

to be recyclable. That was in the original committee amendment and this amendment takes out the recyclable, mandating that these bags be biodegradable and photodegradable. So at this time I would urge that you support the first part of this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Elmer, discussion on the divided question.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President. I know a lot of the members here are a little bit interested in what is biodegradable, what is photodegradable? And plastics are made from petroleum derivatives, propylene, butylene, isopropylene, isobutylene, that are made from propane and butane, primarily, which are byproducts of natural gas production, not oil production. There is a small amount of isopropylene and isobutylene that come from byproducts of refining, however, most of them do come from natural gas production. These are brought to a manufacturer such as Procter and Gamble or the firm that Elroy mentioned out in Colorado where they are mixed with a catalyst that makes the molecules of the isobutylene and isopropylene extend themselves and intertwine to form plastic of all kinds of different shapes and sizes by molding or rolling. To make these products biodegradable, a certain amount of cornstarch is added, sometimes as much as 15 to 18 percent of...by weight of the material. The addition of this starch being a hydrocarbon of natural origin from corn dissolves over a period of time in the presence of microbes and moisture in the soil, thus making the polyethylene plastics come all...come to pieces in very, very tiny little particles of the plastic material. Then these very tiny portions of the plastic material naturally can biodegrade much more rapidly than if the cornstarch were not present. And that's the basic mechanism whereby the biodegradability can be attained and over five or 10 years instead of hundreds of years. As far as the question about diapers and these other things, I would be quick to point out to Senator Hall and Senator Haberman that my wife and I were of the generation of Senator Haberman and have no experience with these disposable diapers as far as our personal use is concerned and would recommend to all of you who are using the disposables that you could save 40, 50, \$60.00 a month very easily by being a little old fashioned. And thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Further discussion on the first