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

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If I ever fail to do what my mind and conscience tell me I should do, I would owe an apology to myself for not living up to what I know is the right thing for me to do. And I don't care if nobody anywhere in this world does anything that accords with what I think is right, it does not relieve me of my responsibility to do what I think is right. That's why I'm given a judgment, so that I can determine what is the appropriate course in life for me to follow. And some people might look at these prairie dogs and say they inconsequential; they are rodents. Some people call them rats. Well, politicians have been called worse things than that, but you don't want to be exterminated, eradicated. (Laugh) Maybe the world would be better off, but I don't even advocate that. Jack the Ripper, if he had children, may have loved him, and nobody knows for sure who Jack the Ripper was. Jack the Ripper could have been a member of the royal family. There have been all kind of speculations. Everybody, whatever he or she may have done, will have somebody who cares. That's the nature of the way "Ma" Nature put things together. The survival of the species is what nature is interested in, and nature doesn't care if the one who is going to lead to that survival is a saint or a sinner; makes no difference. The species' survival is what counts. So those members of the species who can adapt their conduct to hostile environments and survive are the ones who will survive, pass on their genes through procreation, and keep the species alive with their fingerprints and genes all over it. The prairie dogs, other animals, who are not able to fashion weapons that would make a fair fight out of what happens between them and human beings, need some human beings who can stand up for them. And I don't think this is trivial. I don't think it's trifling. If everybody thought it was, so what? They show what they think by supporting a bill like this. I show what I think by killing it. Less harm is done to the world if I kill this bill than is done to the world if these prairie dogs are killed. These prairie dogs have a right to live, a right to survive. I'm glad Ted Turner is buying up land in this state. When I get out of this Legislature, by whatever means, provided it's not feet first on a cooling board ... all right, you all, stop cheering. I can hear them all over the state. It hasn't happened yet. That's not an announcement and that's not a promise. But if I get out of here and have the powers of my