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SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Combs. Thank you, Mr. President. I don't know whether Senator Combs, like Senator Kremer, is reading my mind, but what I was going to tie this in with is a report that I heard relative to a report produced by a congressional committee, dominated by "Repelicans," lamenting the response by the U.S. government to the Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita problems, how it was a total failure on the part of the government; that despite the billions of dollars that have been spent on homeland security and related matters since September 11 of that fateful year, this country is still totally unprepared and unequipped to deal with an emergency of any proportion or size that occurs within this country. This avian flu is not something that comes out of a science fiction movie or book, where somebody is trying to terrify the public. It is a reality, and there are people dying of this flu in various parts of the world. It is spreading. America is not exempt. America is not immune. So despite the fact that in the New Orleans situation there had been years of warnings about what would happen if a sizable storm struck that area, those levees would not hold and the city would be flooded. Information was developed during the investigation conducted by this congressional committee or under the auspices of this committee. And to digress, there are others in Congress who feel there should be an independent investigation. But nevertheless, as the facts were developed, it turns out that the Governor of Louisiana, Madam Blanco, the mayor of New Orleans, Mr. "Idiot" Ray Nagin, did not make use of what they had in the way of state and local resources to mitigate...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the problems and prevent the loss of life which did occur. There were many accusations, many fingers pointed after the fact, which could justifiably be done, but those pointing the fingers had some guilt also. There has been lead time given as far as this avian flu is concerned. So what is being done in Nebraska? Probably a lot of hoping, wishing, and praying, and singing, but nothing of consequence. I don't know whether they are prepared to obtain additional respirators,