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FLOOR DEBATE

March 27, 2003 LB 479

corn growers benefit from it, but the small towns where these plants are being built are benefiting. We're not talking plants here in Blair and Columbus and Aurora. We're talking small rural towns: Axtell, Trenton, Plainview. These are small towns that need the investment, they need the corn market. If it can increase their corn market five, ten cents a bushel in Plainview, that goes right back into the farmers' pockets. It's turned over numerous times. I don't understand for the life of me, can somebody explain to me why, if you invest a half-cent additional here and get a couple more plants built and raise the price of corn, that isn't a good deal? I just...it escapes me, their rationale. I can't find one, so...and it's amazing, and I'm standing here as a rural senator saying this is what we need to do, and everybody else is against me. That boggles my mind. I don't...is there that much faulty reasoning out there in the lobby? I don't know. I can't...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BAKER: ...answer it. If somebody would care to answer the question, if you can invest an additional half-cent here...say you invested a penny, a whole penny in this, we already have the half-cent, you invested a penny and you get five to ten cents back for that penny investment. And that's on an annual basis. That's not a one-time thing. They get increased market for their corn, an increased price over the life of the plant. This checkoff does not go on forever. There are provisions in the bill, if it does get to \$20 million the checkoff is suspended till the EPIC Fund goes back down to \$10 million. That's why I oppose the bracket motion. There's a lot of good things in this bill that the bracket motion, you know, should it be adopted or passed, we're never going to get to these things. There's an awfully lot of good material in this bill that needs to be discussed. I vehemently oppose the bracket motion. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the bracket motion of the Baker bill, LB 479. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: Thank you, Mr. President. Well, once again,