

not travel around the world. I buy as many books as I can, but I cannot afford to buy all of the books that I would desire to have. The library fills in these gaps. By reading, we can bring ourselves in contact with the best minds that have ever set pen or pencil to paper, we can become aware of things happening all over the world throughout history whether we're dealing with what is called history as such or fiction. Even fiction, which is one of those characterizations which may not be based on facts growing from an individual life, there are profound truths found in fiction. Even when the day comes that people can do all of their reading by calling up images on a screen of a computer, I don't think I'll join that group. There is something about a book which is impressive to me, the weight of the book, the feel of the book, the texture of the cover, the thickness, the quality of the pages, the type of printing which is used to produce the words, the design of the paragraph or chapter headings, all of these things carry a message to me. So a book is not just covers, a binding and pages. Senator Maurstad, don't blush, but there is something sensual in my relationship to books. I like to touch them not just read them. And I think the people who operate libraries, those who support libraries are almost invisible, but I think the service they perform is one of the most significant, meaningful ones that the society has. And, Senator Crosby, you know it's difficult for me, especially on a subject like this, not to kind of at least dabble a toe in the Bible. Jesus, as great as he is to be, and oh, Senator Crosby, you mentioned the other day when I put the appellation "old" in front of Jesus, and you said 33 was pretty young. In those days, 33 was old. But anyway, from all of the records that we have, Jesus never wrote a word, never wrote a word. We don't have anything in the way of information except that which other sat down for us. So as fortunate as we are to have the information which is preserved in books, we can think about all that which may have escaped our notice because nobody was there to take it down. So I would encourage these young people who may happen to watch what we do on ETV, but certainly those in this Chamber who are in school to never underestimate the value of reading. You ought to read everything you can get your hands on.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I even read stuff from ALEC. I read stuff which idiots write, because I want to know what my opponents are saying. And every now and then they say something clever. To