

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

May 12, 2005

LB 90A, 273

represent. Your people are used to being given peanuts. You're used to having crumbs, you're used to having the leavings, and you're used to picking through the manure of the big interests to see if you can find a bit of undigested food, and you eat that. You know what I'm telling you that you eat, don't you? But I don't use that kind of language. I have to prettify it and sanitize it. This is not of any personal interest to me. I take interest in it because I have a concern for the welfare of people who cannot help themselves. And now I'm not talking about the senators on this floor who feel they've got to take low and crumble, but the people they are supposed to represent. But if I'm a state senator, don't I represent them, too? Are not they my constituents? Didn't John Donne say, no person is an island? We all are our brother's and our sister's keeper. I'm not just concerned about people who are gay and lesbian. That was the issue we were discussing before. Now we're discussing your kind of people, your people. And you have been put in a position where you've got to watch. How did you all feel when you watched that \$15 million given, when the business people aren't even ready to use it? You anticipate what they might want, and you give them \$15 million. Now, let's say that I'm the Devil incarnate. Or, so I won't make the Devil angry--because the Devil may be as jealous as a demon as God is jealous as a god--I am the Devil's emissary incarnate. I've been the worst nightmare of the rural people, and I come bearing gifts, and they tell me, uh-uh, we don't want it, because we made a deal with the Devil himself, and the Devil himself told us, you rural people eat peanuts now as you've always eaten it, and you're going to eat some more manure. And to show you how you're lacking and you're nothing, while you get nothing, we're going to give the better people \$15 million. And it doesn't have to go through argument on General File. It comes on Select File, the eleventh hour. And the rural people eat manure, turn their back on their people, and say, okay, because if we don't swallow this manure, you might take the \$250,000 you gave us. What was my rationale? The maximum amount that is available under this little program--it was LB 273, I believe, whatever the number of the bill was--is \$75,000. Even if a fool got that much, that is not a great amount of money that's going to hurt the state. Maybe it's a pipe dream idea, but it might work also. We're not talking about huge amounts of money that can be