

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

March 31, 2005 LB 273

going to stand in the way of that. I will see what his amendments can do as far as making this bill less objectionable. However, there is a grim reality. I've talked to some of the senators who could be considered rural senators who don't agree with this bill. So I don't know how much time I ought to give in trying to batter it. If the rural people feel like this is what they want, let them have it, but I will not support another measure that relates to rural economic development this session. This is one of those times, and I don't always do it, when it's going to be my way or no way to the extent that I can make it that way. This bill is not worth the amount of effort that has gone into it thus far. If it happens to be enacted into the law, into law, and if the Governor signs it, the rural people have got nothing. So this is the deal that you make with this devil. Take LB 273 if you can get it, and then everybody else who has one of these so-called rural redevelopment bills, get ready to get 33 votes on every one of them. That's the deal that I offer. I'd like to ask Senator Cunningham a question, now that Mephistopheles has spoken. In case, Senator Cunningham, that name throws you off, because it will some people, there's a young man named Christopher Marlowe. He was killed, they say, in a bar fight in his early or mid-20s. He got stabbed in the eye, and some people think he was assassinated. Nevertheless, he did croak. But he wrote The Tragical History of Dr. Faustus, who was approached by Mephistopheles, a representative of the evil one, not the evil one himself; told him he would give him anything he wanted for a period of years, but in exchange he had to give him one slightly soiled, used soul. And Dr. Faustus agreed, and he was able to be transported anywhere in the world, any wish he wanted he could have granted. He wanted to see Helen of Troy, and he did. Is this the face that launched a thousand ships, and so forth. When time came to pay off, he did not want to pay off. Now, I'm, for the sake of the analogy, Mephistopheles. You, for the sake of the analogy, are Dr. Faustus, a very learned doctor, competent in many disciplines. It's not just your soul today that's at stake, the soul of your rural colleagues. Are you prepared to deal with Mephistopheles on this issue?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: I think I am, Senator.