a bill to give Fort Robinson back.