

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

March 22, 2000 LB 171

you. Members of the Legislature, this bill is still in trouble, but it has picked up a "yes" vote from Senator Beutler. He's locked in now. He has made his deal with Mephistopheles. In case you all don't know, read The Tragic History of Doctor Faustus, written by Christopher Marlowe, and he was a young man in his twenties when he wrote this, and this man made a deal with the devil where for period of years he could have anything he wanted, go anywhere, see anything, do anything. And it was in the context of that that you got the famous statement, "Is this the face that launched a thousand ships?" because he had a chance to see Helen of Troy. He went to a dinner at the Vatican. He was thumping priests and cardinals on the head because he was invisible. He just did a lot of things, but when time came to pay off he did like a lot of people. He didn't want to. He said there are all these millions of stars; if I could just become one of the stars, if I could become a droplet of water and fall into the ocean and blend with other drops and never be seen or heard from, couldn't be found. And the students outside the study door, because he was in there with these demons about to come get him, midnight had come, and they said, pray, Faustus, pray. He said, it's too late. They said, it's never too late. He said, yes, it is, and sure enough it was too late. He ended with the two words "ah, Mephistopheles," and they took him on wherever they take people like that. When you make these deals you have to deliver no matter what. You have bound yourself. You've signed in blood. And it may have been a mistake to make it in the first place, but you cannot get out of it. So, one of the "yes" votes that was not available on this bill now has been picked up by the very one who was strongly opposed to it, because he must vote "yes". Those are interesting things to consider and it's one of the vagaries of politics. It's why if you have a principled position you ought not compromise it. If the whole issue was only money in the beginning, there is no principle involved with money. It is a matter of how can we avoid spending too much, and that's it. Whatever will result in the least expenditure of money is what you go for. That's why you vote against Senator Janssen's bill, his amendment. Or, if you were going to take that principled position of protecting the tax base and not...giving the tax break to "Mr. Moneybags" while denying it to poor "Widder Brown" and her...and the orphans, you can reconcile denying it to them, with giving it to "Mr. Moneybags". And that's what I'm looking