

**DEMOCRACY CORPS
GROUP 2
DES MOINES IOWA
NON-COLLEGE MEN, 45-60
BLUE-COLLAR, INCOME UNDER \$50,000
AUGUST 20, 2001, 8:00 P.M.**

Jack. I work for Springer Pest Solution. And I have a business I do on the side, remodeling and stuff. Other than that, golf in the summer, bowl in the winter.

Bill. From the south side of Des Moines. Like him I've been remodeling my house for the last half a year. That's it, that's my down time, that and camp with the kids.

I'm a driver. I got 1 son.

I'm a driver. I have a wife, 2 boys. They're both going to school.

I estimate fences for my boy, he owns a fencing company, I do estimate work. I have 4 kids. And kind of just retired.

I work as a technician. Four kids. I had 4 wives. Hobbies, I don't have much time for hobbies I guess.

Larry. I'm a traveling salesman. Trailers.

Jim. I'm married, got 2 children, 4 grandchildren. Driver. Waiting for retirement from a company that relocated.

MODERATOR—IN GENERAL, WOULD YOU SAY THINGS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION OR IN THE WRONG DIRECTION?

Wrong direction. Because I just think the economy is, seemed like the last couple years, the NASDAQ took that big plunge, a lot of the older people lost a lot of their money. And it looks like it's going to get worse before it gets better.

I agree with him. It's staying steady. I think it's because of the housing. I work construction and stuff. It isn't slowing down. And people are taking their money and refinancing left and right. Eventually that shit is going to hit the fan. There's going to be a lot of people in a whole bunch of hurt. It's all about that.

Wrong direction. Probably NAFTA, sucking jobs out of the country. On the border where they can get wetbacks for next to nothing.

Got three Laotians, 4 Mexicans working for him for nothing. Try to be bilingual and it's killing me.

That is an excellent point. They used to say, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer and all these poor folks said, we don't want to get poorer. Well guess what? They're importing them. They don't mind being poor. They're real proud to come here and be for them reasonably well off to us poor. So, there's, the country's growing in population pretty good. My company year after year after year says we're making more money then we ever have every year. A lot of companies are doing the same damn thing, laying off more people, tightening their belt and hiring what they can for help that they don't have to pay much for.

The government don't get the big picture. They see it but they're afraid to open their eyes. With all the migrant workers and they call them the wetbacks, whatever, I don't know, it's not right to call names I know that. But you got Vietnamese. You've got Mexicans. You've got all nationalities coming in to here. Our forefathers did the same thing. But, the thing is, the money stayed here. The money didn't go back to San Juan or somewhere over there where it's 4 times the American dollar, worth 4 times than the peso. And the thing with the Vietnamese, they're here and they're sending their money back over there. I know for a fact, because like I say, I drive a school bus. I pull up in front of a house and you might have 10 Vietnamese families living in one house. Renting the house for \$500 and making X amount of dollars. They take all that money and it goes back to Vietnam. It doesn't stay here in the good ole USA. And the money from the Mexicans don't stay in the good ole USA. It goes down south of the border.

You can see them, money orders and shit, sending it down south. They're lined up, Jesus.

Mexicans, they come up here, money they're making, they send it back there, they're rich.

Damn straight.

That's what I'm saying. It's just ridiculous. And they can't see this. They just keep bringing more people in. I just visited California two months ago. I know there's been a lot of migrant workers in California anyway. I never seen a white man in the field. Not even a boss, nothing. I mean I know that they're bringing them up, to work for nothing.

MODERATOR—WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON IN THE COUNTRY?

Well, just like up to the last week unemployment was at it's lowest it's ever been for like 10 years. But now they say it's gradually picking up. And like he says, the building is kind of going down so therefore in certain areas of the country unemployment is going up. The labor force. Labor is going down and unemployment is going up.

My opinion is, there's jobs out there to be found but will a white man go and get that job? No. Because, my philosophy is, I started a job at \$6.00 an hour. Now I'm up to around 11, 12 bucks an hour. Right now a guy comes in to learn the job at 8, \$9.00 an hour where I started at 6. I don't mind that. I would like to train these people. My problem is, I try and find jobs and you won't, a man of my age, you go get a job it's hard. A guy his age, walk in, they get the job. I mean, it's fact of life, you get older, it's harder to get a job. But there's thousands of people like this. We don't want to retire. We like to make money.

It's not that the immigrants were always taking the jobs the Americans didn't want. I really don't think they're coming over here taking our jobs. I just think it's the jobs we don't want to do.

That's right.

MODERATOR—ANYTHING GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?

I disagree with that. Because my brother is screwing people, having 3 guys work and 1 guy that's pretty much good or something like that has to be fired. I don't know what the hell he's doing behind the scenes because he's bent over backwards and kissed these peoples' ass.

(Many voices speaking at once)

I agree to a point that there are jobs out there that we as Caucasians or whatever won't take. But they won't take them because there's always some kind of aid out there, food stamps, unemployment, disabilities.

This country has gotten lazy, too.

That's what I'm saying. Hello, wake up America. Quit sending all your money overseas and take care of the people here. Shut your borders.

MODERATOR—SHIFT GEARS. I'M GOING TO THROW OUT SOME NAMES, TELL ME THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND. FIRST NAME, BILL GATES.

Inspirational.

Took the country a long ways.

Put money in other areas.

Wait and see what happens as far as all this high tech stuff is concerned. Now we got to start worrying about biology and cloning and shit like that.

MODERATOR—NEXT NAME, BILLY GRAHAM.

My mom's hero. Damn straight.

I would say he's a brilliant man.

Very religious person.

Fading generation.

Very much.

I don't care for him.

Yeah, it seems like kids are a lot religious too nowadays too.

I don't like organized religion period.

MODERATOR—HOW ABOUT AL GORE?

Sucks.

Phony.

I voted for him.

I voted for him.

The simple reason is, I thought he was better than Bush.

The lesser of two evils.

Basically, that's it.

MODERATOR—JOHNNY CASH.

Fading legend.

Over the hill.

He's fading away.

I'd say legend also.

MODERATOR—JOHN MCCAIN.

Hero.

Pain in the ass.

Hero.

Arizona.

MODERATOR—'PAIN IN THE ASS,' WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?

I don't know that he necessarily follows through with his beliefs. I think he tries to generate emotionalism to stir controversy.

MODERATOR—HOW ABOUT ALLEN IVERSON?

Showoff.

Makes too damn much money. No, not really. If they'll give it to you why not take it, God damn it. People are ignorant enough to give you that kind of money, I'd take it. You'd take it. You know you would in a hot second.

I'm not denying it.

All the pro-athletes, they sit out there and make millions and millions and millions of dollars a year but do they invest it back into the good? Or do they take their money into the barrio? Do they take it where they came from? Do they? Wrong, no. No, they buy furs. They buy diamonds. Sure, they come out on TV, I give X amount of dollars to the Boy's Club.

I wouldn't want to hang around getting my ass shot out. I'd be outta there.

I'm saying, put the money back in to the 'hood, to the programs that helped you get where you're at.

Oh, yeah.

For coaches, equipment, things like that.

There's not an athlete out there, I don't give a shit who he is, that's worth the type of money they're paid.

I agree 100 percent. But like I say, you got these agents now and they negotiate these deals and if the owner is stupid enough to pay it, then hell, go for everything you can get.

Another thing about contracts, if you look at contracts, that the contract they state on the paper, what they can get, so much of that is on incentives in numbers. Just like a salesman, you hit this number you're going to make this much this year all right. If you sell this amount of cases you're going to get this plus you're getting this and stuff.

MODERATOR—BILL CLINTON.

He sucks worse than the other.

I think he's a good president.

I don't know, he made the economy strong.

He had nothing to do with the jobs though.

(Many voices speaking at once)

Private life, leave it alone.

MODERATOR—NOW, I'M GOING TO READ YOU SOME STATEMENTS [GIVES INSTRUCTIONS]. FIRST STATEMENT,

BUSINESSES AND ENTREPRENEURS CREATE WEALTH AND PROSPERITY IN OUR COUNTRY. GOVERNMENT SHOULD GET OUT OF THE WAY AND LET THEM DO THEIR JOB.

Amen.

Right.

Yes.

I disagree.

I disagree.

MODERATOR—TELL ME WHY?

The government, if you give them full control of business, people are greedy, downright greedy. If you had no controls at all they'd kill the working man. They would kill you. Talk about Hitler.

You have a prime example here in Des Moines. That dumb ass Morrie Taylor.

What was the one that was the vending machine place in West Des Moines?

But if you let the government run that you have just a would-be entrepreneurial and the would-be this and that, trying to run everything and they're going to fuck it up worse than those that know what they're doing.

Well, I don't know what you're basing your entrepreneurial shit on. If it's a small guy. There's different sizes of entrepreneurs and stuff like that. What are you actually saying? Are you saying a guy, Gates, or are you talking about me, starting a God damn taco stand? You know? There's a difference. If you got the balls, go do it. I'm happy for the guy that can make money, like Allen Iverson.

I think you have to have some kind of regulation on anything. Schools, you got principals, the teachers can't just run the school. Business, you got bosses, you got CEOs running. You got to have somebody higher authority running it because if you don't, just like that, you're going to

have somebody, extreme, hypothetical, you're going to have a Hitler-type situation. Somebody is going to take this country like Gates, and money talks. Money talks.

I was going to say that when you said that, about Gates, what he's talking about. Some of those people are pretty damn scary. I am not like, you know, paranoid or anything. But there are people got enough money, they could run a country.

They do run the country.

They don't now. They could if they had the mind to.

And something else, I'm just saying, if you realized, you got to have a government around this country because I would say, this country is not even owned by this country any more.

No shit.

You got all your eastern nations, Iran, Iraq, all these, they bought so much land out West, Washington, Oregon, all that, who knows, don't even own it any more.

MODERATOR—THE NEXT ONE,

THERE ARE SOME BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD MEET – SCHOOLS WITH HIGH STANDARDS, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE, AND A RETIREMENT SYSTEM THAT IS SECURE.

Well, they're pissing that off.

There you go. There's your answer.

I think they ought to meet those standards.

Yeah, it would be nice.

It ain't gonna happen.

I just received, I'm 54, I just received my social security thing the other day for this year as to when I can retire, so on and so forth. I always was under the assumption, 62 or 65. I'm like, almost 67 before I can get anything, almost 67 before I can collect it. So, if I don't collect it at 62 and 65, I'm dead baby.

MODERATOR—SO, THOSE ARE RESPONSIBILITIES YOU THINK GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF?

Sure.

If they can do it properly.

Definitely. Definitely.

Get some screwball in there.

They should do it from a distance, not firsthand.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

Well, I don't think they should be writing the exact rules, just guidelines. Exercise on their own beliefs at that time.

MODERATOR—THE NEXT ONE,

THE EROSION OF MORAL VALUES AND THE WEAKENING OF THE FAMILY IS THE GREATEST CRISIS FACING OUR COUNTRY TODAY.

Yep. I agree on that.

I agree with that.

100 percent.

I believe that. The type of music we're hearing. It's the type of TV programs we're receiving. I mean you see it everywhere. I mean, on talk shows. People get in your face. I mean they have no respect for human beings nowhere no more. I grew up, if I talked back to my father, I got whopped into the next room.

(Many voices speaking at once)

It's the same thing, when you had a president that got a blow job and he didn't consider it sex? Hello. I mean, that's the fad going across the nation. Got young kids in junior high school, that is the fad. You can't get pregnant, give him a blow job. That's the saying now.

I think we got a lot of problems. And it's going to have to start from way up and work its way down again. I mean, it needs to start with the people going the wrong way.

It wouldn't be too bad to have a president with some, you know, to look up to or at least be proud of? It's been a long, long time...

Eisenhower.

...Eisenhower was a goofball. I was around at least at that time. I was kind of young but I heard about it.

Kids now, their parents work so nobody's home. There's nobody there to tell them you can't do this, you can't do that.

(Many voices speaking at once).

Kids want to be told what to do, I'm telling you that right now. They want authority to tell them what to do. And nobody will tell them. The teachers are so afraid of them. The administration in the schools are so afraid of them. Their parents don't give a shit.

The schools, they're medicated.

MODERATOR—THE NEXT ONE,

IN ORDER TO SUCCEED IN TODAY'S WORLD, WE MUST BE OPEN TO
NEW IDEAS AND EMBRACE CHANGE AS THE WORLD AROUND US
CHANGES.

You'd be left behind.

But guarded though.

Embrace drilling in Alaska and shit like that. Where I go fishing and I can't eat nothing. Jesus Christ, I can't go fishing and eat nothing. I can catch them and release them.

I think you got to be up for change.

Be skeptical. If you can't adapt to the situation you're going to be left way behind. Somebody else is going to be ahead of you and that's it.

The world is going to change. Might as well get on board. If you don't, you're going to be on the bottom.

(Many voices speaking at once)

You can't have an economy without progress. So, it's economically true.

MODERATOR—THE NEXT ONE,

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENT TO TAKE CARE OF
PEOPLE WHO CAN'T TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

No.

Not really.

Can't, can't, not won't, can't take care of themselves. There's a difference between 'won't' and 'can't,' you know that. I won't do that. I won't do the dishes. I won't mow the lawn. That's what he's talking about. Kids. They won't do shit. They'll start laughing.

Not be able to take care of themselves, yes, help them out.

There's a line on even the ones, I mean, the ones that physically can't, yeah.

Ought to take care of them.

Should take care of them there. But somebody that's just flat out lazy, no.

(Many voices speaking at once)

There's lazy people that are con artists and shit like that.

Bingo.

If you go on a street corner you see a guy, 'I will work for food.' You say, come to my house, give you food and work. No, I want the money. And five seconds later you see him going to the liquor store and buy himself some booze.

In Las Vegas, go back into the casino.

MODERATOR—THE NEXT ONE,

WE HAVE GONE TOO FAR IN PUSHING EQUAL RIGHTS IN THIS COUNTRY.

Oh boy. Everybody got a right to do things but up to a certain point.

Eventually we're getting to the point where white male is the minority.

We've already become the minority.

We'll be scratching the other God damn check here.

Take into consideration, 2,000 years from now there won't be a white person, there won't be a colored person, we'll all be mixed.

The way it's going all men will be gay and all women will be gay and there won't be any damn kids created.

That's a good idea.

They don't need your ass anymore.

In a test tube.

We're obsolete.

Any facet of, I guess of the American way of living, is equal to any race, any creed, any color, any religion.

MODERATOR—THE NEXT ONE,

THIS COUNTRY WOULD HAVE A LOT LESS PROBLEMS IF THERE WERE MORE EMPHASIS ON TRADITIONAL VALUES.

True.

(Many voices speaking at once)

A little too far gone.

Good luck.

Don't know what traditional values are any more.

You're going to have to make a new plan. You're going to have to do an end run, whatever you're going to do, because it's already set in motion in the other direction. But there's still people, I'll tell you, there's still good kids. They're good kids that know better than bullshit. But you know, there's also a number of kids that are dumb shits that are going to fall for that crap.

Read it again.

Respect people. Respect our elders. We respect our teachers.

Government officials.

Most government officials.

I come down for a drive when I was a kid and walked around. I thought that was such an honor to see my president. I wouldn't walk across the street to see Bill Clinton. That's the way I feel. And that's the way it shouldn't be. I'm a voting person.

I feel that the problems we have, with our kids, about how they're not like when we were kids. Well, I blame ourselves for that.

Sure.

You think we were talked out of some of what we should have done? Or just dropped what we should have done.

That's the part I don't know.

No, we over what-you-call-it ourselves, over-governed. To the point, we had the power.

Personally, I got no problem. I got two kids that know I'm psychotic. You know. I've never touched either one of them. But I tell them to do something, they do something.

I was brought up, I think the 65 and 56 year-old age, I'm so dumb I never caught on to this new shit that they're talking about. Don't hit the kid or anything like that. I just, no.

THE NEXT ONE,

PEOPLE LIKE ME CAN STILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OUR POLITICAL SYSTEM.

That's a hard one.

Not a fricking chance.

Well, my son is involved in politics. And the circles they travel in, it's just. Maybe they all come to town and want to kiss the babies but they're after a vote and nothing else.

They like their job.

They'll go here and say what fits there and go there and see what fits there. And they talk out of both sides of their face.

They're all going after one thing, they're all going after money, job security.

Stay in office.

Retirement. They had the same retirement and health insurance we get they probably wouldn't be there.

Me, I feel, every senator should have two terms, tops. Just like the president. Same with the representative. You got guys staying in there 10, 11 terms.

MODERATOR—WHAT ABOUT YOUR ABILITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Everybody has the ability to make a difference if they got ideas they want to express.

What do you mean? It doesn't have to be a large difference. It could just be a piece of the puzzle, a small difference, a bigger difference.

MODERATOR—YOU THINK YOU CAN STILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Yes I could.

Everybody could make a difference.

But maybe not a grandiose one.

Everybody still got the right to vote.

Oh, yeah.

(Many voices speaking at once)

I think everybody can make a difference in the government. But do you think that there should be something done in order to vote other than register? Don't you think maybe there should be some kind, even a small test.

A literacy test [laughs].

I'll tell you what, I went down there, the kid couldn't even understand what I said when I wanted a double cheeseburger. And you know when he gets to be 21 he's going to be voting. 'No comprende senior.'

That's one of your rights though.

(Many voices speaking at once)

I'm just asking you guys, should there be some type of, interview maybe, before that guy walks into that booth?

MODERATOR—NEXT ONE,

GOVERNMENT SHOULD MAKE SURE ALL PEOPLE HAVE A CHANCE
FOR AN EQUAL START IN LIFE.

No.

Never has been.

You got to earn it.

Yup.

You go back to ancient times, they didn't guarantee a thing except maybe you get thrown to the lions or something, but.

Yeah, that's a fable. A goddamn fable.

Get the state to do that. Everybody's got the chance to go to school. What you make out of it is where you're going to go.

We'd have to be a social state to do that. To have the same shoes, clothes and on and on.

China. China.

That's bullshit.

MODERATOR—ASSUMING THAT EQUAL START IS A GOAL, IS IT POSSIBLE THOUGH? IS THERE A ROLE FOR GOVERNMENT TO PLAY IN TRYING TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE?

No.

No.

Can't.

A bad role.

Who's going to control it? Who's going to be able to say, all these kids are going to start the same time, who's going to be watching them?

We would not be challenged if we were all started out equal. There'd be no damn challenge in life.

Somebody is still going to have to do the dishes.

I want a doctor to operate on me that knows how than somebody that don't. Equal rights.

I think just like that, you got to earn it. You got to earn.

MODERATOR—[DISTRIBUTES MATERIAL, GIVES INSTRUCTIONS]. HANDOUT NUMBER ONE, WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT GEORGE W. BUSH. FLIP TO HANDOUT NUMBER TWO, WHAT ARE THE DOUBTS, WORRIES ABOUT BUSH?

Can I put down here, he thinks his shit don't stink?

MODERATOR—PUT WHATEVER YOU LIKE. FLIP TO HANDOUT NUMBER 1, WHAT DID YOU WRITE DOWN?

Nothing.

Nothing I like about him, even in a good mood.

I just think he's president of our country, I like his family values.

Sincere, honesty.

Said something about social security.

MODERATOR—WHAT ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY?

Do something about social security.

I put down, he came from a governmental family. And he was a governor of a state so therefore he doesn't go in there totally blind.

Get the best people he can for his cabinet to operate the government. I don't think he himself can operate the government by himself. I mean foreign affairs, I don't think he has a clue what's going on.

I like, I don't know him real well or his political views as a person, but I like, he talks a lot about family values and real strong.

MODERATOR—FLIP TO THE SECOND ONE, WHAT WORRIES YOU ABOUT HIM?

I believe he is, as our leader, well, I don't think he can make major decisions without too much help. And I think if we get in a jam he needs to be there without his little boys around him. He's going to have to make some decisions. He's the president.

Basically, how's this guy going to act, react in a crisis? Something comes up, push comes to shove, what's he going to do? How's he going to react?

I think he's a cross between LBJ and Dwight Eisenhower. I really do. I don't think he knows what the hell is going on and he don't care to be there. If something does happen his ass is going to, I don't know how he's going to act. It's scarier than shit.

Because Lyndon Johnson was a worthless piece of shit.

Yeah. And Eisenhower would rather play golf than be in the Goddamn White House. Jesus Christ, 'I'm golfing, go screw yourself.'

And they're all Texans.

I think he spent more time in Texas than he does in the White House.

He does. And he tells the kids he's from Texas, he's not from Washington, DC. Right in school he told the kids, I'm not from Washington, DC, I'm from Texas. So, the kid's thinking, the capital is in Texas.

He's not his own man in the sense that he can call all the shots.

He came in weak.

I don't think there's anybody today that can call all the shots.

But he came in extra, extra weak though.

The only ones that know it all are your senators. Just ask them.

MODERATOR—I'M GOING TO READ ANOTHER LIST OF WORDS AND PHRASES AND TELL ME HOW WELL THEY DESCRIBE GEORGE W. BUSH, WHY OR WHY IT DOES NOT DESCRIBE HIM. THE FIRST ONE, STRONG LEADER.

Hasn't proven that yet. He could be.

Too early.

Yeah, it's too early. He came in too weak. He might happen.

Not enough evidence.

It's still out.

MODERATOR—IS ANYONE A YES OR A NO?

Maybe.

No, I don't think he's a strong leader.

MODERATOR—THE NEXT ONE, TOO CONSERVATIVE?

No.

No

No

I think he's a politician.

I don't think so.

MODERATOR—IS HE CONSERVATIVE ENOUGH?

Yes.

Not for the conservatives he isn't. Not for Pat Buchanan and them.

I think he's playing just right. The stem cells. He's in the middle. He could go either way. He's a politician.

MODERATOR—NEXT ONE, SHARES YOUR VALUES.

Yes.

I would say yes.

I would say yes, too.

Yes.

Pretty much.

Yeah.

MODERATOR—WHY DO YOU SAY YES?

It's his faith.

Well from his outer skin, let's put it like that. He could be a snake, too, shed his skin, you don't know. But he does have a faith in God. He chose his faith. He believes in the family values. He believes like he was saying, working for the elderly. Trying to hang in there and get us a social security, people that, you know, people that actually started it that are still alive and people that have been in it for so many years, be able to retire and have some money.

He reaches out to people of all origins, I think real well. But, so did Clinton.

Any politician can look good. I don't know that man. I don't know him.

MODERATOR—THE NEXT ONE, HONEST AND TRUSTWORTHY.

No. He's a politician. There's no way. Bottom line. There hasn't been an honest politician since the beginning of time.

(Many voices speaking at once)

I'm going to use this term, I look at him as a rookie ball player coming in to the league. You don't know if he's going to be a good ball player until the end of his career when you look at his stats.

If he's good enough, maybe go in the Hall of Fame.

MODERATOR—HONEST AND TRUSTWORTHY, DOES THAT DESCRIBE GEORGE W. BUSH OR NOT?

I think personally it does, yeah.

But he could keep things from you, like things that have happened in his past.

I believe he brought it out, the drinking thing.

No, he didn't.

The cocaine he didn't.

I didn't hear that.

The drinking and the drunk-driving thing was brought out by somebody else.

(Many voices speaking at once)

MODERATOR—THE NEXT ONE, FAVORS BIG BUSINESS AND THE WEALTHIEST OVER THE INTERESTS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

I think that's a fact. That's a fact.

That's pretty much true there.

That's pretty much fact, they all, the Republicans are like that.

The little brown kids he's always talking about, I think that's who he's for.

That just about killed me when he said that shit.

That's unproven. He says what he wants us to hear. I don't think he's proven either way.

That's true of all your politicians.

(Many voices speaking at once)

No better, no worse.

That may not be blatant but I'm sure he's, he's been persuaded by money. By high dollar.

MODERATOR—THOSE THAT THINK THAT HE HAS, ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR, ANY EXAMPLES ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

Oil? Companies. Here, I have it written down here. Links to industries. And his lack of respect for the environment. There.

MODERATOR—THE NEXT ONE, CARES ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU.

I think he better.

He don't give a shit does he?

MODERATOR—DOES HE?

I think so.

It's the snakeskin thing again, you don't know, you don't know.

Like the ball player, you don't know how good he is until the end of his career.

MODERATOR—FROM WHAT YOU KNOW THOUGH. DOES HE CARE ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE YOU?

Hell no.

Probably don't care about you either. You know what I mean? None of us.

It's his job.

As a person he does.

As a politician it's hard to say.

As a politician he has to do his job. As a person he does.

MODERATOR—WHAT'S HE DONE THAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?

Just the way he goes to all kinds of people, goes to them, seeks them out. Clinton did the same thing. I guess Clinton cared about people. But I think George Bush does, he really does. That doesn't mean it's going to help him be a better president.

I think having those morals helps you get there.

(Many voices speaking at once)

MODERATOR—THE NEXT ONE, IN OVER HIS HEAD.

We'll see.

No

No

(Many voices speaking at once)

Unless something drastic happens.

He's not over his head at this point. But sometime in the future he's going to be in over his head and then he's going to ask for help. But right now I don't think he's in over his head.

He's got a lot of help.

He did do what he had to do to get the people who knew what they were doing.

Like Dick Cheney?

He's not over his head because he's chosen well, the people.

In the last couple of weeks have you seen Bush out in the forestry department working for us? They're building an image for him. An image we never seen before.

(Many voices speaking at once)

It's also an image a lot of people don't believe.

That's a false image. Putting a false image on him. A lot of people just don't believe it. They don't see him...

An oil man.

...he's an oil man. He's in the office all the time. He's not out in the environment working like in the forestry or somebody out on the farm or out in the fields. You don't see him do that. Lately he's been putting an image up like that to make people think. That makes me think he's put a false image up and it's not his true image.

And if push comes to shove, granted he did do a few smart things by the people he got in his cabinet. But if push comes to shove he just gets on the phone and asks daddy, 'what do I do? How would you have handled this? What do I need to do?' Put him on the right track.

I agree with you 100 percent. But, didn't you do the same thing with your father when you ran into a problem?

MODERATOR—NEXT ONE, BRINGING NEEDED CHANGED TO WASHINGTON.

I don't know, do you think the government could run itself without a president?

Better than what we had.

(Many voices speaking at once)

I don't think so.

I had high hopes.

(Many voices speaking at once)

MODERATOR—IS IT STILL BUSINESS AS USUAL IN WASHINGTON UNDER BUSH?

Oh, yeah.

Shit yeah.

Don't have some girl.

He has brought change to Washington and it's being rejected. And that's thanks to our senators, most of them.

MODERATOR—WHAT MAKES YOU SAY THAT?

His budget is getting trashed. About everything he wants to make change in is getting trashed. He's finding his defectors. And his people are not supporting the things he expected them to support. Of course, I did get \$600 from him in the mail the other day, I thank him for that. He's just having a real hard time getting things into motion that he supposed to want to do.

Did you get that \$600 from the social security fund?

No, my taxes.

There's people in there that don't want change.

(Many voices speaking at once)

MODERATOR—LET ME ASK YOU, CONTROLLED BY OTHERS, DOES THAT DESCRIBE BUSH?

Yes

No.

Yes, yes.

I say no.

MODERATOR—FIRST THE YESES.

I think he's controlled by the old cronies he nominated for his cabinets, his father. I don't think he's running that presidency at all myself.

I agree.

What about that coin chick he wrote off on when, and everybody in his conservative and everything was against it and all that and he went for it. How could he be swayed when he was so staunch against all this stuff? Where in the hell did this revelation of, 'I'm into science shit' come from.

What about the private sector? They're going to do this.

(Many voices speaking at once)

Just because they want to do it, does that mean it's right that the government has to back it? I understand church and state has to be separated.

MODERATOR—LET'S STAY FOCUSED. CONTROLLED BY OTHERS, DOES THAT DESCRIBE HIM? ALL RIGHT, DISAGREE.

Well, that's what our government is based on. Controlled by others. For the people, of the people. It's mostly controlled, it's what we want. The government does what we want it to do. It's supposed to.

(Many voices speaking at once)

MODERATOR—FLIP TO HANDOUT NUMBER 3. BELOW IS A LIST OF PEOPLE, GROUPS, AND ORGANIZATIONS WHO ARE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE ACTIONS OF PRESIDENT BUSH AND OTHER LEADERS IN WASHINGTON. THINKING ABOUT BUSH'S SEVEN MONTHS IN OFFICE NOW, PLEASE READ THROUGH THE ENTIRE LIST AND THEN CIRCLE THE THREE GROUPS OF PEOPLE OR ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE INTERESTS BUSH HAS BEEN MOST CONCERNED WITH ADVANCING SO FAR. THEN PUT A STAR NEXT TO THE ONE GROUP OR ORGANIZATION OUT OF THE THREE YOU CIRCLED WHOSE INTERESTS BUSH HAS WORKED HARDEST TO ADVANCE.

(End side 1)

(Many voices speaking at once)

MODERATOR—CIRCLE THE THREE AND THEN A STAR.

BIG BUSINESSES – 6. STAR – 2.

CHARITIES – CIRCLE AND STAR.

HMO'S AND INSURANCE COMPANIES – 3. STARS – NO.

PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS – 1.

SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS - NO ONE.

THE WEALTHIEST - 4. STAR- NO.

RELIGIOUS CONSERVATIVES – 1.

OIL COMPANIES – 4. STAR? - 3.

THE US MILITARY – NO ONE.

PRO-LIFE, ANTI-ABORTION GROUPS - NO ONE.

THE NRA, OR NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION – NO ONE

HIS CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTORS – 2. STAR – 2.

HISPANICS – NO ONE.

THE MIDDLE CLASS -

HIS FATHER'S POLITICAL ALLIES – 2. STAR?

BIG BUSINESS, FIRST ONE, WHY?

Because those are the same people that are his campaign contributors, the biggest campaign contributors, big business and the wealthiest, that's why I put those two down there. They're all interchangeable, all three of those.

That answered mine, right there.

People in Washington don't run it.

Somebody has to offer jobs. Pro-life ain't got no money. US military.

Small business owners got him elected. They got no money. They got no money to do it.

Those that got, rules.

I thought individual contributors were far more money than group or groups.

Oh, I said the small business owners.

The big business, you can't take an individual donator that's going to donate 50 or \$100 and get somebody that's going to donate 500,000.

Who do you think he's going to do the favor for?

Maybe the little man's money all added up will be more contributed.

But he don't owe him anything.

How much money did Bush raise for his political campaign in no time. He took about hundreds of millions of dollars in no time compared to Gore. I mean, Gore had the little people but he didn't come close to what Bush brings.

They dipped into the big business.

(Many voices speaking at once)

MODERATOR—THOSE THAT CIRCLED, WHY DID YOU PUT OIL COMPANIES?

I circled it because, you take care of the people that took care of you. I mean like, he was not the governor of Maine. He was the governor of Texas. Probably the biggest oil state. You take care of your own people first.

It's like he said, he's got his hand in the oil business, I think they sort of go hand-in-hand as far as campaign contributions and things. 'Take care of me, I'm going to take care of you.' All I know about him is oil.

Oil companies and HMOs and insurance, they're pushing everything that goes on in this country. They're telling this country everything to do. You can't go to a doctor or anything without getting the OK from an HMO. And the oil companies, they're telling all the car dealers what they can do and that just kind of snowballs to everybody else.

MODERATOR—ARE THERE ANY EXAMPLES, ANYTHING HE'S DONE FOR BIG BUSINESS OR OIL COMPANIES?

He's tried to open stuff up in Alaska, more drilling.

We already got oil out of there. Where the hell did that oil go? It was already taken out of Alaska.

(Many voices speaking at once)

It went to Japan. Like our trees and stuff, we send them the whole damn tree.

They send it back as plywood a hundred miles offshore. With their workers at six months at a crack. Then they go back to Japan. And then bring a new crew to live on the ship.

MODERATOR—ANOTHER ONE, HMO'S AND INSURANCE COMPANIES, WHY?

We're in a bad state to be bad-mouthing the insurance company, OK? This is Des Moines. This is Iowa. There's insurance companies everywhere.

I feel that, well, I'm not sure insurance companies can tell the United States what to do. I'm saying there's so much insurance business out there with so many employees in that field or connected to it, whether it's selling computers, selling paper. They can go to the presidency and say, look.

MODERATOR—THE MIDDLE CLASS, NOBODY CIRCLED MIDDLE CLASS.

You only gave us three circles.

Can I change one because I did get my \$600 check?

MODERATOR—HAS BUSH DONE ANYTHING TO LOOK OUT FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS?

I think I kind of missed that. He sent me some money.

He ought to start.

I didn't circle it so I must not have cared about it.

Maybe you're not middle class.

Got to start looking at the people who made this country. The people that have broken their backs for this country. Not the people who have worked the welfare for 4, 5 decades. Or the guy, like Turner sitting out there with a spoon in his mouth and every rich kid like the Rockefellers that just got it dumped on them. Take care of the person who's been out here and started and worked.

MODERATOR—NOW I WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE JOB BUSH HAS DONE ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, MORE SPECIFIC. THE FIRST ONE IS EDUCATION.

Pick up the pace.

He hasn't done nothing yet.

He needs to get his ass deeper into it.

Done nothing yet.

Running your mouth.

Get it done if he was a hands-on person.

It's going nowhere.

No, where's it went? We're sitting 7, 8 months and nothing has happened.

Sort of left it up to the states to come up with their own.

(Many voices speaking at once)

He's like Johnny Appleseed, he's going to plant the seed and then he's going to walk away and hope the son of a bitch grows.

It hasn't passed in the Senate.

(Many voices speaking at once)

MODERATOR—WHO WOULD YOU TRUST MORE TO HANDLE THE ISSUE OF EDUCATION, BUSH OR THE DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS?

I don't trust anybody on that. They had their chance. The Democrats had their chance the last time and they didn't do it. And I'd have to see the Republicans the same way. I don't know what their game is with education. I don't know. I don't know.

Education, that's the future of the nation.

Like, we've got pro-football players that practice all summer. Or even high school and college kids, they'll practice all goddamn year and play football, but they don't practice their A, B, C's. Jesus Christ, you have to get a gun and put it to their heads.

Independent.

MODERATOR—THE NEXT ISSUE, FOREIGN POLICY.

He hasn't proven anything yet.

No need.

There was a conflict or two he handled OK, but I can't remember what they were.

We're so preoccupied with the damn economy we can't see what else is going on. They could be at the gates right now.

I think he's doing all right. He hasn't caused any problems yet, has he?

We're still here.

Haven't dropped nothing on us.

So far, so good.

We're the only super power, what's going to happen to us?

I don't think the man has been in office long enough to grade him.

I think that Kyoto bill was a bunch of bull. Those Europeans over there aren't doing anything. Their country didn't vote for it either. And they didn't say nothing about their country.

MODERATOR—SOCIAL SECURITY, BUSH AND SOCIAL SECURITY, WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I don't think he's done a damn thing. We're still where we're at and he hasn't done nothing that the Democrats haven't done.

Both parties for over 50 years, all they been doing is stealing from it, borrow to pay for our wars and everything else. They stole every working person's money out of the social security to pay for their damn deficits. They ought to just leave it alone.

MODERATOR—DOES HE HAVE A PLAN?

(Many voices speaking at once)

The same money pot.

I think he would if he could.

MODERATOR—YOU DON'T THINK HE CAN?

I don't know. But you got people that don't want change. They don't want to change because they want to control people. When they got the money they control people.

The Democrats don't want any kind of fund where you can take it out. It really doesn't make any difference because they just screw it over as far as I'm concerned. They'll borrow from it again.

They been borrowing from it.

(Many voices speaking at once)

They'll never let him have it. He wants to set the damn thing up sort of like a 401.

What's the matter with that?

He'll never get the backing from Congress to do it.

They want the control.

Because then that money goes away from them.

MODERATOR—IS THAT A GOOD PLAN?

No.

Because most people don't have the intelligence to take care of your 401k.

(Many voices speaking at once)

If they leave it to a retirement age where it doesn't matter. It may be set up like a 401k but you can't touch that son of a bitch until you retire.

(Many voices speaking at once)

Sounds like a good idea but you can't do it. All you're going to end up with is millions and millions of 65 year-old vagrants, is what you're going to end up with.

(Many voices speaking at once)

You're automatically going to get smarter. You get older, some people don't get any smarter.

MODERATOR—WHICH DO YOU PREFER ON SOCIAL SECURITY, DEMOCRATS OR BUSH?

Democrats.

I would have to say Bush.

Bush because Democrats have controlled it for a long time.

Yeah, they haven't done jack.

They're the ones that started spending social security anyway.

I think the people behind Bush should take care of it. The people that are actually running this country.

MODERATOR—NEXT ISSUE, ENVIRONMENT, BUSH AND THE ENVIRONMENT.

He's not an environment person. You take a look at Texas. All the pollution. What's he going to do with the nation? I mean, of course the Democrats had it for a couple of terms where we're in the same boat. But you take a look at Bush, his record is not that good on it from his own state.

Being an oil man it's kind of hard for him to be an environmentalist.

He rolled back that, whatever that was, the poison thing. I can't remember what it was, cyanide or some kind of shit in our water. And he said, no.

MODERATOR—WHO DO YOU TRUST MORE TO HANDLE THE ENVIRONMENT, BUSH OR DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS?

Democrats.

Independents.

Democrats

Democrats.

Bush is too disadvantaged to be effective in that area. He don't hear about those things.

Yeah, I would have to go with the Democrats right now because his interests are elsewhere.

MODERATOR—NEXT ONE, THE ECONOMY.

It's not going well.

Keep lowering the interest rates and markets keep going down. Yeah, it started before he got there. But it should have rebounded long before then. It's been 7 months and it's still dropping. Where's the bottom at?

I think, maybe it's me, but I thought it started when they said that we didn't have no president.

It started a long time before that.

No, it was going down before Bush got in.

It started when they took Gates down.

(Many voices speaking at once)

MODERATOR—SO, REGARDLESS OF WHEN IT WENT DOWN, BUSH HAS BEEN THERE 7 MONTHS, WHAT’S HE DONE, GOOD, BAD, INDIFFERENT?

Bad.

Bailing.

I don’t think whether it’s Democrat or Republican has anything to do with the economy.

He inherited a horrible situation.

MODERATOR—WHO DO YOU TRUST, DEMOCRATS OR BUSH?

Bush.

Bush.

Democrats

Democrats

Democrats

Bush

Democrats.

I have to trust my president.

MODERATOR—HOW ABOUT WHEN IT COMES TO PATIENTS’ RIGHTS?

I didn’t know there were any.

Lawsuits and all that.

Oh, a cap on lawsuits.

I thought we had that already.

MODERATOR—LET ME READ YOU A LITTLE BIT. AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE DEMOCRATIC-CONTROLLED SENATE AND THE REPUBLICAN-CONTROLLED HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EACH PASSED A PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS, BUT THERE ARE SOME MAJOR DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO BILLS. THE SENATE VERSION PRESERVES STATES' RIGHTS TO PASS STRICTER BILLS IF THEY WISH AND ALLOWS PATIENTS TO SUE THEIR HMOS FOR DECISIONS THAT COMPROMISE THE QUALITY OF THEIR CARE. THE HOUSE VERSION, SUPPORTED BY PRESIDENT BUSH, WOULD CREATE ONE UNIFORM SET OF LAWS FOR EVERY STATE AND SEEK TO KEEP PREMIUMS DOWN BY PUTTING FINANCIAL LIMITS ON LAWSUITS. WHICH BILL DO YOU SUPPORT? WHY?

I'm for the Senate side. I would vote for the Senate side.

MODERATOR—WHY?

Because if you're hurt that bad I think it's up to a jury of your peers to decide how much money you should have, not the government or the lawyer or anybody else, decide what your damages should be. The quadriplegic and all that.

You can't give them enough money.

I mean put a limit on some guy that can't breathe or nothing, that's bullshit. That ain't right.

Well, the House version is definitely better, because the Senate version takes away the right of all men to be equal. And the House version ensures that we'll all be equal when we're facing health difficulties and go to court. And I've been on jury duty enough to see that happen. People come from California to here, sue the ass out of IB expecting to get a lot of money, go home with nothing. In California they get a million dollars, millions or whatever it was for dumping hot coffee on their lap. So, that's bullshit.

MODERATOR—SENATE HOUSE VERSION, WHICH ONE?

I go for the House. Pretty much what he said. I really don't know that much right now. I'm satisfied with what I got, my HMO.

I'd go with the Senate.

Me too.

MODERATOR—WHY?

By the people, not the government. The government runs way too many things now. They're trying to take too much control of people's lives. I just think people should be able to do that kind of thing.

Isn't that what the Republicans said they want to get away from? They're saying the same thing as the Democrats are saying on your paper there. They're saying they're trying to put more government into the government, and they're saying they want to put less government into the government? That's bullshit. Talking about of both sides of their mouth.

Let's just give more money to HMO's, insurance companies.

Yeah. I'm just flabbergasted that they can bad-mouth the Democrats and they come back and use the same kind of logic and think, is it, or is it just me?

Slickness.

MODERATOR—LET'S TRY THIS, IMAGINE THE REST OF THE YEAR PASSES WITH THE HOUSE AND SENATE UNABLE TO WORK OUT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THESE TWO BILLS. NO PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS IS PASSED THIS YEAR. WHOSE FAULT IS IT? WHY?

Both of them.

It's our politicians' fault. Should vote these assholes out so we can get something done.

Yep.

I know one thing, it isn't the president's.

No shit.

[Laughter]

He can't persuade these people in the House and the Senate what to do, they're their own people. It's like he's paying these people off. These people in the Senate and the House are paying people off. How do you think they got up there? They paid people off. So, therefore, he ain't going to persuade somebody from Oregon or New York that got 55 million dollars from somebody in New York to get into the Senate or the House. He's not going to go up there and say, 'wrong, I got interests back home I got to take care of, buddy.'

It would be different if it made it to the president, then whether he signed it or vetoed it. Then you could say, OK, that's the president's fault.

(Many voices speaking at once)

It ain't gonna make it, that's what you're saying.

You're never going to see it anyway.

MODERATOR—ONE MORE ISSUE, GEORGE W. BUSH AND THE FEDERAL BUDGET.

I don't care about the budget.

I want to know why the hell we're in debt to people and stuff like that. We never borrowed no money off their ass.

Federal aid.

Yeah, we give them federal aid and everything like that.

Got so much money going out to the people in the United States for aid it's ridiculous.

I got a woman I work with, got 4 kids. Never been married and they're by 3 different men now. Hello, wake up. Cut her when she has the second one. That's what's going on in the United States.

What happened to this reform shit? Oh, I was deluded by that so it never occurred. These people still got welfare and food stamps and shit. They ain't kicked off.

You go back over the years, all the money this country has lent out to every other Timbuktu. We rebuilt Japan for them for Christ's sake.

There you go, right there.

(Many voices speaking at once)

And then we, 'oh, you don't have to pay it back.'

Forgive your loan.

Going all the way back to Truman.

It's just carried on down through the years. The next one in line.

MODERATOR—FEDERAL BUDGET, BUSH AND THE FEDERAL BUDGET, HAS HE DONE ANYTHING, GOOD, BAD?

No, not yet.

I think he's trying to squeeze the middle. I mean, he's not going to let them spend the money where they want to spend, all the money they want to spend. There's only going to be so much money. And I think there's too many pork barrels and too much money lost.

MODERATOR—FLIP TO HANDOUT NUMBER 4. READ ALONG,

EARLIER THIS YEAR, PRESIDENT BUSH AND THE REPUBLICAN CONGRESS PASSED A \$1.35 TRILLION TAX CUT OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS. BUSH SAYS HE PUSHED FOR THE BIGGEST TAX CUT IN HISTORY BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE OVERTAXED, AND WE NEED TO PROVIDE TAX RELIEF IN ORDER TO PRESERVE OUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC STRENGTH. DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS SUPPORT MANY OF THE TAX CUTS, INCLUDING MAKING COLLEGE TUITION DEDUCTIBLE AND ELIMINATING THE MARRIAGE PENALTY, BUT THEY SAY BUSH'S PLAN IS TOO BIG AND IRRESPONSIBLE, AND GIVES MOST OF THE TAX CUTS TO THE WEALTHIEST 1 PERCENT – THOSE MAKING OVER \$375,000 A YEAR.

WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?

I think that's bullshit.

MODERATOR—YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT?

Oh, the biggest 1 percent is true. We're not getting no tax break. His buddies are getting the tax breaks.

Never will.

We're the low dogs on the totem poll, that's all there is to it.

(Many voices speaking at once)

Like his dad, it's that trickle-down.

Let's say you get paid 10 percent less taxes on your paycheck. OK, that may be like 25, 30 bucks? A guy that makes a million dollars a day. Give me a break.

I think it's out of proportion.

I think they're comparing apples and oranges. I think we're talking about percents and total dollars. And I guess I believe if I heard Republicans say correctly, the biggest percent goes to the people in the, to middle-income people. But the biggest dollars will go to the guy down the street five miles and lives in a bigger house than I do. But he won't get a bigger percent of tax refund, he'll get more dollars. I think they're all screwed up and they're fighting over apples and oranges.

MODERATOR—ARE YOU DISAGREEING?

Oh, yeah. He must be a Republican and I'm a Democrat. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer and it's been that way forever. You're on the other side of the fence, fine, I'm on the other side of the fence. But both sides are wrong. There's got to be some middle ground in this

country. That's our whole damn problem. Nobody ever take or give. Especially the rich people, they want power and domination and that's what they got. They love it that way and that's the way it's going to say.

MODERATOR—FLIP TO HANDOUT NUMBER 5 NOW. [GIVES INSTRUCTIONS, DESCRIBES RATING SYSTEM]. THE FIRST ONE,

CANCEL THE RATE CUTS FOR THE WEALTHIEST ONE PERCENT TO INCREASE EDUCATION SPENDING BY 200 BILLION DOLLARS OVER THE NEXT 10 YEARS.

+3? 7. LARRY? -3, ALL RIGHT.
PLUS 3'S, WHY?

They ain't going to miss it. Not like you or I would.

What's that?

Money.

I think they should consider that something they can do for their country. They can do it a hell of a lot more effective than I can and 10 of my neighbors.

(Many voices speaking at once)

That's a damn good answer. You go.

I think the federal government shouldn't ought to be in education. I mean, look at how much money they wasted the last 8 years they can't find. Gates, he puts them on computers in schools. I think it's, of course I have my own ideas.

It depends on which kind of government you're talking about too, though. The Republicans can do a better job of this school shit here, you know, then the Democrats did, maybe they can. Let's see if they can. If they can't, then well, you know.

MODERATOR—NEXT ONE,

CANCEL THE RATE CUTS FOR THE WEALTHIEST ONE PERCENT TO CREATE A REAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT FOR ALL SENIORS

+3? 6. +2? +1? 0? -3? YOU'RE A PLUS 1.
WHY DO WE LIKE THIS IDEA?

Just for the simple fact there's so many seniors that can't afford it. Take it from the rich.

What we're saying here is anybody that's real wealthy should take care of all these problems.

We need a temporary excise tax and that's it.

You got a point there buddy, you really do. We, but if they could help, let's put it that way, Ron. If they could help, at least do their share, you know. Go on to loopholes. The guy says he hasn't paid taxes in 15 goddamn years.

They ain't going to put their money where they don't know. They're going to put that money where they want.

MODERATOR—WHY PLUS 1?

Mainly because I'm not there yet, needing the medication.

That's where they're putting their money at, in the pharmacies.

I know I should have gone with a plus 3.

I don't need the drugs. I just think they're trying to cause a class warfare.

MODERATOR—THE NEXT ONE,

CANCEL THE RATE CUTS FOR THE WEALTHIEST ONE PERCENT TO
FUND THE MODERNIZATION OF AMERICA'S MILITARY

+3? 2. 0? 3. -1? -2? -3? 3.

I had plus 2 and got to thinking about it, so I make it a zero.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS ONE?

Well, being we're going to become the police dogs of the whole goddamn world we better get us some cash.

The only reason we brought down the Iron Curtain was because of the military. Just couldn't compete with us so they collapsed.

MODERATOR—THE REST OF YOU, NOT SO POSITIVE ON THIS ONE?

I feel just the opposite. Why does the United States have to be the police dogs of the world?

We asked for it.

(Many voices speaking at once)

I think the money is there.

Everybody is just trying to scare somebody.

MODERATOR—THE LAST ONE,

CANCEL THE RATE CUTS FOR THE WEALTHIEST ONE PERCENT TO
PREVENT BORROWING FROM THE MEDICARE AND SOCIAL
SECURITY TRUST FUNDS

+3? 4. +2? +1? 1. 0? 1. RON?

Strongly opposed.

MODERATOR—MINUS 3, OK. WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS ONE?

They don't have to worry about living off social security. Heck, there're families can live off their money for the next 50 generations probably. Why can't they support this social security system, since they're so kindly-hearted not paying taxes all these years? They should help support.

The rich man wrote the taxes, that's why he don't pay them.

MODERATOR—WHY DO YOU OPPOSE IT, YOU'RE A MINUS 3, WHY DO YOU OPPOSE THIS ONE?

I agree with what he said here.

MODERATOR—WE GOT FOUR OPTIONS HERE THAT ARE BEING PROPOSED
[READS OPTIONS]. IF YOU HAD TO PICK ONE PRIORITY WHICH WOULD IT BE?

I can't support just one of these. So, what do you want for an answer?

(Many voices speaking at once)

I would say education.

Education too, yeah.

Military

Dumb ass military.

I say, cancel the rate cut for the wealthiest 1 percent and quit borrowing from Medicare and social security.

I'd give it to education but they waste it. I guess I'd give it to the military.

I'll go with the military.

MODERATOR—HOW ABOUT THIS WHOLE IDEA, CANCEL THE RATE CUTS FOR THE WEALTHIEST 1 PERCENT?

I think they ought to change the whole tax rate.

Go to a flax tax.

No loopholes, no nothing.

MODERATOR—IS THIS A LEGITIMATE PROPOSAL THAT THE DEMOCRATS ARE MAKING?

No.

I don't like it.

It's class warfare.

What would stop the federal government from going in and specializing in tax auditing? You go to school, you become a federal tax auditor, right? I go in, I don't have it done by H&R Block. I go in and have a man from the federal government. I'm sorry, you don't get this, you don't get this, you don't get this. I don't give a shit if you make \$500 million a year, you don't get this. What you owe me sir, sign on the bottom line. That would clean it up real quick.

(Many voices speaking at once)

You got to have dreams

These are our dreams, wet dreams.

Because nothing is ever going to happen.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT BUSH'S TAX CUT? DEMOCRATS SAY IT'S TOO BIG.

We get all this big tax break. Everybody got to run on so much money. OK, where they going to get that money? They already said, hey, you're not going to get this much money anymore. So, where we going to get it at?

Got a budget just like you and me.

But they never have.

In my pocket and your pocket.

MODERATOR—BUT WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS TAX CUT THOUGH?

I think it's a great idea.

It's a good idea.

It's a good idea.

MODERATOR—IS IT TOO BIG?

Heck no. You got to start somewhere.

I say just give it to us, if it's unbalanced we'll find out and end up paying it back.

Isn't it taxable income?

Right, right.

The \$600.

No, no, it's free. You don't have to pay taxes on it.

There's no tax on it.

It's free.

I think it's the best idea he's had for about several years.

We're all going to get money back next year, right?

Ten years.

MODERATOR—FLIP TO HANDOUT NUMBER SIX [POSTCARD TO BUSH].

(End tape)