

Democracy Corps Transcript

Name: Group 1
Company: --
Group Specs: Women, 45-60, college graduates, household income over \$50K, Weak partisans, , recruited PA CD 7, Delaware County, PA
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MODERATOR—LET'S START BY GOING AROUND THE ROOM REAL QUICK AND INTRODUCING OURSELVES. TELL US YOUR NAME, FIRST NAMES ARE FINE, WHERE YOU LIVE, WORK, FAMILY, HOBBIES, YOU KNOW WHATEVER YOU WANT TO TELL US IN 20 SECONDS OR LESS. THEN WE CAN ALL GET STARTED. I'M THE ONLY ONE WITHOUT A NAME TAG SO I'LL START. MY NAME IS CARL. I LIVE DOWN IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE, NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE, AND MARRIED, I HAVE THREE GIRLS, SIX, THREE AND ONE. SO, GOD'S LITTLE JOKE ON ME, GETTING ME BACK FOR ALL THE THINGS I DID WHEN I WAS YOUNGER. YOU SEE WHAT I DO FOR A LIVING, I WON'T BORE YOU WITH THAT. AND I COACH MY DAUGHTER'S SOCCER, PLAY A LITTLE VOLLEYBALL AND CHASE MY KIDS AROUND. THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR ME.

Hi, my name's Alice. I'm a medical case manager. I live in Drexel Hill. I belong to a garden club. I'm married, no children. Recently lost my dog. Do a lot of volunteering and participate in the flower show, I like flowers (inaudible) and an apartment.

I'm Barbara. I live in Rosemont. I'm a professional gardener. I take care of an estate and have three grown kids and three rambunctious dogs and lead a pretty active life.

Professional golfer?

Gardener.

My name is Claire and I live in Broomwall. I used to be a medical secretary, but I retired from that and then now I just work in a real estate office. You know, just answering phones and stuff like that, because I was home for a while and I hated just staying home and cleaning or straightening up or whatever, it's very boring, and so anyway, I have like six grandchildren and what else? I love to travel. That's about it. I'm busy.

My name's Danielle and I also live in Rosemont. I work as an administrative assistant part-time for a church and I coach swimming and we have four children, three girls and then the boy, finally. But ours are like 20, 19, 17 and 16 now, so they're all up there. And we have an active life also and I'm just involved in a bunch of stuff.

Hi, I'm Eva. I live in Ardmore, bookkeeper for Randall Condominium which is right down the street. I have two sons, 35 and 31, and two grandchildren that are delicious. And we travel a lot, it's kind of a hobby of ours. And we have a home in Brigantine which we spend our weekends on, so we keep pretty busy.

Hi, I'm Bernadette and I work for American Express. I work virtually most of the days, but a couple of days I have to go up to New York which I really hate, but that's the way it is. I'm married. I have a daughter, a granddaughter. My parents are living, so I spend a lot of time helping out with them. And for a hobby, my husband and I like to sail.

My name is Fran and I work for the school district (inaudible) and actually I'm an educational technologist which is a real fancy word for saying that I handle a lot of the technology in about 50 schools in the city. And I have two daughters and I'm married and my daughters are 20 and 26. And they still take up too much of my time. It doesn't seem to go away very quickly. And that's about it.

My name is Gail. I work for an insurance company. We don't have kids, but we do rescue cats. We're both very big in the SPCA and environmental stuff. We keep busy with that.

My name is Heather and I live in Havertown. And I have a 7-year-old son and I used to be a teacher but now I stay at home with him. But now he's in school, so I just do some work out of my home and he keeps us extremely busy with all his sports and pool. Blessing.

I'm Iris. I also live in Havertown and I'm a recruiter, personnel recruiter. I have a daughter that'll be a junior at Penn State up at the main campus and I'm pretty busy. I could be busier. I used to be really busy and I stepped back from that role.

MODERATOR—WELL, THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING OUT TONIGHT. I WANTED TO START OUR CONVERSATION REAL GENERAL AND I PROMISE WE'LL NARROW IT DOWN, BUT THINKING ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON WITH OUR COUNTRY THESE DAYS, DO YOU FEEL LIKE THINGS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION OR IN THE WRONG DIRECTION RIGHT NOW?

Wrong.

Been in the wrong for a long time.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO I'M HEARING A LOT OF WRONGS. WHAT SPECIFIC THINGS MAKE YOU FEEL THAT WAY? WHAT'S GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION RIGHT NOW?

Security in the country.

MODERATOR—OKAY, HOW SO?

The war and our troops being killed every day. Worrying about what these people are going to do to us next.

I don't like the invasions of personal privacy. I think they've really overstepped the bounds there. I'm just really uncomfortable with that. I really have lost trust.

MODERATOR—LOST TRUST IN?

The governmental powers, the people that right now have the power. I just, I don't believe what they say anymore.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHAT ELSE?

Oil. Energy. A big problem.

And I think environmental issues are just going downhill.

I don't think we pay enough attention to it.

They don't pay any attention to it.

It's scary when I think of what could happen.

MODERATOR—ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR THAT'S IN YOUR MIND OR IS IT JUST A GENERAL SENSE?

I think like the greenhouse effect. I think the, everything that's going on, you know, with global warming and it's just very scary to me, thinking about what will happen 100 years from now.

Just the fact that we won't, we refuse to come up with alternatives to oil. We can't get past the oil issue.

Yeah, but they want to keep it that way.

Well, that's what I mean.

(Many talking at once.)

We've got an oil man in power.

What's he want to do? You know.

He throws everything environmentally out the window.

Unfortunately, oil has their fingers in, they contribute to everybody. They're not just like Republican or Democrat. They contribute to everyone.

No, but those that can make the difference, I mean you've got a president and a vice president whose got their finger deep, deep in oil.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHAT ELSE? WHAT OTHER ISSUES?

Education. I don't think people are coming out of school with a real education. Kids are coming out, they can't even write, can't speak.

Neglect of the inner cities. I think that's appalling that people are just being left to rot in ruin. Drug dealers taking over.

Poverty in this country. Not always worrying about everybody else.

I think we've become very selfish and we don't stop and we don't, the volunteerism is down and we don't step up and we don't contribute anymore. And a lot of it is because, I mean there are legitimate reasons and demands on our time, but you can find time to help and we just don't, I could probably do more, I know I could do more and I don't. I think I'm selfish.

I think our money's being spent in all the wrong places. I think too much money's going overseas when we have too many problems in the United States. The war is costing billions. We should be putting that towards education, towards the environment, towards coming up with energy alternatives. Even as far as electricity and the way we make electricity and the way we, you know, run our cars and heat our homes, there has to be a better way. And there are and we know it, but we're not doing anything about it because it's such a political issue as far as the entanglement of the oil companies with the government, especially this government, the present now, the powers that be.

The cost of everything that you just said keeps going up and up and up and you can't live without it, but the salaries aren't going up to match it or to, it's becoming a hardship to take a vacation by car.

This lady said, we shudder what would happen, what will be in effect in 100 years. I don't even think we're going to be here in 100 years. I don't think we can last.

I think we'll be here.

I think it'll just be a not a good situation.

It'll be different.

It'll be different, but it's different now than it was 100 years ago.

MODERATOR—WHAT'S THE OVERALL ECONOMY LIKE RIGHT NOW?

Would you talk a little bit louder? I'm sorry.

MODERATOR—I'M SORRY. WHAT'S THE OVERALL ECONOMY LIKE RIGHT NOW?

Well, it's going to war.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO YOU THINK THE MONEY'S GOING TO WAR.

The money is all going to war.

The economy's going in the toilet because we spend so much of our money living and not enjoying any of our money. We have to put in three times the amount in our cars that we need just to get to work. I have a four cylinder car and it's costing me approximately \$75 to \$80 a

week to go to work and that's just ridiculous. Just to go around at work. And I thought, when I bought the car 2-1/2 years ago, it used to cost me about \$18 to fill it up. Now it's costing me \$36 and it's only a 12-gallon tank. I mean, it's a little car. It shouldn't, and every time I see one of the larger cars, I shudder and I think I can't even imagine what it's costing them to fill that up.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER VIEWS OF THE ECONOMY?

I think our middle class is just shrinking. I mean, there's people that have, I'm just baffled at how everybody can drive these big Lexus things and then there's people that can't afford car insurance. And the people in the middle are just hurting. I mean, and it's shrinking and shrinking. I mean, just to get college aid and I mean, if my daughter gets a job, they take the money right off of her aid. I mean, there's things that just aren't right, it's not working.

I think companies are making money, but I think we're paying more of what we make. The oil is a big problem for me because I have (inaudible) and I have what they call summer/winter hook-up so it runs to heat my hot water and every morning, we turn the oil burner off when we leave to make sure that it's not kicking on when we're not home, but it costs 600-and-some dollars to fill up a tank and in the winter, that's like every two weeks, it's 600-and-some, where it used to be \$150 a month. A big chunk. And for gasoline to get around, we use our car with work. I put in maybe \$80 a week in gas and there was a car behind me and they said, stop at \$60 and I'm thinking, oh my god, I can't imagine \$60 for a fill-up and I'm sure it's more in big cars.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHAT ELSE? OTHER ISSUES WE HAVEN'T TALKED ABOUT?

The stock market's horrible, so people are not, companies may be making money but it's not transferring over to the market. So that's another thing. It's another indication that the economy's really not doing well. Oil stocks aren't the (inaudible) and it's a disgrace that Exxon made how many billions, \$300 billion or some ridiculous amount of money. So that tells me this is not all going to creating, you know, the processes of oil and what we're buying. It's going to the company.

And the stockholders.

Yes.

What about the medical situation and I'm thinking of the pharmaceutical companies that we have in this area. It seems today that every time you turn on the television, they're telling you there's something wrong with you, come, you can get this pill. And then two weeks later, you hear, well if you're on that pill, you'd better watch out because you might have side effects.

How about the new pill, the new pill? The one that can postpone our period for a year.

Get out!

They're playing around with nature again. They didn't get enough trouble with Premarin and all those and the lawsuits and now, you know.

I mean, kids are seeing these shows as well and I talked to someone the other day who said they worked for a drug company and we got in a discussion. My sister's like, you just, they're

making you believe that you're depressed or that you're, you must have one of these things that are on all day long, you know. And then you go out and you get it and then, all these side effects. Bad advertising really.

No, very effective. They get you to think, oh maybe I do have that.

Yeah, I have two or three of those symptoms. But I think on a different note that some seniors are just in shell shock with the fixed income and . . .

With the new drug plan, forget, they don't understand any of it. You have an elderly parent and so do I and they had, clueless on this government drug program.

MODERATOR—ON THE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN OF MEDICARE?

Oh, it's so ridiculous to even try to understand. Which one to give them. That's, and if they have to do it themselves and they don't have anyone to help, they're being penalized because they haven't, they had a certain date they had to have it in within a certain date. After the date, they're going to be penalized. They don't even understand what it's all about.

MODERATOR—OKAY. A FEW OF YOU HAVE TOUCHED ON THE WAR. WE HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED ABOUT IT. WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT THE CURRENT SITUATION OVER IN IRAQ?

Our feelings about what? I'm sorry.

MODERATOR—THE SITUATION IN IRAQ.

I think it's horrible. I shudder . . .

Not necessary.

Sometimes I can't even watch the news anymore. I mean, it brings me to tears to see these young men getting killed and I just have to say, let Barbara and the other twin go over there and let's see how fast it ends, you know, Bush's kids. They're lives. I mean, they're just dismissed.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER FEELINGS ON THE WAR?

I think we're reliving Viet Nam. And I think it's eventually going to come out that it's just . . .

It's a no-win situation.

It's a lose/lose situation and you know, we, it seems to be more about, I know this is right so we're going to do it. It doesn't matter how wrong this all seems anymore.

I think they went in without a plan. I mean, they had no subsidiary government to take over, I mean their main plan was to get rid of Hussein. Well, they got rid of him. But they had nothing to go in . . .

And it was a lie. We were lied to.

Well, that was on the, when the weapons of mass destruction, but I think . . .

Well, that's what made him declare it.

But I mean, if you look beyond that, and the fact of what Hussein was doing in the country himself. They took him out. But they had nothing in place to put in once he was out and now they've got a situation where they have no one to do that. I mean, they've got a government that doesn't want to govern. You know, they've got soldiers that don't want to fight. So, I mean, you're back like in Viet Nam, they're going down the road, our guys are going in.

It's a situation that I don't know how they're going to get out of this. Just like they kind of covered up Afghanistan and that's just as bad now as it was when they started. It's no better. You listen to Bush and he'll say, oh you know, Afghanistan, they're independent, they've got a government. They're horrible over there. It's no better now than before. They're still fighting in the mountains over there.

He is so dumb. He is so dumb. Everything he does is ass-backwards and they used to say, there's a saying when I was little, I remember my mother and father who were staunch Democrats, they used to say "Republicans like war because it speeds up the economy." And isn't that what they're going? They're trying to speed . . .

Well, it's not working.

MODERATOR-ALL RIGHT. I WANT TO DO SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT NOW. I WANT TO THROW OUT THE NAMES OF SOME INDIVIDUALS, ORGANIZATIONS, THINGS LIKE THAT AND I WANT YOU TO DO KIND OF LIKE WORD ASSOCIATION. WHAT'S THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF EACH OF THEM? I DON'T CARE IF IT'S RIDICULOUS. I DON'T CARE IF IT'S VULGAR. WHATEVER THAT FIRST GUT REACTION IS. LET'S START WITH ONE THAT EVERYBODY HERE WILL KNOW. ED RENDELL.

Vibrant.

Sneaky.

I love him.

Exciting.

Diet Coke.

The Eagles.

I do love him, yeah.

MODERATOR-ANYTHING ELSE ON RENDELL?

Atkins. He's done that a few time.

MODERATOR—HOW ABOUT LYNN SWANN?

Football.

Football.

Just a front man.

Don't know much.

No, you don't.

Naive.

MODERATOR—WHY NAIVE?

Because I think he has this picture that he was a football star so he's got a lot of name recognition and this is going to get him into the governorship and he doesn't have any practical background.

MODERATOR—OKAY. HOW ABOUT BOB CASEY?

Eyebrows.

What?

Eyebrows.

MODERATOR—WHAT ELSE ON BOB CASEY?

Son.

Nepotism.

MODERATOR—ANYTHING ELSE?

I think he needs to get his act together. He might be the best alternative, I don't know.

MODERATOR—OKAY. ANYONE ELSE? HOW ABOUT RICK SANTORUM?

Love him.

Conservative.

I really don't like him.

Dislike.

Sneaky.

Against women's rights.

Yeah, right.

I think he's a politician.

That's what I would say, a politician.

MODERATOR—OKAY. HOW ABOUT CONGRESS? WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK OF CONGRESS?

Thieves.

Old school.

They vote for their own raises.

Pork barrel.

Credit cards.

Uncaring. I don't think they care about us at all.

MODERATOR—WHAT DID YOU SAY, DANIELLE?

I said a mess.

Bonus.

MODERATOR—IS CONGRESS WORSE NOW THAN IT'S BEEN IN THE PAST OR DO YOU THINK IT'S ALWAYS KIND OF BEEN LIKE THIS? IS IT WORSE NOW IN CONGRESS OR HAS IT ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS?

I don't think it's worse. I think communication is better. I think we're more aware of everything. But, you know, I think all this stuff's been going on in politics forever.

I agree.

I agree.

I don't think it's really worse. Our awareness is higher.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

I wish they would bring Bill Clinton back and let him be president for another eight years. I think he's a (inaudible)

He's so cute.

MODERATOR—ON THE CONGRESS FRONT, IS THERE ANY, IF YOU'RE SAYING THAT IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS, THIS ISN'T SOMETHING NEW, THAT IT'S BEEN LIKE THIS FOR A LONG TIME, IS THERE ANY POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE? I MEAN, HOW DO YOU CHANGE THE SYSTEM THAT'S THERE? YOU GUYS SAY THEY'RE UNCARING, THEY TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.

Term limits.

We're voting them in. I mean, we're the ones voting them in. If people don't like it, don't vote for them.

Then you only have a couple of choices.

That's true, but if you don't like who's there, you know, do you really know what the other . . .

I think if all the voters went in though and started saying, I'm not going to blindly pull the party lever, I'm going to start making choices, I think more and more people would notice and we'd start getting choices.

I would think that the majority of the people voting don't know who they're voting for. They see a name, they saw an ad on the TV.

Republican or Democrat.

And nobody votes in the primaries which is more important, you know, narrowing down who we're going to get up there. My sister ran for Congress. I mean, she didn't know diddly but she got a lot of votes just because, you know, she was probably better than the other guy or whatever.

She won?

Not (inaudible)

(Many talking at once.)

She's not in my district.

MODERATOR—OH, OKAY.

But anybody can run. There's no criteria.

MODERATOR—A COUPLE OF OTHER NAMES. CURT WELDON?

Oh.

Headache.

No, he's an environmentalist.

I think he'd work for us.

MODERATOR—HE'S GOOD ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL?

Very good.

I think he's a hard worker.

MODERATOR—WHAT ELSE DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK OF WELDON?

I just received a flyer in the mail, but I, you know, just didn't look at it. I kind of looked at it and it looked like business as usual and eh, if I have time, I'll go through it.

I don't know anything about him.

MODERATOR—OKAY, ANYTHING ELSE? IS IT THAT YOU'RE NOT FAMILIAR WITH HIM OR JUST KIND OF NEUTRAL ON HIM?

I just don't like him. I don't care for him.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHY NOT?

It's nothing that he did. I don't think that he did that much.

But I didn't do anything. Exactly, that's the point.

I don't care for him.

MODERATOR—OKAY, ANYTHING ELSE?

I was just going to say I don't know what he stands for enough to say. I mean, I should, but I don't.

He tries to bring business to the state, to our local area.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

And he's friends with Bush. They're great pals, I think.

MODERATOR—OKAY, HOW ABOUT JOE SESTAK?

Never heard of him.

MODERATOR—ANYBODY KNOW THAT NAME? JOE SESTAK?

C-E-S?

MODERATOR—S-E-S-T-A-K.

Never heard of him.

No.

MODERATOR—YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM, BARBARA?

Yeah, isn't he in like Roselyn? I don't know, I've seen him in the local.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OKAY. HE'S RUNNING FOR CONGRESS. NO ONE'S HEARD OF HIM? OKAY, THAT'S FINE. WE'LL MOVE ON.

(Many talking at once.)

MODERATOR—OKAY, LAST ONE I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS GEORGE BUSH, BUT I WANT TO HAVE YOU GUYS WRITE SOME THINGS DOWN FOR ME.

That's coming from a county that is primarily Republican, so that (inaudible) something.

Well, my township's Republican.

Well, almost every township in Delaware County is.

I've been (inaudible) everything else to change.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO RIGHT NOW IS JUST LOOK AT HANDOUTS 1 AND 2. DON'T READ AHEAD. BUT LOOK AT HANDOUTS 1 AND 2. ON HANDOUT 1, I WANT YOU TO WRITE DOWN ALL THE GOOD THINGS THAT COME TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF PRESIDENT BUSH. AND ON HANDOUT 2, WRITE DOWN THE DOUBTS AND THE NOT SO GOOD THINGS THAT COME TO MIND. AND AFTER YOU FILL THEM BOTH OUT, WE'LL GO BACK AND TALK ABOUT THEM.

Handout 1 and Handout 2?

MODERATOR—YES, HANDOUT 1, HANDOUT 2.

Oh, gotcha.

Is this paperwork for his impeachment because . . .

MODERATOR—NO, DEFINITELY NOT FOR HIS IMPEACHMENT. I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF POWER. IF YOU'RE STILL WRITING, TAKE YOUR TIME. BUT IF YOU'RE DONE, GO BACK TO HANDOUT 1 AND TELL ME WHAT ARE THE GOOD THINGS THAT COME TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF PRESIDENT BUSH.

He's married, with children.

His term will be over and he can't be voted back in.

20 days left?

No, he can't be voted back in. He's done.

He's great for big business.

I have a lot of good things, but I think I'm the only one.

MODERATOR—IT'S DEFINITELY THE LONGEST LIST. GIVE ME THE HIGHLIGHTS.

Strong-willed, healthy, good education, great family man, good leader, delegates well, surrounds himself with good people and sense of humor.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

He's also willing to take a stand and when he takes it, if it's unpopular, he doesn't say oops, I changed my mind. He's willing to stand behind it.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHAT ELSE? OTHER POSITIVES?

He visits the troops.

I think his ideals are good. I don't think they're necessarily appropriate in today's world, but I think, you know, he's got some good I guess moral character is what I'm going for.

I just said he was a comedian. I've never laughed so hard at a president in office in my entire life. He's said and done more funny things than I can possibly imagine.

MODERATOR—OKAY, ANYTHING ELSE? OTHER POSITIVES?

I just said good family man, good husband.

Very physically fit. Makes time to do that.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

I said that he lives in fairy land, not reality. And he's lucky that he can pull himself away from reality and what he's done.

MODERATOR—OKAY, ANY OTHER POSITIVES? LET'S FLIP TO HANDOUT 2. I THINK WE'LL SPEND MORE TIME THERE.

I didn't know if that was a positive or a negative.

MODERATOR—IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A VERY GENUINE POSITIVE.

I can't stand him.

MODERATOR—I GOT THAT. OKAY, GIVE ME THE HIGHLIGHTS. HANDOUT 2, WHAT ARE THE DOUBTS YOU HAVE ABOUT HIM?

Not well-spoken.

His credibility, I doubt it.

MODERATOR—WHY DO YOU DOUBT IT?

He always has a smirk on his face. I mean, I feel embarrassed when he's giving a speech or talking and if you watch Jay Leno, it's hilarious because they just go nuts on him. But I mean, he just stumbles over his words. I get so uncomfortable watching him.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OKAY. OTHER DOUBTS YOU HAVE ABOUT BUSH?

He was a mediocre student at best and that, you know, he was a total C student at Yale and he got by.

He's a playboy too.

Oh, yeah, he had some serious drug problems and alcohol problems.

Now, your other boy, Clinton . . .

I was going to say.

At least Clinton did well in school.

(Many talking at once.)

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT, OTHER DOUBTS? STAY FOCUSED ON BUSH HERE. I DON'T WANT TO GO OFF ON THE CLINTON . . .

I think he's . . .

Bringing religious views into politics.

Yeah.

I also think that he's trying to be a really strong world leader and he's not paying attention to what's going on domestically. He's trying to make his spot as a world leader.

I don't think he has a good plan of action. He just jumped into something.

MODERATOR—TALKING ABOUT THE WAR?

Yeah.

I think the many favors that he's doing for people when I don't necessarily think he thinks about how he, whom he does these favors for, whether or not it's good for the country or not.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHAT KIND OF . . .

Oh, with oil and with the oil companies and with the fact that, you know . . .

The Halliburton?

Halliburton, that's exactly, so Halliburton's over there re-fixing Iran. How?

Bomb it.

Yeah, you know, how?

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER THINGS WE HAVEN'T TOUCHED ON?

He's arrogant.

His doubts? This is if I have doubts about him? I do, about his mental abilities and I have great doubts about his ability to lead. And he instituted this No Child Left Behind Act and didn't fund any of it and I'm in Philadelphia, we are just dying under the brunt of this act with, you know, education. It's absolutely horrendous.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHAT DID YOU HAVE FOR THE NEGATIVES?

Well, I have something that I think is a positive and a negative, the same thing. And that's loyalty. I think it's really great to be loyal and to a company and to your employees, I'll just call them his employees. But I think that also that's (inaudible) a little bit. I think he's too loyal to some of his employees. And I think it's gotten a little out of hand at times.

MODERATOR—AND BARBARA, YOU SAID CARL ROVE EARLIER?

Yeah, I'm really suspicious of the hand, the amount of power that he wields. I didn't vote for him.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

I have his stand on abortion and connecting it with funding.

MODERATOR—OKAY, FUNDING FOR?

Programs. Even foreign programs.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WE'VE KIND OF ELUDED TO IT, BUT IN A LITTLE MORE THAN FOUR MONTHS, THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS FOR CONGRESS COMING UP AS WELL AS FOR GOVERNOR AND A NUMBER OF THINGS IN NOVEMBER. AT THE BEGINNING OF OUR CONVERSATION, YOU GUYS DIDN'T HAVE A LOT OF POSITIVE TO SAY ABOUT THE DIRECTION THE COUNTRY IS GOING. DOES THAT IMPACT YOUR LIKELIHOOD OF VOTING IN NOVEMBER?

No.

MODERATOR—DOES IT MAKE YOU MORE OR LESS LIKELY?

More likely.

More likely.

More likely.

MODERATOR—WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE VOTING FOR? WHAT'S THIS ELECTION GOING TO BE ABOUT? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE LOOKING FOR?

Peace.

Financial stability.

MODERATOR—OBVIOUSLY, THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE A PLACE ON THE BALLOT, FINANCIAL STABILITY, FINANCIAL INSTABILITY. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE LOOKING FOR IN THE CANDIDATES? WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING TO HEAR FROM THEM? WHAT WILL DECIDE HOW YOU GO ONE WAY OR ANOTHER?

I'm very offended with all these men making pronouncements about women's bodies. I mean, I just find that so offensive. And I'm looking for somebody that handles it sensitively and intelligently. Women's bodies, reproduction rights. I mean, really, they're telling us, they're in control?

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHAT ELSE? HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU? WHAT'S THIS ELECTION ABOUT FOR YOU? WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO BE LOOKING FOR?

I always try to look for somebody that's honest and that's involved, you know, that actually does the voting and shows up at Congress.

Politicians.

You know, I look at their rate of absenteeism and things like that, when there's important issues.

They're not indicted for something or in jail.

Or give themselves a raise.
Right.

Unethical, immoral.

Yeah, and pro-choice.

Bad model for our children.

I think that's part of it too, just a good role model and trustworthy people who have somewhat of a track record. I mean, I think politics is very business now and power just goes to people's heads and it's a hard thing, but I think there are honest people out there, hard-working people.

MODERATOR—HOW DO YOU GAUGE KIND OF THE PERSONAL VALUES OF THE CANDIDATE?

They seem to come across on the television screen. Like, you know, John Curry, is that his last name? He just . . .

It's what the media feeds us.

Well, yeah, but you have to ignore what the media feeds us and dig deeper because what they feed us is what they want us to see. Or it's a photo op opportunity, let's have the family here and aren't we great but that's not what we're really about. You know, usually the wife's home and I'm running around in Washington. So you've really got to dig.

MODERATOR—WELL, THAT'S WHAT I'M TRYING TO FIND OUT IS HOW DO YOU GET THAT? NOT JUST ABOUT THE PERSON WHO'S IN, BUT THE PERSON WHO WANTS TO TAKE THEIR JOB. HOW DO YOU GET A SENSE OF WHETHER ONE PERSON HAS INTEGRITY AND THE OTHER DOESN'T OR WHATEVER THOSE PERSONAL . . .

A total turn-off to me is commercials downing the opponent or whatever. That, to me, that is, there's no integrity there and that does nothing to sway me away.

Whoever has the worst commercial usually loses my vote.

Right.

You know, the personal attacks.

They need to attack someone else. Why not build yourself up instead of . . .

If you want to do an attack on somebody's record, that's legitimate. But a personal attack on somebody is not. And that speaks to me and it says I really don't have anything to get you for, so I'm going to be a sneaky little jerk and I'm going to stab you in the back. That's not who I want representing me.

MODERATOR—IT'S NOT VERY INSPIRATIONAL, GAIL. WHOEVER HAS THE WORST COMMERCIAL LOSES MY VOTE.

Right, that is . . .

MODERATOR—SO NOBODY'S WINNING IT. IT'S JUST WHOEVER'S WORSE LOSES IT.

Well, no, because there's other things. I mean, you can go and you can go on the Internet and find speeches that they've given in the past. You can read the speech, you can tell from the tone of the speech what is he trying to convey. Is he interested in the issues that I'm interested in? Is he actually taking a stand or is he paying it lip service?

The problem with that is that they hire speech writers so really I often wonder how much is the speech writer's opinion and how much is the candidate's opinion and what opinion, what opinion does he take? Is it really the one he believes in or is it the one he wants us to think he believes

in because that's the popular opinion? And once he gets in office, they change it all around and they do what they want.

MODERATOR—SO BEYOND THE PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS, THE NEGATIVE ATTACKS, THAT KIND OF STUFF, WHAT ARE THE ISSUES THAT ARE GOING TO MATTER? BARBARA MENTIONED REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS, WOMEN'S RIGHTS FOR HER. BUT WHAT ARE OTHER ISSUES THAT ARE GOING TO DETERMINE HOW YOU VOTE?

Social Security.

MODERATOR—WHAT ABOUT IT?

Well, what the different plans are. I'm getting close, so . . .

I understand that really the cuts that they're making in Social Security, we're going to have fewer benefits available to us than our parents did. And what the ramifications are for us as we age.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

Like I said, I'm big on the environment but there's also things like stem cell research that I think we need to work on and go ahead with and it just keeps getting blocked in Congress. And I want somebody who's going to be open-minded enough to give it a chance. I'm looking for somebody who aligns with what I look for and what I think.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER ISSUES?

I just heard on the news the other day that 2,500 people are dead, you know our soldiers, 2,500 and 18,000 were wounded. Some of them have no legs, no arms. I can't even listen, I have to put on the Animal Planet and the Comedy Channel. I can't watch the news anymore. It's just like, so how can we change that? And pretty soon more people will have died in this war than died in the Trade Centers and that's where, the New York Trade Center started the war primarily when we got attacked which I understand, but more people are going to die in this country at the war than died in the attack it seems like ultimately.

I think homeland security is a big issue. Obviously, I don't have the answer for it but that I think, I don't even know if there is an answer. That's huge. I mean, but that's terrifying.

And what does it mean, it's an orange day? I mean, no one pays attention to it.

Yeah, you're right.

Well, I do. If I travel to New York, I know.

Well, what does it mean?

(Many talking at once.)

MODERATOR—SO, SHIFT FROM WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR TO WHAT ARE YOU HEARING. WHAT ARE YOU HEARING IN THIS CAMPAIGN SO FAR? WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD FROM THE CANDIDATES?

Well, Hillary supports staying the course.

MODERATOR—OKAY, BUT I'M TALKING ABOUT HERE IN PENNSYLVANIA, THE ONES YOU'RE GOING TO BE VOTING FOR. HILLARY'S NOT ON THE BALLOT HERE IN 2006 AT LEAST.

Not yet.

MODERATOR—SO, IN THE RACE FOR CONGRESS IN 2006, WHAT ARE YOU HEARING, EITHER AT THE SENATE LEVEL OR THE CONGRESSIONAL LEVEL? ANYTHING?

Not really.

Nothing.
Not much.

I haven't heard a lot.

Not yet.

I hear a lot more about my local politics than I do anything for the state.

I hear Rendell. I mean, he's . . .

We always hear him.

But I also think, even what we were talking about Rendell with the commercials and stuff, I think his commercials are very positive and they aren't badgering somebody which makes me respect him even more. I mean, I'm Republican all the way, but I love Rendell. He has good, he's a great worker and he's great with people and he gets the job done.

It's not below him to go down to the people's level. I mean, he's the only mayor when he was here, that opened the swimming pools and was in that pool with all the kids from North Philly. He's the only mayor that has ever done that.

He's the only mayor that rolled up his sleeves and . . .

Absolutely.

(Many talking at once.)

He was good. He was good. Great for the city and he left them in the black and they turned it into the red. It didn't take long.

MODERATOR—SO, IF YOU'RE NOT HEARING ANYTHING FROM THE CANDIDATES HERE IN PENNSYLVANIA, WHAT ARE YOU HEARING IN WASHINGTON? WHAT ARE REPUBLICANS TALKING ABOUT? WHY DO THEY SAY YOU SHOULD VOTE REPUBLICAN FOR CONGRESS THIS YEAR?

Republicans to me mean pro-life, things like that. Very conservative attitudes.

Yeah, very tied to religion it seems to me and making decisions based on that which I think maybe is exactly what this country was about not having happen. Separation.

I don't think they're all that way.

Conservatives.

But I think a lot of that you're hearing from Republican candidates who are trying to separate themselves from the administration that's in now for (inaudible) because it's not a popular administration.

MODERATOR—SO YOU HEAR THEM TRYING TO DISTINGUISH THEMSELVES.

Right, yeah.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHAT ELSE ARE YOU HEARING FROM REPUBLICANS? WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE REPUBLICAN FOR CONGRESS? WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

I know they're really pushing what they call the core values which are family and, again, religion and conservatism which is not such a bad thing, but that should be a personal decision, not a political decision.

MODERATOR—WHAT ELSE?

I think they do, they are pro-business but I don't know that that's so bad.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHAT ELSE? OTHER REASONS WHY REPUBLICANS SAY YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR THEM?

They appeal to the idealisms that go through the, what was it the blue states? Yeah, the Bible Belt. And you could almost tell the states that had some intelligence flowing through it because they were the bad states or whichever ones, the Northeast, California, the western, the whole middle of the country it looked like had no clue.

But they have a different perspective and a different outlook than the East and West Coasts.

They have a very strong . . .

They're very different.

Right, but that's what they were looking for.

But that's what they were looking for. That's what they wanted.

They want the moral leadership.

But did they really get a moral leader? They got somebody who says he is, but . . .

Yeah, exactly.

Like Bush, he . . .

To say they're more naive is probably a better way to put it, but I think they're more naive in who they're voting for and what they're saying and they're looking at things . . .

MODERATOR—SO, WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME IS REPUBLICANS SAY THEY STAND MORE FOR THESE TRADITIONAL VALUES OR CORE VALUES THAT YOU TALKED ABOUT. THEY'RE BETTER FOR BUSINESS AND THUS BETTER FOR THE ECONOMY. IS THAT BELIEVABLE? DO YOU BELIEVE THAT IF REPUBLICANS ARE IN CONTROL OF CONGRESS THAT THOSE THINGS WILL HAPPEN?

I've been laid off twice and once under a Democratic administration and once under a Republican administration. That's just fun facts.

MODERATOR—SO WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK? IF REPUBLICANS REMAIN IN CONTROL IN CONGRESS, ARE THOSE GOOD REASONS TO VOTE REPUBLICAN? ARE THOSE BELIEVABLE REASONS TO VOTE REPUBLICAN? THAT THEY'LL STAND UP FOR THESE CORE VALUES, THAT THEY'LL . . .

I just think it's such a mess right now that most people are probably rethinking Republicans, Democrats, the whole thing. I mean, I don't know that I think, again, you're going to have to look at the person and you're going to have to look at their values vs. Republican or Democrat or whatever because, to me, at this moment in time, you know, it would have to be the person.

Ideally, I would like to see somebody like Bill Gates run, not for the money but because the, he understands the power of money and he understands how to make it work for the people of the world. And that's maybe idealistic, but that's who I think should be in government. I think that's what we need.

But strong business people don't want to be in government.

I know, sadly, but I think that's what . . .

Because if you look who's in government, I mean, they're lawyers that . . .

If I saw somebody like that running, I would vote 137 times.

Ross Perot.

But he was a little . . .

But he wasn't charitable. He didn't understand the power. He just . . .

But he was big business.

MODERATOR—LET ME ASK YOU THIS. AS YOU GUYS KNOW, FOR SIX YEARS NOW, REPUBLICANS HAVE HAD CONTROL OF THE WHITE HOUSE AS WELL AS THE HOUSE AS WELL AS THE SENATE. IF REPUBLICANS MAINTAIN CONTROL OF CONGRESS AFTER THIS ELECTION, WHAT IS THE CHANCE THAT ANYTHING'S GOING TO CHANGE?

I think that the Democrats vote the Democrat way and it's adversarial with the Republicans and nothing gets done. It's not really bipartisan.

But I think it's been that way for a very long time, that we don't work for the good of the country, we work for the good of the party.

Right.

And I think that's why we need to change that, that's why I'm big in favor of term limits. Let's not let them get entrenched. Let's let them work together. That's what they're there for.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OKAY. FLIP SIDE. WHAT ARE DEMOCRATS TALKING ABOUT? WHY SHOULD YOU VOTE DEMOCRAT FOR CONGRESS?

Because they're not Republican.

And not for the war right now.

Right, and that's about the only message I get from them is we're not Republican.

It's disappointing, isn't it?

Very.

MODERATOR—ANYTHING ELSE? ANY OTHER REASONS THAT THEY'RE OFFERING WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE DEMOCRAT? ANYTHING ELSE THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT?

They seem to just back pedal. They wait for the Republicans to hit them with something and then they back pedal. They can't come forward and just say this is what we are.

This is what we want to do.

That's true.

Well, when I think of Ed Rendell, I don't think of him as a Democrat or a Republican. I just think of him . . .

I just think he's . . .

Me too.

I don't really think of a party.

You don't think of Ed Rendell as a Republican or a Democrat?

No, that's right.

Although he's a politician and you know that, he doesn't come across as a politician. He comes across as a real person who happens to have a job that's in politics. And that's exactly why he has transcended Republican, Democrat and everything else because if people like him, they like him. If they don't like him, it's more of a personal nature than it is actually his politics because his politics were pretty much proven to turn around Philadelphia and turn around, he turned a lot of things around in the state. He's done a lot.

Specter was like that. Specter was Republican and strong Democratic following with Specter because he was, he did well for the state.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO BACK TO THE CHOICE IN THIS ELECTION NOW. HOW WOULD THINGS BE DIFFERENT IF DEMOCRATS WON? WOULD THINGS BE DIFFERENT IF DEMOCRATS, THERE'S A POSSIBILITY . . .

No, it would just be the exact same thing.

State or national?

MODERATOR—NATIONAL, IN CONGRESS. IF DEMOCRATS WON BACK CONTROL OF THE HOUSE OR THE SENATE OR BOTH, HOW WOULD THINGS BE DIFFERENT?

They might fight Bush a little bit. They might fight the Republicans a little bit more and it might stop some of the things that are going on.

I still think it would just be us against them. I don't think it would change.

Well, if they had control, it would because . . .

You've got the power of veto, so not really.

I think there's just such major issues in the whole, these things aren't easily worked out. I mean, the stuff that's going on in the country, it's not like a Democratic vs. a Republican vote all the time. I mean, there's of course some things I think that can change, but these are huge things and I think the Democrats think that they'll fix it and they'll get it and they'll find the same roadblocks that everybody else finds.

MODERATOR—THE ONE ISSUE THAT YOU HIGHLIGHTED IS YOU SAID THEY'RE NOT FOR THE WAR. WOULD ANYTHING CHANGE IN TERMS OF OUR INVOLVEMENT IN IRAQ IF DEMOCRATS WIN BACK THE HOUSE OR THE SENATE?

I don't know what they can do to get out. I seriously don't know.

We seem so entrenched in that area, both in Iraq and then you've got Iran with this rockets.

MODERATOR—WERE YOU GOING TO SAY SOMETHING?

Yeah, the question is how do we know we won? When do we know we've won?

Same with Viet Nam. Who won?

Yeah, how do we know that we have to leave? No one is giving us a clear cut picture of, on either party, of when we know we had won or we can leave or we say we lost. It doesn't matter. We have to get out.

Because I don't think anybody knows.

No, I know they don't. That's exactly right. So, if we don't know, then it's kind of like running on a hamster treadmill. So why not just get off while we can?

But one of the negatives or the doubts that I had about Bush was that I think he's of the mind set that I started this and I'm going to finish it, like I'm not ever going to admit that something's wrong. I started this, we're going to finish this, but like you said, where is the finish line?

The first thing in business or everything is to, in education, in business, in any kind of plan is when do you know you're finished? So that, and (inaudible), well we don't know. And that can't be.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO . . .

(Many talking at once.)

MODERATOR—GO AHEAD, CLAIRE.

I just wanted to, nobody in here but me remembers the Second World War, okay? And how it ended, Harry Truman, who inherited the presidency when FDR died, they put a bomb on and they blew them to hell and back. But you know what? I think it's great. I think it's great. I hate war. But, if people have attacked us, I believe morally we can bomb them.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

This is just so stretched out. And arms and legs and . . .

MODERATOR—OKAY, WELL LET ME ASK THIS. IF THE DEMOCRATIC STRATEGY IS WE'RE NOT THE REPUBLICANS, IT SEEMS TO SUGGEST THAT THERE IS A CONSEQUENCE IF REPUBLICANS REMAIN IN POWER. WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENS IF REPUBLICANS MAINTAIN CONTROL AS THEY'VE HAD FOR THE PAST SIX YEARS UNTIL 2008?

Same old thing.

It's the same everything.

The gasoline goes to \$4 a gallon, it's over \$3 now.

Oh easily, right.

Not at Hess.

(Many talking at once.)

But even at Wawa, it's \$3.01 which I was shocked.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER CONSEQUENCES? OTHER THINGS THAT WILL HAPPEN IF REPUBLICANS REMAIN IN CONTROL OF ALL THE CHAMBERS IN WASHINGTON?

I think, my feeling on maybe in the middle if the country it's different, but in this area it's just like, you know, forget it. We write off the inner city, those are problems we're not going to deal with. We just write that off. You're successful, you're doing well, that's great, I helped you. I must have helped you get there. But you're not doing well, well there's something wrong with you and you figure it out.

MODERATOR—HOW ABOUT WITH IRAQ? DO YOU THINK THERE'S ANY CHANCE THAT WE'RE OUT OF THERE IN TWO YEARS FROM NOW IF REPUBLICANS ARE STILL IN CONTROL OF CONGRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE?

Not out, no.

They just moved some troops, about 500 troops have been moved from there and they're in Afghanistan. At least they're out of . . .

So much of it depends on the Iraqi people and the Iraqi government. I think it's really hard to know when we're in a position that we can leave. You know, when are they going to stand up and take some responsibility?

MODERATOR—A COUPLE OF YOU MENTIONED THE ISSUE OF SOCIAL SECURITY EARLIER. THERE HAVE BEEN REPUBLICAN EFFORTS RIGHT AFTER BUSH WAS RE-ELECTED, HE SAID ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS I'M GOING TO DO IS REFORM SOCIAL SECURITY, HE HAD A PLAN TO CREATE PRIVATE ACCOUNTS, SOME PEOPLE CALLED IT PRIVATIZING, OTHER PEOPLE SAID FLEXIBLE ACCOUNTS GIVE YOU MORE CONTROL OVER YOUR OWN MONEY. DO YOU THINK THAT'S MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN IF REPUBLICANS MAINTAIN CONTROL?

I don't even see that working. I don't see young people putting their money away just because they have it instead of taken out of their . . .

They're not going to do it.

MODERATOR—BUT IS THERE A CHANCE OF THAT LEGISLATION PASSING AND OF THAT MOVING FORWARD?

That's a really scary thought.

Not in that form, I don't think.

MODERATOR—OKAY. OTHER THOUGHTS? OTHER CONSEQUENCES IF REPUBLICANS REMAIN IN CONTROL?

I think it's just going to be at least two more years or six more years of Bush. Abortion might go and (inaudible) might be saved.

MODERATOR—OKAY, LET'S TALK SOME MORE ABOUT IRAQ. THERE'S BEEN SOME MAJOR DEBATES IN CONGRESS RECENTLY ABOUT IRAQ, ABOUT WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. REGARDLESS OF YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT HOW WE GOT TO THIS POINT, YOU KNOW, WHAT DO WE DO STARTING TODAY AND MOVING FORWARD. WHAT'S THE DEBATE BEEN ABOUT? ANY SENSE OF WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT? WHO'S ON EITHER SIDE, WHAT THE CHOICES ARE?

I think that what they're trying to do is make sure that they have a strong government so you don't get anarchy over there.

Right.

And I don't know that they're educated enough to handle the situation and if they do, you've got people from Iran and Iraq and Syria and coming in from the borders, these guys are scared to death to leave their house without getting bombed in their car. So if you set up a government and 10 days later, they're all . . .

(End of Side)

I think we're fighting a whole mind set. Their value of life is so different from ours and we can't change them. We're just building more, we're just, the masses are growing of how many people hate us now. I mean, it used to be they just hated the politicians. Now they hate all of us and they don't mind walking onto a subway and blowing themselves up if they're going to hurt one of us. I don't know, it's just very scary.

We're not fighting a country. We're fighting an idealism.

An attitude.

Yeah, we're fighting an idealism that goes along and a religious mind set that goes along in that area of the world.

Just like Iraq didn't bomb the World Towers.

(Many talking at once.)

. . . volunteer to kill themselves?

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO AGAIN, GIVEN ALL THE PROBLEMS, WE'VE COVERED THE PROBLEMS, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? WHAT ARE THE PROPOSALS? WHAT

ARE THE IDEAS THAT ARE OUT THERE? WHAT IS THE DEBATE ABOUT IS WHAT I'M REALLY TRYING TO UNDERSTAND?

You know, I see things, I'll open up the Internet and I'll start reading what Kerry has said today and that, and it kind of just goes phew, right through. And I hate to admit it, but I can't, I just can't grapple with it.

I have no intention . . .

You don't like Kerry?

Well, it's just like I want to know what he's saying but it all sounds the same stuff.

Same old sound bite.

Yeah, yeah.

Maybe it's cynical, but I think what they're trying to do is they're trying to come up with a way so that America looks really good when we leave and as soon as we figure out what the best way is that we look great, I think we're going to leave.

How are we going to look great? I think the world hates us.

Maybe I'm just being cynical, but that's the impression I get from both sides of the aisle.

MODERATOR—OKAY, ANY OTHER THOUGHTS?

Maybe when Halliburton makes enough money over there.

Maybe.

MODERATOR—WHAT IS THE REPUBLICAN POSITION ON IRAQ? WHAT DO THE REPUBLICANS SAY WE SHOULD DO ABOUT IRAQ?

Well, a stable government and allow the Iraqi people to have a democratic government when we leave.

(Many talking at once.)

But do people there want it?

And leave a friend behind so we have another friend in the Middle East.

Why is it our responsibility to do that? That's always my question. Why?

Because we need the oil, so we got . . .

It's all about that.

One way or another, we've got . . .

(Many talking at once.)

And his Dad started this. You know, everybody skips over all that.

Remember the Shah of Iran?

MODERATOR—ARE THERE ANY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRESIDENT BUSH AND REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS ON THIS OR ARE THEY ALL UNITED ON THIS? WHAT'S YOUR SENSE?

I don't think that they're united.

No.

MODERATOR—NO?

I think a lot of them are afraid to say it because of repercussions down the line in the elections.

I think you do see a trend towards a more moderate stand on it. I don't think you see as much we're going to be there till the bitter end as we did some four years ago.

MODERATOR—WHAT IS A MORE MODERATE STAND?

We're going to, as soon as we get the stable government in, we're going to start withdrawing our troops. We'll take 27,000 out and then we'll take 60,000 out or whatever it is. So we allow them to gradually assume control of their country. And it wasn't, it wasn't spoken as openly before as it is now. You hear it more and more.

MODERATOR—OKAY. ANYONE ELSE ON WHERE THE REPUBLICANS STAND ON THIS? WHAT'S THE DEMOCRATIC POSITION ON IRAQ? WHAT DO THEY THINK WE SHOULD DO?

I don't think they know either.

I'm with Barbaranie. I hear somebody like Kerry talk and it's like, wah, wah, wah, wah, wah. It is. It truly is.

Well, Hillary says stay the course and they say that she's rather unpopular in the Democratic party because of her position.

I think, I was going to say, most of them are not that way and most of them think that they'll take us out right away or we should get out right away. But there's no real plan on that either. I think whoever said before, you know, it seems like whenever the Republicans come up with something, the Democrats jump on that to refute it, whatever it is. So it's always a . . .

But they haven't come up with anything proactive to say this is what we want to do.

MODERATOR—OKAY. AND WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK WE SHOULD DO? IF YOU WERE DON RUMSFELD, WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?

At this point, I think we should come up with a plan, sit down with the Iraqi government, and say, look, this is what we're going to do. By Gailtmas of 2006, our troops in Iraq will be half what they are now. So you need to pick it up. And then by July of 2007, it's going to be half again and this is what you're going to need to do. I think we need to sit down and tell them, this is it. We're not going to be here forever.

I think we have to have a campaign with the Iraqi people to maybe educate them for, to become more involved. They're all frightened and they're not supporting a new government.

But they don't believe in our way of democracy.

That's true, because we can't . . .

So, what we're trying to do is say this is the right way and you're wrong and . . .

We're just trying to give them a safe environment and to get their utilities up and running and have a normal, a normal lifestyle again. I mean, we can't impose our values on the world.

That's pretty much what we're doing right now. And that's part of the problem.

But all their police are getting killed. It's a threat to become a cop.

It just seems that nobody stands up for . . .

There's nobody to enforce anything that we might point out for them. So I feel like it's so far gone, run. I mean, I don't think there's even, could be a plan.

Just get out.

Yeah.

(Many talking at once.)

We have made this mess. We made their lives miserable. And I don't know what the answer is either, but I think that's a better answer of saying, okay, in such and such, we're pulling so many out. But I think we have messed them up big time and then for us to pull out all at once, I think is so unfair.

I think it's wrong to blame us. They had lives of hell to begin with.

Not like this. They didn't have road bombs every time they walked down the . . .

They had like 6,000 people were murdered in one night.

But I mean, every single day these kids, you look at the kids and you look at the, I mean, it's hard. It wasn't a good existence, but I don't feel like we've made it any better.

I think we've really destabilized it. There were so many factions jockeying for power and now we've kind of messed that all up. So who knows who will take power when we pull out?

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT. FLIP TO HANDOUT 3 IN THOSE PACKETS I GAVE YOU. WHAT YOU HAVE HERE IS FOUR DIFFERENT POSITIONS ON THIS QUESTION OF WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO IS TO READ ALL FOUR OF THEM AND PICK THE ONE THAT COMES CLOSEST TO YOUR OPINION. YOU DON'T HAVE TO COMPLETELY AGREE WITH IT, BUT WHICH EVER ONE COMES CLOSEST, PICK THAT ONE. PUT AN X, PUT A STAR OR WHATEVER NEXT TO IT.

Excuse me? Am I reading this right? We have won the military battle in Iraq?

MODERATOR—RIGHT.

Who says that?

MODERATOR—SEVERAL PEOPLE.

Somebody's opinion.

MODERATOR—DID EVERYBODY MAKE THEIR CHOICE? LET ME GET A QUICK SHOW OF HANDS. HOW MANY PICKED THE FIRST ONE? ONE, TWO. GAIL, CAN YOU TELL ME WHAT FRAN'S IS TOO?

Sure.

MODERATOR—WHENEVER WE GET TO IT. HOW MANY PICKED THE SECOND ONE? WE'RE ON HANDOUT 3 NOW, CLAIRE.

Pardon me?

MODERATOR—WE'RE STILL BACK ON HANDOUT 3.

Okay.

MODERATOR—HOW MANY PICKED THE THIRD ONE?

You're talking about the paragraphs, is that what you're saying?

MODERATOR—YEAH, THOSE FOUR, YEAH. AND THE LAST ONE?

Choose one that you feel most like you think.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO MOST OF US WENT WITH THE THIRD ONE DOWN. OUR CURRENT OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT IN IRAQ IS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND COSTING OUR COUNTRY TOO MUCH. BY BEGINNING TO REDEPLOY U.S. FORCES BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, WE WILL FORCE THE IRAQIS TO ASSUME GREATER RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN SECURITY. WE WILL NOT WITHDRAW PRECIPITOUSLY OR ALLOW TERRORISTS TO SEIZE CONTROL, BUT WE MUST BEGIN

THE PROCESS NOW TOWARD IRAQI SELF SUFFICIENCY. WHY PICK THAT ONE? YOU HAD THAT ONE TOO, CLAIRE?

Oh no, I don't know. It seems like it just sounds good. It seems like a plan.

The last part, the last phrase, we must begin the process now towards Iraqi self sufficiency, it's got to begin some time. It just can't go on and on and on like this without some . . .

I don't think we need another satellite country. We need a country who can stand up on their own two feet. And sometimes, we're all human, we need a push. You know, we have to be told no or we have to be told we're taking this away unless you do something and maybe that's what they need.

MODERATOR—OKAY. OTHERS?

It's definitely costing our country too much, in my opinion.

I think it is just a plan. At least it's going forward.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO IT'S SOMETHING OF A PLAN. HOW ABOUT THE ONE ABOVE IT? NOBODY PICKED THAT ONE. IT SETS A SPECIFIC TIME TABLE.

I did. I erased it first.

I didn't like the 2007.

Yeah, me too.

Too long range.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO THAT WAS TOO FAR.

I think it's too open ended because we're saying as they get stronger, but if we don't give them an incentive to get stronger, why should they?

But if we take away the troops, doesn't that put the remaining troops in jeopardy?

Yes, it does.

Yeah, it does.

But if we keep putting more over there, then everybody's in jeopardy. It's like a, it's very discouraging. There's no good answer.

MODERATOR—OKAY, THE TWO WHO WENT WITH THE TOP ONE, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THAT ONE?

Well, I admit, this whole issue is very complex for me. And I think that the United States is a superpower and I think we have responsibility to the rest of the world and I don't think we should go before that government can manage on their own. And the last phrase, I think is a good one.

We can continue to transition into supporting roles and ultimately redeploy. I mean, obviously. But I think back to Germany and what would've happened if nobody did anything.

At what point in Germany? After the Second World War?

Well, if we waiver from our commitment, that just gives the insurgents . . .

Makes it look like if they're tough, we're wishy-washy and we'll just walk away.

Right, and then as I said too, I worry about if we make a definite commitment and pull half the troops out, then what's going to happen to the troops that are remaining if things are still unstable?

MODERATOR—OKAY. LET'S LOOK AT THIS IN A DIFFERENT CONTEXT. FLIP TO HANDOUT 4 AND OBVIOUSLY, THE WAR IS A HUGE ISSUE IN THE COUNTRY AND IT'S GOING TO BE A HUGE ISSUE IN THE ELECTION. SO I WANT TO LOOK AT THIS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF TWO CANDIDATES AND WHAT THE TWO PARTIES ARE SAYING A LOT RIGHT NOW. BELOW YOU SEE TWO MESSAGES FROM TWO CANDIDATES FOR CONGRESS. I'LL READ BOTH OF THE STATEMENTS OUT LOUD, YOU JUST KIND OF READ ALONG WITH ME, AND THEN AGAIN PICK THE ONE THAT COMES CLOSER TO YOUR OWN VIEW. REGARDLESS OF HOW YOU MIGHT VOTE, WHICH STATEMENT COMES CLOSER TO YOUR OWN VIEW ON THIS? THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS OUR MILITARY HAS DONE WHAT IT CAN IN IRAQ AND WE NEED TO BEGIN BRINGING OUR TROOPS HOME. THE TOP U.S. GENERAL IN IRAQ HAS PROPOSED A PHASED TIME WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN TROOPS. THE ELECTED IRAQI GOVERNMENT IS ALSO CALLING FOR A PHASED TIME WITHDRAWAL. OUR COALITION ALLIES CONTINUE TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS. BUT THE REPUBLICANS CALL THIS CUT AND RUN AND SAY WE SHOULD CONTINUE OUR CURRENT COURSE IN IRAQ WITH NO ACCOUNTABILITY AND NO END IN SIGHT. ONLY PRESIDENT BUSH AND THE REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS BELIEVE THAT THE STATUS QUO IS ACCEPTABLE. THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE SAYS WE'RE MAKING SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN IRAQ. AFTER HOLDING THREE SUCCESSFUL ELECTIONS, THERE IS NOW AN IRAQI GOVERNMENT WITH A NEW CONSTITUTION AND A QUARTER OF A MILLION IRAQI TROOPS ARE TRAINED AND EQUIPPED. BUT THERE'S STILL MORE TO DO AND THE UNITED STATES CAN'T AFFORD TO BAIL OUT ON IRAQ BEFORE WE COMPLETE THE MISSION. IF WE FOLLOW THE DEMOCRATS' ADVICE TO CUT AND RUN, AL QAIDA WILL HAVE A NEW TERRORISTS' HAVEN IN IRAQ AND THE WHOLE WORLD WILL SEE THAT AMERICA DOESN'T HAVE THE STOMACH TO FIGHT THE WAR ON TERROR.

What do you do if you agree with points in both of them?

Right.

MODERATOR—EVEN IF YOU'RE 51/49, TRY TO PICK ONE THAT YOU AGREE WITH MORE THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT BOTH OF THEM AND WHAT IT IS THAT YOU LIKE AND DON'T LIKE IN EACH ONE. BUT JUST OVERALL, TELL ME WHICH ONE YOU AGREE WITH MORE. FRAN, WE JUST READ THE TWO ON HANDOUT 4. JUST READ THE TWO MESSAGES AND PICK ONE THAT YOU AGREE WITH MORE. DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO VOTE THAT WAY, JUST WHICHEVER WAY YOU AGREE MORE. SO,

EVERYBODY MADE THEIR CHOICE BESIDES FRAN? HOW MANY GO WITH THE TOP ONE? FOUR. AND THE BOTTOM ONE? FIVE. OKAY. SO, A LITTLE BIT MORE WITH THE BOTTOM ONE. TELL ME WHAT IT IS ABOUT THAT ONE THAT STANDS OUT TO YOU.

Well, we have made progress but there's still more to do. We can't just leave them hanging.

They made progress. I agree with the, I don't want the world to think that we don't have the stomach to stand up for ourselves. I think that opens us for attacks here in America. And I guess maybe that scares me more than anything. I want them to see that we're going to say, you know what, you mess with you, we're going to mess you back, I guess.

I think just that there is progress and that, you know, we can't afford to bail out Iraq (inaudible) To me, that's really important. I don't agree with all of it and I agree with some of the (inaudible) but I think overall I think that there is progress even though it's like two steps forward, one step back with them.

MODERATOR—OTHER THOUGHTS ON THE BOTTOM ONE? THINGS YOU DON'T LIKE ABOUT IT?

I don't think pulling out of Iraq means that we don't have the stomach to fight a war. I don't think that has anything to do with it. I think we're very much into terrorism and I think that they need to do it here. And since 9/11, we've had a lot of foils and things are falling into place where we, I mean just look at what happened in Canada. They stopped that, they were going to blow up Seattle or wherever in God's name they were, but they've got troops, I mean they've got agencies now and things seem to be in line where they are finding these cells before things happen. So I don't think that we don't have the stomach just because we pull out of there. That place is a mess.

I'm thinking more about how we're perceived as being. I mean, I know how we are. But . . .

We're perceived to be in the world terribly anyway, you know.
True.

Those that are going to perceive you have already pulled out. People who have been there before have pulled out and yet they're the biggest mouths over there, France and Germany, who were there and said, this is a no-win situation, we're outta here. And yet they sit there in judgment of us.

MODERATOR—FRAN, DID YOU PICK ONE OR THE OTHER ON THAT ONE?

I think that the first one is the . . .

MODERATOR—FIRST ONE, OKAY. WE'RE AN EVEN SPLIT. OKAY, SO WE'VE HEARD WHAT WE LIKE ABOUT THE BOTTOM ONE. TELL ME WHAT YOU LIKE ABOUT THE TOP ONE. WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU IN THAT ONE?

I like the phased withdrawal of the troops. I still really think that's important and I think we need to do that.

MODERATOR—BUT THE BOTTOM ONE SAYS THAT'S CUT AND RUN. IF YOU START TO DRAW TROOPS OUT NOW . . .

But I don't think it's cut and run though. I think, again, it's the stick and the carrot and we all need that and by giving the Iraqi government an incentive, we'll get to that point where we can get out and get out with a win-win instead of another Viet Nam.

I think that the key phrase in here is the elected Iraqi government is calling for a phased time withdrawal which means we have their support to do that. And once we have their support to do that, then they're more likely to be able to handle their own country.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER THOUGHTS ON THAT TOP ONE? WHY'D YOU PICK THAT ONE?

Only because I feel like we have done what we can which probably isn't much, but human life is human life and it's time to get home.

I keep thinking about what Alice said which I didn't think that much about before she said it about withdrawing troops and the danger to the troops left behind. I never thought of it that way.

I think the goal is good. It's the steps leading up to the realization of that goal.

MODERATOR—WELL, THE BOTTOM ONE BASICALLY HAS NO TIME LINE, NO GUARANTEE THAT WE'LL HAVE TROOPS OUT BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, BY THE END OF NEXT YEAR, BY THE END OF THAT. THE ARGUMENT IS IF YOU DON'T START TO BRING THEM HOME, IF YOU DON'T DO SOMETHING, THEN WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE TO BEAR THE BURDEN. WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE TO BE IN THE FRONT LINES AND THEY'RE GOING TO CONTINUE TO BE IN THE BACK AND THEY'RE NEVER GOING TO STEP UP AND STAND UP AND TAKE THIS RESPONSIBILITY UNTIL WE DO SOMETHING TO FORCE THEM TO DO THAT. DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THAT RATIONALE?

Yes.

I agree.

I think we have to hold them accountable with some kind of a time line.

I mean, I agree with that but I also agree with Danielle had said the same thing. We kind of put them in a position where they're very disorganized. We can't just walk out and say, okay, clean up. Your turn. You know, we have to be there too. We made the mess. We need to help clean it up.

MODERATOR—OKAY. OTHER THOUGHTS ON THESE?

That part of the world has been a hell hole for how many years? How many centuries? And we're going to, we can't change that. They have different values, different religions and the 47 virgins that they're going to meet . . .

With President Clinton.

MODERATOR—SOUNDS LIKE PARTY.

(Many talking at once.)

They interviewed President Clinton as he was coming out of his, of a restaurant because he had told or he and what's her name, his wife, had said that they play Scrabble at night and they watch TV a little and they go out to dinner with friends, and he came out and he said this lovely statement, he said, he almost, he could've died from that trouble he had, he said, each new day is a gift. I'll start to cry. And no matter what happens that day, it's a good day. And then he said, then they asked him, what's your favorite TV show? And he said, Grey's Anatomy where they're all cheating on each other.

MODERATOR—OKAY, I WANT TO GET BACK TO THE CHOICE THAT YOU FACE IN THIS ELECTION. AGAIN, EVERYBODY'S GOING TO BE GOING TO THE VOTING BOOTH. YOU'RE GOING TO BE VOTING IN A LITTLE OVER FOUR MONTHS AND WHEN I ASKED YOU WHAT THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT, WE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A LOT OF FIRM ANSWERS OR A LOT OF CONSENSUS ON WHAT IT WAS GOING TO BE ABOUT. SO I WANTED TO SEE SOME OF THE WAYS THAT OBVIOUSLY WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THIS ELECTION IN THE PRISM THAT SO MANY HAVE, DEMOCRATS SAY THIS, REPUBLICANS SAY THIS AND THERE ARE GOING TO BE DIFFERENCES, DEPENDING ON THE DIFFERENT CANDIDATES, BUT A LOT OF IT IS ALSO SET BY THE NATIONAL MEDIA AND BY WHAT THEY SAY IN WASHINGTON. SO, I WANT TO KIND OF LOOK AT IT THROUGH THAT PERSPECTIVE. MOVE TO HANDOUT 5 AND WE'LL LOOK AT SOME WAYS THE DEMOCRATS THINK THAT THEY WOULD DEFINE THIS ELECTION AND THE CHOICE THAT YOU'RE GOING TO FACE AND SOME WAYS THE REPUBLICANS WOULD DO. WE'LL START WITH ONE FROM THE DEMOCRATS. I'LL READ IT, THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT. DEMOCRATS SAY THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT MOVING OUR COUNTRY IN A NEW DIRECTION, FROM HEALTH CARE AND ENERGY TO CAMPAIGN FINANCE AND LOBBYISTS' INFLUENCE. REPUBLICANS DEFEND THE STATUS QUO BECAUSE IT BENEFITS THEM AND THEIR SPECIAL INTEREST ALLIES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. DEMOCRATS WILL IMMEDIATELY START TO DELIVER CHANGE THAT VOTERS CAN SEE: NO CONGRESSIONAL PAY RAISES WITHOUT AN INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE, INVEST IN EXPANDED STEM CELL RESEARCH, REPEAL TAX CUTS FOR COMPANIES THAT SHIFT JOBS OVERSEAS, MAKE COLLEGE TUITION TAX DEDUCTIBLE AND RESTORE THE RULES REQUIRING THAT ANY SPENDING OR TAX CUTS BE OFFSET BY ACCOMPANYING SPENDING DECREASES. WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO THAT MESSAGE?

I think it's a crock.

MODERATOR—WHY?

Nothing's gonna happen.

You know what? Nothing's gonna happen. Talking about lobbying influences? What? The Democrats don't have it? Come on. Spending cuts have to be, yeah, tax cuts have to be offset by spending cuts? Some of the biggest pork barrel are Democratic sponsored. So, you know,

this is just what the American voter wants to hear to get a vote as far as I'm concerned. It's not, there's no reality.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER REACTIONS TO THIS ONE?

Well, this is the ideal and regardless of whether or not it comes to pass, at least I know I voted for what I think should happen which is better than voting for what you know won't happen.

MODERATOR—OKAY. OTHER REACTIONS TO THIS ONE?

I thought it sounded good when you read it because I think that's what it's supposed to do. But when we talked about before, what, how would you see these values in the person that you're voting for or what would, what came to my mind was believable, a believable platform, believable that it could happen and I don't know if this is . . .

MODERATOR—THIS ISN'T BELIEVABLE TO YOU?

It sounds great, but . . .

MODERATOR—WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK? IS THIS BELIEVABLE OR NOT?

It sounds good.

I think it's believable.

Same old stuff.

Yeah, it's rhetorical. I mean, Democrats spend. Republicans, they always say, don't know how to spend. But I'd rather spend here than spend in Iraq. I'd rather it be spent here.

MODERATOR—OKAY. BUT THIS MESSAGE SAYS DEMOCRATS SAY THEY'LL IMMEDIATELY START TO DELIVER CHANGES THAT VOTERS CAN SEE. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'LL BE MEASURABLE. YOU'LL KNOW. IF THERE'S A PAY RAISE AND THERE ISN'T AN INCREASE IN MINIMUM WAGE, WE BROKE OUR WORD. YOU KNOW? IF WE DON'T INVEST IN EXPANDED STEM CELL RESEARCH, WE BROKE OUR WORD. SO THEY'RE SAYING THIS ISN'T YOU'LL BE BETTER OFF OR THE ECONOMY WILL BE STRONGER, THEY'RE SAYING THESE ARE THINGS YOU CAN SEE. THESE ARE KIND OF BITE-SIZED CHANGE, NOT BIG PROMISES, BUT LITTLE PROMISES. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT? YOU GUYS, YOUR REACTION STILL SEEMS TO BE NO, CAN'T HAPPEN.

Because they know when they're up for reelection, we'll have forgotten, you know, that they made these promises and they didn't come across with them. And they'll have a reason, oh we couldn't because. You know, it was vetoed out on a line item veto or gee, we just didn't, couldn't get enough votes because too many people went to the other side. So, it doesn't mean anything. It's just campaign rhetoric.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

I agree with Gailtine.

Me too.

You know, I'm getting calls at home. Somebody called me the other night and was talking to me about the minimum wage, increasing the minimum wage, so I think these things are on the table. And I think these are, we have to understand the ramifications. If you raise minimum wage, you really hurt business. These meat packing companies that have all these Mexicans working for minimum wage, you're not going to get a 29¢ or whatever, 69¢ cheeseburger anymore. You're going to have to pony up and pay a little more for your burgers. It's going to have another effect. So, like I think these things are possible, but we have to realize what it's going to cost us.

One of the problems I see with that is that it winds up, if we give them a 29¢ raise and then you add benefits or whatever they add to it to make it whatever, then they raise it by another 30 percent so that the company still winds up making more money anyway.

Or they'll put more soy in the beef or something.

MODERATOR—SO, ARE ANY OF THESE BELIEVABLE? ARE ANY OF THESE MORE CREDIBLE THAN OTHERS?

Yes.

Rendell already is raising the minimum wage in Pennsylvania. So, you know, yeah, it's believable, yeah.

It is believable.

You know, why can't we do more with stem cell research? There's no reason we can't.

Oh, because you might be killing a life. Meanwhile, they're blowing the legs off all these 22-year-old boys.

(Many talking at once.)

See that's what people don't understand about stem cell research. They're not killing anybody. They're using . . .

I know that, but . . .

What they already have, they have it. They didn't kill anybody for it.

But they talk about the unborn, the umbilical cords and they might be collected and . . .

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT, LET'S KEEP MOVING. GO TO HANDOUT 6 AND SEE A DIFFERENT IDEA ABOUT WHAT THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT. REPUBLICANS SAY THIS ELECTION IS A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO PARTIES WITH FUNDAMENTALLY DIFFERENT VIEWS OF OUR NATIONAL SECURITY. DEMOCRATS MAINTAIN A PRE-9/11 MENTALITY AS THEY CONTINUE TO UNDERMINE THE PATRIOT ACT AND OTHER SECURITY

EFFORTS, DENY OUR TROOPS THE RESOURCES THEY NEED AND ADVANCE A "CUT AND RUN" STRATEGY IN IRAQ. REPUBLICANS UNDERSTAND THAT IF WE GIVE UP NOW, WE WOULD HAND IRAQ OVER TO ENEMIES WHO HAVE PLEDGED TO ATTACK US AGAIN AND AGAIN AS THEY DID ON 9/11. REPUBLICANS HAVE THE STRENGTH AND THE RESOLVE TO WIN THE WAR ON TERRORISM AND TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO DEFEND OUR COUNTRY. WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO THAT ONE?

I think that's horrible. It doesn't say anything.

No. And . . .

(Many talking at once.)

It's so strong.

But at least with, at least the Democrats came up with something. I mean, the issue, I don't believe it, but at least they put something out there. There's nothing in here.

This is all on the war.

They're trying to scare you into voting Republican. That we're going to get bombed or terrorized if you don't.

Our former governor is just doing a bang-up job of that, with that Homeland Security.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER REACTIONS TO THIS ONE?

I think it is just scary and it's not, you know, there's no substance to what they can do beyond the war. I mean, I honestly don't want the war to take up the next six years. So, I would rather have, as Gail said, I think I'd rather have at least some things that may not come through but they're trying or they have something out there.

I don't know if this statement is really true.

It's not.

Well, I don't know that the Democrats continue to maintain a pre-9/11 mentality. I don't know that the Democrats are the ones who deny the troops their stuff. I mean, it's a Republican-run Congress. They send the troops over that the flack jackets don't even work. It was passed to put the bomb resistance under the trucks and they never did it. And so they're getting blown up to smithereens. That's not Democrats.

MODERATOR—OTHER REACTIONS TO THIS ONE?

This has nothing to do with this country except for the 9/11 thing. Everything else has to do with that war and we're forgetting that there are other issues in this country besides 9/11 and the war. I mean, we have tons of other issues like the Democrats had said on the page before.

MODERATOR—OKAY, GO AND FLIP TO HANDOUT 7. AGAIN, A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE ON THIS. DEMOCRATS SAY THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT FINDING NEW SOLUTIONS TO THE GROWING CHALLENGES FACING OUR COUNTRY: GAS PRICES, A BROKEN HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AMERICAN JOBS GOING OVERSEAS, RECORD DEFICITS. REPUBLICANS HAVE DONE NOTHING AND THEIR PROBLEMS HAVE GROWN DEEPER. DEMOCRATS WILL OFFER REAL LEADERSHIP, MAKING SECURITY OF OUR PORTS AND BORDERS A TOP PRIORITY, EXPANDING OUR CURRENT SYSTEM TO PROVIDE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE TO ALL AMERICANS AND INVESTING IN RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGIES TO MAKE OUR COUNTRY ENERGY-INDEPENDENT BY 2020 WHILE CREATING MILLIONS OF NEW AMERICAN JOBS. THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT FINDING NEW SOLUTIONS TO THE GROWING CHALLENGES FACING OUR COUNTRY. AGREE, DISAGREE?

I think that's for anybody we vote in. That's what we're looking for.

That's what?

It's for anyone that we vote in. That's kind of what we're looking for.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU, WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO IT?

Sounds great.

Sounds great.

MODERATOR—IS IT BELIEVABLE THOUGH, AGAIN?

You know, we might do a better job, this whole table.

At least it's a plan. Handout 6 was so tunnel vision, one topic. And they're admitting that these are some of the problems that we face right now, gas prices, broken health care system.

But broken health care system, if I remember, that was during Bill Clinton when they tried to change everything drastically.

Yeah.

Hillary did.

They put Hillary in charge.

At least she tried.

MODERATOR—OTHER REACTIONS TO THIS STATEMENT?

Health care, Hillary is going to do yet.

I think it's good. It's offering security whereas the Republicans are saying we don't care about security. We, being Democrats.

The energy crisis.

Yeah, I mean, they're addressing real problems and it seems like they want to make some changes.

MODERATOR—BUT AGAIN, I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE QUESTION OF CREDIBILITY. THESE ARE BIG PROMISES, ENERGY-INDEPENDENT BY 2020, HEALTH CARE FOR ALL AMERICANS, SECURITY OF OUR PORTS AND BORDERS.

It all sounds good, but I think as soon as you ask specifically how are you going to get the detail, that's where it starts to fall apart.

How are you going to pay for it? You know.

I think you could substitute, almost substitute Republican for Democrat and Democrat everywhere there's Republican in this phrase because I can't believe everybody's not interested in these issues. It's just how they're, what is your specific detailed plan.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

Can I ask you a question? Why are they allowing the Mexicans to come in, like hundreds of thousands? Why? I can't find a job right now and I'm a pretty good medical secretary, but they don't want my old face, that's for sure. They want younger people. But I just don't get it. Why? Why are they allowing, I think the whole world is trying to come here.

Because they'll work for cheaper and we have a lot of lazy Americans that don't want to work for that amount of money. Our kids are given money, they're not forced to work like we did.

Yeah, that's true.

MODERATOR—OKAY, FLIP TO HANDOUT 8 AND GET ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE FROM THE REPUBLICANS. REPUBLICANS SAY THIS ELECTION IS A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO VERY DIFFERENT IDEAS ABOUT ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY. DEMOCRATS ARE TRYING TO RAISE TAXES BECAUSE THEIR SOLUTION TO EVERY CHALLENGE IS INCREASE SPENDING AND MORE GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS. REPUBLICANS BELIEVE THE KEY TO ECONOMIC GROWTH IS ALLOWING TAXPAYERS TO KEEP MORE OF THE MONEY THEY EARN TO SPEND AND INVEST IN THE WAY THAT IS BEST FOR THEM AND THEIR FAMILIES. REPUBLICANS WILL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR LOWER TAXES AND FOR NEW IDEAS ON HEALTH CARE AND RETIREMENT THAT LOWER COSTS AND GIVE INDIVIDUALS MORE CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN MONEY.

Not saying a whole lot.

I think that's just stating Republican philosophy. I think if you're a Republican, you're probably going to vote Republican. If you're a Democrat, Democrat. I know sometimes people switch, but I think most of the time, people vote their party in the national elections.

I also think this is more slanderous than the two Democratic ones. The two Republican ones were slinging a little bit more mud at the Democrats than the Democrats were at the Republicans.

MODERATOR—OKAY. OTHER REACTIONS TO THIS ONE?

Well, I don't want to raise taxes or spend more. I'd like more control over my money and have lower costs. But is it reality?

I mean, I don't remember when my taxes have gone down with Republicans in office. My taxes never went down.

There's no way to do both.

They went down a little, but like \$6.

(Many talking at once.)

Do you remember getting the check?

Yeah, yeah.

50 bucks or 100 bucks.

Yeah, like that ridiculous little check.

MODERATOR—OKAY, ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THIS ONE?

The tone of this one is almost like the Republicans are saying we want to back off of you guys a little bit. We want to maybe do a little bit less interference. We want you to take more control. That's about the only thing I've heard tonight that I like, but I mean, I would be for that. But again, we're talking about things. It's great to throw a statement out, but you have to show us how you're going to do it and this isn't doing it. It's not showing us how you can do this.

MODERATOR—OKAY, AND AGAIN, THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH WE CAN ACCOMPLISH IN A PARAGRAPH.

I know, I know.

MODERATOR—BUT AGAIN, IN THE CONTEXT OF COMING FROM A CANDIDATE, DOES IT HAVE CREDIBILITY? DO REPUBLICANS HAVE CREDIBILITY ON SMALLER GOVERNMENT, LESS SPENDING, LOWER TAXES?

They actually, well they do have some because they have been trending towards that. There's a little bit more credibility in this one than the other ones we've seen for the Republicans.

Smaller government, larger armies. What's the trade-off?

MODERATOR—OKAY, FLIP TO HANDOUT 9, ONE MORE. DEMOCRATS SAY THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT RESTORING ACCOUNTABILITY TO OUR GOVERNMENT. REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS HAVE GIVEN THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION A BLANK CHECK LEADING TO UNPRECEDENTED LEVELS OF CORRUPTION AND WASTE. DEMOCRATS WILL USE CONGRESS'S SUBPOENA POWERS TO RESTORE OUR GOVERNMENT SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES AND DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE ABUSE OF TAXPAYERS' MONEY, INCLUDING HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN FRAUD AFTER KATRINA, PRICE GOUGING BY OIL COMPANIES, \$50 BILLION IN NO-BID CONTRACTS FOR HALLIBURTON IN IRAQ, FORCING TAXPAYERS TO PAY THE CLEAN-UP COSTS OF TOXIC POLLUTERS AND \$9 BILLION IN MISSING CASH GIVEN TO GOVERNMENTAL OFFICIALS IN IRAQ.

If those are the facts, then that is, then that's the sole reason for voting Democratic.

But what's different than, you know, from 15 years ago? This has been going on that long. This is not new or unusual or oh my god, I can't believe this. This has been going on for a very long time. So there's nothing new here, there's no substance.

Who did we go in and bomb to smithereens and then come and rebuild them? I mean, I think that's new, isn't it?

Germany?

Well, we were fighting, that was a war of many . . .

But I mean, the same thing. We bombed them to smithereens and we rebuilt them. We have done that throughout.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER REACTIONS TO THIS IDEA THAT THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT RESTORING ACCOUNTABILITY.

I think it would be great if it is. I mean, how they handled Katrina was atrocious. I mean, and that hasn't even been brought up in all the other eight handouts.

What hasn't?

About Katrina. FEMA and all that.

Oh, Katrina, right.

MODERATOR—OTHER REACTIONS TO THIS STATEMENT?

Restore accountability to what? Pre-Bush? To what things were like under Clinton? Is that what it's implying?

MODERATOR—WELL, WHAT DOES IT SAY TO YOU?

That would be my question.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

Well, I think it is a very, it's a good question of restoring accountability. I mean, I would just as soon restoring accountability, period. You know, that somebody's got to be accountable to something and we have really blown it but we blew it in Clinton's era and we blew it, I mean, I don't necessarily think that Republicans have blown all of this stuff. But I do think that somebody has to be held accountable to some of this stuff and figure out better ways of using our government to . . .

Didn't the Republicans try to hold Clinton accountable for his personal conduct? I mean, they made such a big stink and tied up everything going on in Congress just about him having an affair with this little girl.

And then doing worse. To achieve their ends, they were willing to do that to stop the process.

MODERATOR—SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE NOTION OF DEMOCRATS LAUNCHING INVESTIGATION, IF DEMOCRATS HAVE CONTROL OF THE HOUSE OR THE SENATE, OF THEM LAUNCHING, USING SUBPOENAS AND LAUNCHING INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALL OF THESE DIFFERENT ABUSES?

I think it would just be like payback and I don't really think it would do much. I really don't.

Spending our money.

It's such a waste of time.

Put more checks and balances.

We'd be wasting more, exactly, more money by doing it instead of doing something that's important, poverty, education.

Well, maybe not because price gouging by the oil companies is huge and if we can prove that they did it and that they have to stop and they can roll back the oil prices, then it, all this would be worth it.

They won't be able to roll back the oil prices, but you can put a windfall tax on the oil companies. Vote it through. Why aren't they doing that now? Why isn't that in Congress now? But not one Democrat has come up with . . .

MODERATOR—ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THIS STATEMENT THAT STANDS OUT TO YOU? ANYTHING ELSE ON THIS ONE? ALL RIGHT, LOOK BACK OVER THOSE LAST FIVE HANDOUTS WE LOOKED AT. FIVE ALL THE WAY TO NINE. AGAIN, DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES ON WHAT THIS ELECTION SHOULD BE ABOUT AND HOW TO DEFINE WHAT THIS ELECTION'S ABOUT FOR YOU AND TELL ME WHICH ONE BEST CAPTURES IT FOR YOU. PICK ONE. FIVE, SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT OR NINE.

That we think it should be about?

MODERATOR—YEAH, THAT YOU THINK THIS ELECTION SHOULD BE ABOUT. EVERYBODY PICK THE ONE THAT . . .

They're all important.

MODERATOR—OKAY. IRIS, WHICH ONE DID YOU GET?

Nine.

Five.

Five.

Nine.

Five.

Five.

(Inaudible)

I'll take eight.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO HALF OF YOU WENT WITH FIVE. FIVE AS WELL, SO SIX OF YOU WENT WITH FIVE. WHY DID MOST OF YOU SETTLE ON FIVE ABOUT MOVING OUR COUNTRY IN A NEW DIRECTION?

I think we need to concentrate on what's going on here. Because I don't know how they're going to fix the war. It's just there.

I think these are all important things.

But I think they really need, they need to concentrate on things that are going on here.

There were specifics mentioned that are of importance to a person (inaudible) that's voting perhaps.

You just can't keep raising taxes to increase your spending. Let's be accountable for it. There's just so many things in here I would love to see.

MODERATOR—OKAY. OTHER REASONS PEOPLE WENT WITH NUMBER FIVE?

Again, I think it's the ideal, you know. Whether it could really happen or not, I think is another issue but I'd love to see this stuff dealt with.

MODERATOR—THINKING ABOUT EVERYTHING WE TALKED ABOUT, YOU GUYS OBVIOUSLY AREN'T HAPPY WITH CONGRESS AND THE DIRECTION OF THINGS IN THIS COUNTRY NOW. YOU HAVE A PERSON WHO'S BEEN IN CONGRESS FOR A WHILE RUNNING AGAIN, AS IS THE CASE, AND THEN YOU'VE GOT A CHALLENGER COMING IN,

MAKING THESE KINDS OF PROMISES. WHAT'S GOING TO, WHICH WAY ARE YOU LEANING? ARE YOU ANGRY ENOUGH THAT YOU'RE GOING TO LEAN TOWARD CHANGE AND A NEW PERSON MAKING PROMISES EVEN IF THEY HAVEN'T BEEN IN OFFICE TO ESTABLISH A TRACK RECORD OR ARE YOU GOING TO STICK WITH THE PERSON YOU KNOW WHO'S MAYBE DONE OKAY BUT HAS BEEN THERE WHILE ALL THESE THINGS HAVE GONE BAD?

Could you name those people?

MODERATOR—WE'LL GET INTO THAT IN A SECOND. I DO WANT TO TALK ABOUT THE SPECIFIC ELECTION, BUT JUST THE GENERIC IDEA.

I honestly think that I am going to be going back and forth up until the election. You know, quite often as this point in time they're already starting to do their runs and stuff and I have a pretty good idea like who I'm going for. I'm kind of blank right now who I want to vote for.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

I would say the same thing. I mean, I really, I still think there's enough time ahead of us to see what comes out with the candidates and I'm not convinced of either at this point.

MODERATOR—IN THE TIME WE HAVE REMAINING, I WANT TO TALK ABOUT SPECIFICS, SPECIFIC RACE FOR CONGRESS. ALL OF YOU GUYS LIVE IN DELAWARE COUNTY AREA AND ARE IN PENNSYLVANIA'S 7TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT. CURT WELDON IS THE CONGRESSMAN, JOE SESTAK, THE NAME THAT I SAID EARLIER THAT NOBODY KNEW, IS THE GUY RUNNING AGAINST CURT WELDON.

Oh, that sounds very promising.

MODERATOR—SO, HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THE RACE SO FAR? IT SOUNDS LIKE . . .

I got a flyer in the mail, but I haven't had a chance to look at it.

It's early.

I've seen the signs on the front yard, but I haven't seen anything yet.

Really?

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO NO TELEVISION ADS OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT?

It doesn't really get crazy until the Fall because they don't want to overdo it.

Overspend really.

And overdo it by promising . . .

(Many talking at once.)

. . . campaign headquarters in Springfield, I think it is.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO WHAT I'VE DONE IS I'VE GOT TWO NEWSPAPER ARTICLES WHICH IS THE WAY A LOT OF PEOPLE GET INFORMATION ABOUT THE ELECTION. SO I GRABBED ONE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE FROM DELAWARE COUNTY TIMES ABOUT WELDON AND ABOUT HIS REELECTION CAMPAIGN AND THEN ONE FROM A NEWSPAPER CALLED THE HILL ABOUT JOE SESTAK AND ABOUT HIS CAMPAIGN. SO, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU A FEW MINUTES TO READ THEM. THERE'S COPIES OF EACH ARTICLE IN THERE. TO READ THEM AND JUST KIND OF GIVE EVERYBODY A BASE OF INFORMATION ABOUT THE RACE AND ABOUT THE TWO CANDIDATES AND THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT AND SEE WHAT YOUR IMPRESSIONS ARE. KIND OF MOVE FROM THE GENERIC IDEAS TO . . . SO TAKE SOME TIME. READ EACH OF THE ARTICLES TO GIVE YOU SOME INFORMATION AND THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT YOUR IMPRESSIONS.

Dirty, rotten Curt Weldon?

What did you say?

Dirty, rotten Curt Weldon.

MODERATOR—EVERYBODY READ IT.

Tell us how you really feel.

He's such a low life. Sestak, I'm in love already with Sestak. He's my man.

MODERATOR—HOLD ON, LET EVERYBODY READ IT AND THEN WE'LL GO FROM THERE. IF YOU'RE STILL READING, FINISH UP. BUT IF YOU'RE DONE, TELL ME WHAT ARE YOUR GENERAL IMPRESSIONS HERE. WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU IN WHAT YOU READ?

I thought Weldon's was a little negative.

MODERATOR—A LITTLE NEGATIVE? HOW SO?

In regard to (inaudible)

MODERATOR—OH, OKAY, WELDON WAS A LITTLE NEGATIVE TOWARD HIS OPPONENT? IS THAT WHAT YOU MEAN?

A little?

A little?

I would like to say one thing. I wonder how these politicians who say the same things over and over and they get their pocket, their money in somebody's pocket, how they have escaped, what's the word, assassination? It's amazing. Like Bush.

MODERATOR—OKAY, LET'S TAKE IT ONE AT A TIME. WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT CURT WELDON HERE THAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE? I MEAN, WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT HIM AND ABOUT HIS CAMPAIGN AND WHY HE'S RUNNING AND WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR HIM?

Are you talking about Weldon?

MODERATOR—YEAH.

I think he's arrogant. How dare we say that that guy's daughter should be treated? Can you imagine?

No, right. And the other guy's just appealing towards, you know, getting the sympathy thing going with the daughter but how dare you? I would take my daughter to the moon if I had to. No politics.

Right, I couldn't imagine.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER THINGS YOU LEARNED ABOUT CURT WELDON?

Dirty.

He's so dirty.

And he cares about the polls and he cares about what his people are telling him to do or say vs. and in here, I heard our polls say this or the people say that vs. you know, I mean, and of course what I think Iris (inaudible) to, he's arrogant as all get out from what I see in just this article. And what he's going to do, I don't know. I mean, you know, it tells us what he did.

MODERATOR—WHAT'S THE BEST REASON TO VOTE FOR CURT WELDON IN THIS ELECTION?

Job security.

If you work at Boeing.

That's about the only thing I would say, job security.

If you like to build airplanes, you should vote for him.

Or be in a fire department.

Yeah, if you want to put out fires.

My reason is not in the article and it's based on his past record and it's his environmental record. That would be why I would vote for him.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

His environmental record.

Oh.

He's a very strong environmentalist.

Because it gets him votes probably.
Right.

It's not really because of the environment. It seems like that kind of, he knows how to play the game, the politic game.

Sure he does.

That's what I'm reading anyway.

Dirt bag.

MODERATOR—ONE OF THE GREAT PHENOMENON OF PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES TOWARD GOVERNMENT IS EVERYBODY THINKS THAT CONGRESS STINKS, BUT EVERYBODY LOVES THEIR CONGRESSPERSON. YOU KNOW, 30 PERCENT OF PEOPLE APPROVE OF THE JOB CONGRESS IS DOING, BUT LIKE 70 PERCENT OF PEOPLE APPROVE OF THE JOB THEIR MEMBER OF CONGRESS IS DOING. DO YOU THINK CURT WELDON IS PART OF THE PROBLEM IN WASHINGTON OR DO YOU THINK THAT HE'S DIFFERENT AND THAT HE'S NOT PART OF WHAT EVERYBODY WE DISLIKED?

No, he's typical. I mean, I think to go into politics, you have to be pretty arrogant to begin with. I mean, that's part of your make-up. I don't think he's really any different than anybody else.

MODERATOR—OKAY, HOW ABOUT JOE SESTAK? WHAT DID YOU, WHAT'S YOUR IMPRESSION OF HIM OR WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT HIM FROM THIS?

Nothing. He has a sick daughter, but it doesn't tell me anything about his politics.

(Inaudible) to vote for him.

It seems like the good old boys didn't like him. They're saying that he had poor command, but I think it's probably because he went against the grain. You had to really look into it. He ruffled feathers.

He probably ruffled feathers somewhere.

That might be a good thing.

Well, I wouldn't make a decision based on this.

MODERATOR—RIGHT, NO.

Not just from this.

MODERATOR—THERE JUST HAVEN'T BEEN MANY ARTICLES. THIS IS THE ONLY ONE I COULD FIND. I WOULD'VE PREFERRED TO PULL SOMETHING LOCAL, BUT I COULDN'T FIND ANYTHING. YOU HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT HIM YET, SO AND OBVIOUSLY THERE'LL BE MORE ARTICLES AND MORE INFORMATION COMING OUT IN THE CAMPAIGN. I'M JUST TRYING TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE BIT OF A FOUNDATION AND SEE WHAT YOUR FIRST REACTIONS ARE.

Well, they totally grab you at the beginning and at the end with the human interest part of it. I mean, then you kind of get lost in the middle to see what the end's going to be. I don't know. That appealed to me was this rough (inaudible) from beginning to end.

Just two different articles.

It's freezing in here.

MODERATOR—YEAH, SORRY, SORRY. WE'LL BE OUT OF HERE IN A SECOND. OTHER IMPRESSIONS OF SESTAK? DOUBTS THAT YOU HAVE ABOUT HIM BASED ON THIS?

I don't know anything about him.

We should, he's from Pennsylvania.

He was in the Navy, that's important.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO WE KNOW HE WAS IN THE NAVY AND WE KNOW THAT HE HAD A SICK DAUGHTER. AND MAYBE RUFFLED SOME FEATHERS.

(Many talking at once.)

Definitely ruffled some feathers.

(Inaudible) in Virginia. So, if you live in Virginia, why do you run in Pennsylvania?

Well, isn't he down there because of his sick daughter?

I don't think he's still there.

No, he lives down there.

I think he can live wherever he wants.

But then how can you represent a state you don't live in?

Well, he's going to buy a house here. That's what it says.

Well, Hillary did the same thing.

(Many talking at once.)

(Inaudible) Curt Weldon out, that's the main thing. That's my opinion and I'm very opinionated.

I like the fact that he says nobody, he doesn't ask anybody to work harder than himself. That sounds good to me.

MODERATOR—OKAY. ALL RIGHT, SO YOU'VE LEARNED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE CANDIDATES WHO YOU'LL BE VOTING FOR FOR CONGRESS NEXT YEAR AND THEN FOR THE HOWEVER MANY MINUTES WE'VE BEEN HERE BEFORE THAT, WE TALKED ABOUT THE ISSUES OF THE COUNTRY AND THE DIFFERENT DYNAMICS OF THE CAMPAIGN AND WHERE THE PARTIES ARE AND IRAQ AND ALL THESE DIFFERENT THINGS. SO, THINKING ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT WE'VE TALKED ABOUT TONIGHT, FLIP TO THE LAST PAGE, HANDOUT 10, AND IF YOU WERE GOING TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THESE TWO CANDIDATES RUNNING FOR CONGRESS IN YOUR DISTRICT, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO SAY TO THEM? WHATEVER IT IS THAT YOU WANT TO TELL THEM, WHATEVER IT IS THAT YOU WANT TO ASK THEM, A MESSAGE YOU WANT TO SEND, QUESTIONS YOU WANT TO HAVE ANSWERED, WHATEVER IT IS THAT'S ON YOUR MIND, WRITE IT DOWN AND LET US KNOW WHAT YOU WOULD SAY TO THEM AS A VOTER AND THEY'RE TRYING TO GET YOUR VOTE.

One letter to both of them?

MODERATOR—SURE, YEAH. YOU CAN WRITE TO BOTH OF THEM IF YOU WANT, WHATEVER. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE DEAR ANYONE. I HAD ASKED THEM NOT TO PUT THAT THERE, THEY PUT IT.

You said that too late.

MODERATOR—IF YOU'RE STILL WRITING, PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME. A FEW THINGS, HOUSEKEEPING THINGS THOUGH BEFORE I LET YOU GO. FIRST OF ALL, PLEASE LEAVE ALL OF YOUR PAPERS, THE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, WHAT YOU FILLED OUT BECAUSE I DO WANT TO READ ALL THOSE AND COLLECT THOSE AND I'M GOING TO NEED THOSE LATER. YOU CAN ALSO LEAVE ALL YOUR . . .

(End of Session)