

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

April 14, 2005 LB 673

purpose of sport or what they call experimentation. And he went on in that way, talking about the wars the human beings have which destroy their own kind, which the apes do not engage in. There are things which animals can teach human beings, but human beings choose not to learn. Senator Loudon talked to us about the bubonic plague perhaps being brought to this state from another state where it exists among prairie dogs. Why should the bubonic plague organism have less right to wipe out human beings than human beings have to wipe out prairie dogs and other critters that happen to get into the way of human beings making money, or creating developments which make money? Why is it a one-way street? People would think it's terrible if a mountain lion came among human beings and killed one of them, ate what it could, buried the carcass, because it's just food for that animals, and then would visit it periodically when it got hungry. They'd say, oh, it's terrible, it's terrible. Well, look what you do to animals. All the mountain lion has to do is look at you and go by what you do to animals related to the mountain lion by virtue of being one of the so-called lower creatures. Human beings do terrible things to each other, so it should be no surprise they do these things to animals. But whenever I have the opportunity to engage in this kind of discussion, not just for academic purposes but pursuant to an effort which I expect to be successful to stop the Legislature from giving carte blanche to people to use any and every cruel, inhumane method to destroy these animals who were there first, who pose a problem because these men brought cattle here and they don't properly manage the area where these cattle operate. There used to be disputes between sheepherders and cattle growers because one ate too much of the grass and cropped it too close to the ground. So not only would they go after animals. They'd kill each other. So why should anybody be surprised that the prairie dog would fall victim to the same rapacious, inhumane spirit? Well, today, brothers and sisters, friends, enemies, and neutrals, the prairie dogs are not without support. When people want to ask, have I ever been where prairie dogs are, no. There might be people in here who felt like they should give something to the tsunami victims, and they hadn't been there. They've never seen a tsunami. And they're not contributing to people who are in need all the time in their own communities, in the cities of Nebraska, in the state of