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FLOOR DEBATE

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they don't do something about it. I'm sure they're going to go ahead and implement that program, mostly so that they can get some of the federal land people to cooperate with them. So I'm sure they're doing to do something. Now whether they get any money or not, most of those people are willing to do something without a lot of state aid. If you notice, they've lived a long time like that. There hasn't always been state aid for everything that they've...been done. They've done things on their own, and I'm sure they can continue to do so.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Louden, can these counties, without LB 673, establish a prairie dog management program, if they choose to do so?

SENATOR LOUDEN: As far as forcing someone to take care of it, I don't know as they can. It wouldn't be quite the same as if it's in state statutes. If it's in state...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now let me add to it--establish a management program and fund it. The county can do that right now, can't it?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yeah, but I don't think...they don't have the money to do it.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But they're going to put money into their predator control fund, right?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Well, they always have, yeah. That comes out of their General Fund there.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So they...and they consider that important enough to fund; isn't that correct?

SENATOR LOUDEN: Yeah, in some of the counties there, where there are wildlife that has to be controlled. Yeah, your coyote program, anything that has rabies showing up in it. All those things are issues that need to be considered.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But the counties do not consider the prairie dog problem to be of sufficient importance to establish a