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SENATOR BROWN: No, I was not a member of the task force. I was the sponsor of the legislation that created the tax force and therefore was...received copies of information. And I was at the first meeting to give a charge to the task force as to what their responsibilities were.

SENATOR BAKER: Okay. And then there's only 11 other members that received a copy of this letter that he sent to Governor Nelson, time dated October 20th of '98. I don't understand, if there's 11 members, in the first page of the letter, I think there was 12, but nobody can find the 12th member. There must have been somebody appointed that was never there?

SENATOR BROWN: I'm sorry, Senator, I'll have to check on that.

SENATOR BAKER: I can't find that either. I don't...if there was only 11 members, a majority of the task force, down in the last paragraph of this letter, 6 task force members were in favor of the Department of Health and Human Services preparing an exemption application pursuant to section such and such of the Social Security Act. That would have been a majority of the people he copied this letter to. I don't understand exactly what happened there. And in the last page of his letter, apparently they were looking for unanimous agreement on something like this. He says, I'm very sorry that the task force has been unable to unanimously agree on a final report. It looks, on the surface, like they had a...had they had an official meeting? And I don't have any minutes or anything. They had six people in favor of pursuing the waiver option. I don't know where it broke down or what happened there. I still have too many questions. I don't have answers there. It looks like they may have had a majority of the people certainly that were carbon copied this letter were in favor of pursuing the waiver route. And it's been brought up to me why in the world, how did I get involved with this quite so much as a freshman senator. Three of these people on the task force have been in contact with me from practically the day I was elected. They're from out west, obviously. And in fact, I just spent an hour on the phone with one of them Friday night. And they're reputable people and there's...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.