

reckoning, in my opinion. As critical as I am when we're having internal discussions, as critical as I am of the body in general, and certain members specifically, whether I called them by name or described them well enough for people to know who they are even when I don't call their name, being here is not the easiest thing in the world, it is very important work that everybody is doing, and the problem is we don't recognize the importance of what it is that we do as the lawmaking body. So if we were to be away from here, even if you had the most conscientious staff in the world, the fact is that we are the elected representatives, we are the ones who are supposed to know, we should formulate the policy. So to be left behind, I think, is not a wise thing. I went to the Million Man March, this summer, one of the best experiences I ever had in my life. I've never been around that many black people in my life. There are not that many black people in a single city in this country, as far as I know. And it was one of the most rewarding, growth experiences I have had, and I had to be in this world more than a half century before I had it. But as serious as the purpose for which we were there was, I told a couple of fibs, being from Omaha, Nebraska. People had heard of Omaha, they'd heard of Nebraska, and they have all kind of conceptions about it. But they'll believe what anybody who purports to be from Nebraska will say. So I told them that I had driven a mule team to Washington. First, I'd start by asking do they know what a mule skinner is. And they thought it was somebody who'd literally take the hide off the animal. I said, well no, that's the person who drives mules, and I said that's...now, I don't do it for a profession, but that's what I did to get here. And they said, you did? I said, oh yeah, I didn't bring a covered wagon because oxen don't move fast enough and sometimes they get kind of hard to control when you're on roads, and they're frightened by cars and trucks and things. And people were just looking so serious, and the more seriously they take you the more easy it is to add and manufacture and weave. So I told them that I'd driven this mule team and I had to start about a month before the gathering date, and in fact the mules, the park service was very nice to me because about three blocks, whatever direction I pointed, they built a little enclosure with a fence so that I could put the mules there, not only to keep them from dirtying up the mall and these other places where people will go, but so that nobody would be mean to the mules. So I told them, if you go over there and you're going to give them a lump of sugar or an ear of corn, don't stick your hand in their mouth because