

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

February 1, 2000 LB 175

that I have for being so upset with this bill. I pointed out, without quote...trying to quote everything I said, but the point I was trying to make was that there are people in the world who have problems and we should be able to relate to the problems that other people have, and I quoted from some words that came from a longer piece written by a man named John Donne. I pointed out that some less literate Americans might pronounce his name "donnie", because it's spelled D-o-n-n-e, but it's pronounced "dun" nevertheless. Now, I wasn't aware of which writing by John Donne that the quote came from that I was attempting to share with you. "Baron" Tyson, because he has been around even longer than I have, knew precisely which of John Donne's writings it came from--"Meditation XVII". Because Senator Tyson has been around a long time and he has been many places, he may have even conversed with John Donne. But, at any rate, once he told me that it was from "Meditation XVII", he added that he had a copy of the entire meditation and he would share it with me. But I do not sit still. When my education has been improved by somebody, it behooves me to carry it the next step. So I have a very ancient, well-worn book which contains the writings, the reproductions of writings, that is, of many people who have long since turned to dust. Among those writings is "Meditation XVII" of John Donne and what I'm going to read is an excerpt and it will help explain one of the reasons that I fight so hard on this bill as well as others. And at this time when John Donne was going to write this he was very ill and he heard a bell tolling, and in those days and in those places they tolled the bell for people who were about to die or if people had died, and in the black community this has happened a lot. They even had a song that said, toll the bell, death has taken my, whichever the loved one was, my mother, my father, my sister, brother. So tolling the bell has a long tradition of being associated with death and dire things. So this is a part of what he wrote. Perchance he for whom this bell tolls may be so ill as that he knows not it tolls for him; and perchance I may think myself so much better than I am, as that they who are about me and see my state may have caused it to toll for me, and I know not that. All mankind is of one author and it is one volume; when one man dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book, but translated into a better language; and every chapter must be so translated. Some pieces are translated by age, some by sickness, some by war, some by