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SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Howard.

SENATOR HOWARD: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the house. After our interesting discussion yesterday, I became even more curious about the prairie dog, and went to the National Geographic web site. It was very interesting. And I just wanted to share this with you. In 1900, an estimated 5 billion prairie dogs lived in North America. Unfairly, and this is according to the National Geographic, ranchers have viewed prairie dogs as pests that compete with their livestock for food. The prairie dog population has plunged by 98 percent. The Mexican prairie dog is endangered, and the Utah prairie dog is threatened. Without a doubt, humankind is the prairie dog's worst enemy. Having said that, I would like to give the remainder of my time to Senator Chambers. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, about four minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Howard. Thank you, Mr. President. Ted Turner is buying up land in certain parts of Nebraska. And I've, through the newspaper, kept a general idea of what he is doing. I'm not aware of him having talked about getting rid of prairie dogs. Maybe he has had somebody come in and scope the land, and buys only that which has no prairie dogs. But I know he's reintroducing one type of animal, called the buffalo, which the Nebraskans had just about eradicated. So it takes somebody from outside to introduce those animals which are native to this part of the country. Prairie dogs have been here, and they're going to continue to be here. Senator Louden pointed out how five decades ago, there was an eradication program which was deemed to be successful, but obviously it wasn't, because the prairie dogs are here again. If Nebraskans stopped growing cattle, they wouldn't care how many prairie dogs were here. There are only certain parts of the state where they are deemed to be a problem. The animals belong to the state, and the state, through this legislation, is not going to shift the cost to the individual landowner. I'd like to ask Senator Louden a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Louden, would you yield?