

will rub off on me and I will catch being gay. Or, if it were a nurse or a psychiatrist, or any other person who delivers medical services. I mention the way some of these Christian conservative preachers were embarrassed when they had help writing their autobiographies and the one who helped them as a gay minister who came out of the closet, Falwell was one of them, and I think Robertson was another, and they are some of the worse homophobes around. But this man that they hated, when they found out what he was, really they didn't, they began to kind of modify their position because now here is a homosexual that not only did they know, but they thought he was so much more talented than they were in writing about their life, that they had him to do it for them. So how are they going to say, this is a man straight from hell, cursed by God, but we were so blind to his lack of morality that we had him write our autobiography and we put our name on it because he could better tell the world the story of our life than we could tell it ourselves. One of our former colleagues had a son who was gay and died. I don't know what his vote would have been on a bill such as this, but he probably would have voted against it because everybody has to be against something like this publicly. But, when family members are involved, there are some people who will not throw the family member away. We had that demonstrated to us during the hearing on one of these bills. There were mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, other relatives, who talked about the pain that they felt when one so close to them, one who meant so much to them was treated in such a hateful way by other members of society. They talked about situations where the children have left Nebraska. Some of them had advanced degrees. But, because of the homophobic attitude in this state, there was no opportunity to get decent employment so they left the state and there was a type of deep pain felt by the family members because in the state where they grew up themselves their children were not welcome and could not earn a living. The committee heard all of those things. The committee heard ministers from various persuasions speak in behalf of this bill, speak on behalf of people having the right to earn a living free from discrimination. And after hearing all of that a majority of the members still voted to kill the bill. Yet when they have something that is of interest to them, they don't want me to close my mind to it, and say, well I am opposed to it, just because I am, and I'm going to vote against it, they will often appeal to me. And on the floor the appeals are made. They know that I'm not close-minded on their issues as they are