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became well-acquainted with Curt my first year in the Legislature, when Rex Haberman, who was chairman of the...state chair of ALEC at the time, asked us both to go to a task force meeting in Richmond, Virginia, and you really get to know a man when you sit next to him on a coach airplane for several hours and sit with him several days when at these meetings. I found that we shared some things in common. We both graduated from the University of Nebraska. However, in college he was inducted into the Innocents Society and I wasn't. Evidently I had something in my past which disqualified me as an innocent. We both served as commissioned officers in the U.S. Military: he in the army, I in the air force. We both returned to our home counties to make a living, to raise our families. With our wives, we raised five children each. We both served on a local school board, county government, and we were both encouraged to serve in the Legislature, and we both have a private pilot's license. He has more solo hours than I do because no one will ride with him (laughter), and I don't blame them, after some of the tales he told me on that trip. And actually, Dee, my wife Dee, would never ride with me either. She let some of the kids ride with me that she was a little disappointed with at the time (laughter), but she has never been in an airplane with me. And you can't help noting his sense of humor. He told me the time he was campaigning in a nursing home and was in visiting a constituent that didn't seem to recognize him. Curt asked if he knew who he was, and the gentleman said, no, but I'll tell you what, if you go up to the front desk they can tell you who you are. (Laughter) Now the Curt Bromm that I came to respect and admire over the years in the Legislature, the bottom line is he is a man that you can count on. He says what he means and he means what he says. I have found that he's a good listener, he's always been fair and very approachable. He has exhibited his leadership abilities as Chair of the Transportation and Communications (sic) Committee where he spearheaded some very important legislation for the people of the state of Nebraska, and gaining the respect of his colleagues when he was unanimously elected to his present position of Speaker when Doug Kristensen let the Legislature. As we have all witnessed, we have had some very contentious issues over the past two years and Curt has exhibited a great ability to work out compromises between people with very different opinions. And besides that,