

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

April 14, 2005      LB 673

the floor and do other things. My job is to look after these little prairie dogs and I intend to do that, and it will not be too difficult for me to take the time. I have plenty of amendments, much that I intend to say, and when time comes for a vote I will ask for a call of the house, so whoever would want to vote one way or the other will have the opportunity to do so. There will be nothing done undercover, but all will be out in the open. This amendment that I'm offering may seem to be offered tongue in cheek, but it is not. Senator Loudon has provided a name for this bill, a title that I think is misleading in two regards. First of all the title he would suggest for it is the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Management Act. That word "management" should be replaced by "eradication" to be accurate, but there's another overarching principle which is more consequential than that one. The approach this bill is taking would shift to the individual landowner a responsibility which, in my opinion, belongs to the state. When Senator Loudon handed out the paper today, I want to acknowledge my appreciation for him doing this because I'm the one who requested that he give us something in writing that would give us an idea of what the federal government's intentions are. He knows, I know, everybody on this floor knows that the federal government cannot be bound by the state. We know that this written comment is not going to bind the federal government. And when they put words in, as in the last sentence, "Any changes in direction for prairie dog control will be done with appropriate consultation and coordination," that means the federal government can decide to go in an entirely different direction from the one initially stated, and we understand that. So I'm expressing my appreciation because of the fact that Senator Loudon provided the information that was requested by me. It does not alter my opposition to this bill. He is not willing to say that eradication shall not be an option, so a more accurate name for this bill would be the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog Eradication Act. That failing...well, I haven't offered that yet. I'll try that later. But my amendment would change it to the "Dump the Responsibility of the State of Nebraska onto the Individual Landowner." You will notice that in the statement Senator Loudon provided us, there is nothing which talks about the federal government shifting the cost of this work to the state. There is nothing in this statement that