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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Stuhr, thank you. Senator Louden.

SENATOR LOUDEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and this is something that I would just like to bring up before the Legislature before we adjourn, and I have concerns that should be brought to our attention. We've been in session for 90 days. We debated the future of feral pigs, discussed the merits of beef checkoff, spent over ten hours concerning the safety of prairie dogs, opened the checkbook to entice businesses, and overhauled the school system, and vocalized the dastardly deeds of Dave. Not one word, not one whisper has been said concerning the safety of people in Omaha. Since we started this session, 15 people have met violent death in Omaha. According to the recent issue of the World-Herald, people are afraid to let their children outside because of random gunfire. People sleep in basements behind brick walls for fear of stray bullets. This is an intolerable situation. My colleagues who represent these areas, and especially District 11 where ten people have met the ultimate fate, should be in the forefront to demand safety for their constituents. This is no time to be marking turf in the Legislature. It is time to address the safety of our constituents and the people of Nebraska. In the heat of debate on prairie dogs, I offered to help Senator Chambers with any problems he had in the district he represents, and I do not renege on offers that I make, so here's my suggestion. We as the Legislature should ask the Governor, Attorney General, and the State Patrol to explore the formation and use of a community safety detachment of officers that can go into areas in need of law enforcement to secure the safety of the local residents. This would be Omaha, Whiteclay, or any area in the state that is unsafe and life is being sacrificed. I have spoken with the Attorney General about this concern. I cannot speak for him, but I believe that he is generally concerned, as I am, and that he would listen to proposals to work together to protect our citizens. Such a unit would need to be well trained, made up of specialists in investigation, criminology, and community safety, and be equipped with up-to-date technology and tools. We took a hammer to the piggy bank this session and I would like to see the Department of Economic Development release \$3 million from the \$15 million that was set aside from the training fund to be used for this endeavor. There can't be anything more important