

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

April 20, 2005 LB 673A

not want. He said, I did it myself. Now Senator Louden and others who are from that part of the state, where they like to talk about self-reliance, should take heed to what I've just related to you that Senator Jones told me. He did it himself. Ordinarily, people from Senator Louden's area and the environs will be critical of those who take handouts, looking for the freebies. Well, he has a group of counties setting that bad example. Obviously, prairie dogs are not deemed to be a serious problem to state officials. Counties, those who run them, will do anything they can to get money from the state. Aid to the counties is what they want. But the state representatives do not have to give that, and I'm one of those who wants to stop it, even a piddling amount such as this. Earlier, Senator Howard mentioned how a certain committee, which shall remain nameless, killed off a bill that was making an attempt to provide protection for vulnerable children. That same committee, which shall continue to remain nameless, is willing to give up \$25,000 in the interest of killing prairie dogs, giving aid to sponging, mooching counties. And that is not appropriate, so I will be fighting this bill. When Senator Smith goes to Washington, he may have his bill to do away with the requirement to wear motorcycle helmets, but he told me by his vote this morning that killing prairie dogs was more important. And I said we're in the hardball part of the session. You know whose stratagem it was to ask for a roll call vote after a call of the house on Senator Beutler's amendment to strike not wearing helmets out of the bill? I did. Do you know why I did it? It's the only way you can get a straw vote. I explained it to Senator Smith why I was doing it. If there were 25 no votes, he could conclude that perhaps there are 25 votes who would support the bill. That's why I did that. That's how the straw vote was obtained. But if all he had was 25 votes, he's got 24 now, because he's a "cloturite," and the "cloturites" determined that killing the groundhogs was more...the prairie dogs was more important than anything else. And I accede to their judgment. I would not allow them to make a judgment about somebody else's bill that would bind me, but the "cloturites" can make judgments about their own legislation, which they did. And to show my colleagues how impressionable I am, how I pay attention, General--"General" Friend, that is, not Attorney General--"General" Friend, to show how I pay attention,