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FLOOR DEBATE

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know, people having to eke out a living, they couldn't afford it, and that the counties would get them to make them pay to have these prairie dogs. How do you handle, I suppose, what do you call them, Norwegian rats in Omaha or Douglas County? How do you handle that situation in there? A prairie dog and rats are comparable size. What's the process that Omaha uses?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It depends on where they are. If they're on property such as that Gene Leahy Mall, which is a city park, the city brings in, and maybe in conjunction with the county, somebody to get rid of them, however they go about doing that.

SENATOR LOUDEN: And who pays for that?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It would be out of the public funds. Tax money.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Okay. Now supposing they find them on landowner property. Who pays for that?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Live and let live.

SENATOR LOUDEN: My understanding is that the landowner is responsible for that, and that the city charges them to get rid of them if they don't do it. Or, I mean, if the city has to come on there and do it, then they get rid of them. I think...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, maybe...

SENATOR LOUDEN: ...it comes through the...what, the county health department or something.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I have not seen that happen. So maybe it's a program they say exists, but I'm not aware of its being operational. And to be completely frank with you, I have seen areas in the city of Omaha where there are rats, vacant lots. Although there are owners, there is no structure there. Lots where there are condemned houses, and rats are there. But the city is not out there doing anything about the structure or the rats or other creatures that come there.