

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 27, 2003 LB 479

their operations going, and I understand that. But I don't know if, because of the extremely rich program that we've had in place for two years, if we ought to give more encouragement for those extra plants at the end. I will wait till May. I do not think that farmers have the ability or the want to fund more at this time, and that I'd be in opposition to the corn checkoff probably in May too. But I will wait and look at it at that time.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Connealy. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm probably the only one on the floor who will admit straight out that I'm a politician. A politician deals with politics, obviously. But I believe in being practical and realistic. If I was trying to kill this bill, there's a direct way I would do it. I haven't even talked on the bill, but this is what I told Senator Baker. There is not a consensus on this bill right now. I don't know whether there are 25 votes for any amendment. There might be somebody who will agree to vote to move this to Select File and say that's all I'm going to give you. Then, if it comes up again, we have the same contentiousness that we have now. Nothing has been resolved, and the form of the bill that moves from General File to Select File is the form that the politicians, not like me who are elected, outside the glass and with these plants are going to utilize to get leverage, and there will be people saying, I will vote to move the bill to Select File but I don't support it like it is now. So I'm trying to be practical and here's what I'm saying again. There are people who are not anti-ethanol who are in favor of the bracket motion. There are people who want to save the state from getting in some deep water as far as being obligated to come up with money. They're for the bracket motion. There are senators who don't want to add to the checkoff and they're for the bracket motion. That's about the only consensus we have now. But I'll tell you all what I'm going to do, because I don't like ethanol. I told Senator Baker if they defeat the bracket motion you all better have 33 votes to move this bill. Now, what form of the bill is going to draw 33 votes? And there are enough of you around here to know that I can go on and on until the session is over or until the Speaker says, if you all