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FLOOR DEBATE

March 27, 2003      LB 429, 443, 479, 537, 561, 562, 562A, 563  
LR 2

LB 429E, LB 443, LB 537, LB 561E, LB 562, LB 562A, LB 563, and  
LR 2CA. Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I just want to rise and visit with this just a little bit. I don't know how many of you seen the paper that I passed out this morning of how the farm economy is down as much as it is. It looks like if we hadn't had the government payments this year, well, everybody would have been below the...in the zero and below. So it's really a scary thought to think what the farm economy is like out there. But we've been discussing this bill on the EPIC Fund and all we've been discussing right now is Section 7, so some way or another I wish we could have that split out and find out just where we're going to stand on it and...because I think there's some other things in LB 479 that I think we really need and I think that's what a lot of people is concerned about. And one concern I have, I would sure like to see General Fund money go into something like this, along with this half-cent checkoff, simply because this is of benefit to the whole state when you get an ethanol plant out there. So I think that's something that everybody should think about, because it's just not a benefit just to the corn growers. It's a benefit to the whole state. And while we've had this conversation, I visited with a person in Kearney dealing with KAAPA and they're on schedule and they got plenty of finance to finish the plant but, like you say, they don't get none of this money until they're up and a going, and they think they'll be up and going by March of this time next year. And so their deadline is June, but I think they're running ahead of schedule a little bit, which is really good. So I know that they'll be needing some money by that time, but as to whether we need this right now or not, I just got some concerns about it. I'd like to see the bill divided and go ahead with LB 479 and take Section 7 out and see what we can do with that. But I don't know just what they're thinking right now on it, but that's the way my feeling is right now. Thank you.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator McDonald.

SENATOR McDONALD: Mr. President, members of the body, I also rise in support of bracketing this, this motion. I just feel