

labor. The workplace is like Mephistopheles. The labor is like the soul of the working person. I am going to take a percentage of your soul in exchange for a minimum wage. Mephistopheles, Senator Schrock, made promises to old Faustus, he said I will grant you any wish that you want for a period of 25 years, but at the end, I want your soul. Well, a soul didn't mean anything to Faustus, so he said, fine, but here is where Mephistopheles was more honest than a lot of people on this floor. Every promise that was made by Mephistopheles was kept, and Mephistopheles was the agent of the devil, not the devil, himself, and he was authorized by his boss to deliver on the promises made. If we could establish on the floor of the Legislature the principles of Satan or Lucifer, as you will, and Mephistopheles, his agent, the only one we know from history who has dealt directly with human beings and negotiated to a mutual agreement, we would be much better off because the promises made would be kept. What we are doing when these kinds of amendments are adopted, such as the one yesterday, especially, with smaller than a majority of the legislators, is to put an unconscionable burden on those who least can afford it. I know, and we all know, that the poor will always be with us, but they don't have to be made more impoverished by the things that we do on this floor. Sometimes people make comments about the homeless as though we really care about their plight and would like to do something to relieve it, but those are empty words we speak because practically speaking nothing is going to be done by this Legislature for that purpose. But we do know that there are poor people who are working, who are living from hand to mouth, may not know that what they start the morning with will be enough to provide them nourishment and their family for that entire day. Certainly starting at the front of the month, they don't know if they will have enough to eat until the back of the month. So when you levy a tax on them, which is the same as that which would be levied on the wealthiest person in this society, it is wrong. It is wrong, and the reason it is done is not because people like it but because the people who are hurt by it most are given the least consideration on the floor of this Legislature. If a rich person in Omaha, Senator Schrock, spent 7 percent in addition to whatever is purchased as a tax, and the poor person spends 7 percent on what is purchased as a tax, proportionately speaking, the poor person has spent far more of his or her income or assets than the rich person. We all know that. The reason David was condemned so much in the Bible, Senator Schrock, was because he took the one ewe lamb from the man who only had the one, when he had thousands, and he