

Democracy Corps Transcript

Name: Group 3
Company: --
Group Specs: Mixed Seniors, 64-84, mixed education, financial situation 2-3, weak partisans, recruited from OH CD 1, Cincinnati, OH
Date: June 29, 2006
Time: 3:30 PM

MODERATOR--ANY QUESTIONS FOR ME BEFORE WE GET STARTED?

What is your name?

MODERATOR--OH, YEAH, I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T GET A NAME TAG. MY NAME IS CARL. ACTUALLY, BEFORE WE GET STARTED, WE'LL GO AROUND THE TABLE REAL QUICK AND INTRODUCE OURSELVES. TELL US YOUR NAME, FIRST NAMES ARE FINE, WHERE YOU LIVE, FAMILY, HOBBIES, WHATEVER YOU WANT TO TELL US IN 20 SECONDS OR LESS. THEN WE CAN ALL GET STARTED. MY NAME IS CARL, AS I SAID. I LIVE IN WILMINGTON, DELAWARE AND TRAVEL AROUND THE COUNTRY DOING THIS. NOT ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT THIS KIND OF STUFF, USUALLY AS MOST OF YOU WHO HAVE DONE THIS BEFORE KNOW, TALKING ABOUT PRODUCTS, CONSUMER PRODUCTS, STUFF LIKE THAT. BUT TODAY THIS IS WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. I'M MARRIED AND I HAVE THREE GIRLS, SIX, THREE AND ONE. AND I SPEND MOST OF MY TIME CHASING MY KIDS AROUND. I COACH MY DAUGHTER'S SOCCER TEAM AND PLAY A LITTLE BIT OF VOLLEYBALL WHEN I CAN WHICH I USED TO DO A LOT MORE OF. THAT'S ABOUT IT FOR ME.

My name is Al. I'm a retired truck driver and I love it. I live in Cowain Township for the last 42 years, married for 42, 44, somewhere in there. Have three grown children and I've got grandchildren, and I've got a great grandchild on the way. And I'm a pretty happy person. Next?

MODERATOR--SOUNDS GOOD.

My name's Bruce. I live in Wyatt Oak. Married, I've got four married children, untold number of grandchildren.

MODERATOR--LOST TRACK?

Lost track. One great grandchild. Retired. Mostly interested in outdoor, hunting, fishing, that's about it.

My name is Charlie from Upper Sharonville. Three married kids, six grandchildren. Retired, I think. My wife don't think I'm retired. She has plenty of jobs and I have lots of things to do during the day.

MODERATOR—GLAD WE COULD GET YOU AWAY FROM IT FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS.

Yeah, thank you. Thank you, thank you.

I'm Doris. Married, been married for I think like 47 years. Have three children and five grandchildren from six months to 21. Retired from a bank, I was a bank branch manager. I don't know if any of you remember Ameritrust, but it was sold to Society and then sold to Key Bank and when they sold, they had an early retirement program and I took advantage of it. And now I do a lot of outside stuff and swimming and walking and we go to Florida for some time in the winter. And that's about it. Oh, I live in Westchester. We were supposed to tell that.

My name's Ed. And I also live in Westchester. And I've been retired for about 10 years and we've been married for, my wife and I, we've been married for 49 years. And we have five children, they're all married and I've got somewhere around 18 grandchildren. And first day after I retired, we moved into a condo and I painted the whole thing, two bedrooms, two bathrooms, livingroom, diningroom. I said, there's got to be something else. So, I went and worked at the airport for, oh, about six months and I was on security over there. And I said, that's too far to drive. So they opened a hardware store up in Westchester and I went right there and got a job there and it keeps me four hours a day, five hours a day and it's nice to keep out. I meet a lot of nice people.

MODERATOR—GOOD.

I'm Frank. Live in Cincinnati. Been married 40 years. Two married sons, a grandson 16 months old. Semi-retired, I still work four days a week, about six hours a day. Not ready to hang it up yet. Not ready to quit and do nothing. I might cut back. My wife is thinking about retiring or semi-retiring next February and I might cut back more then, but I'm not ready to retire totally. So I'm happy with things the way they are.

I'm Gail. I've been married for 47 years. I have three grown daughters, eight grandchildren and I clean houses with one of my daughters every morning. I square dance. I sing in the church choir. I like to read and sew. And I live in Mt. Airie.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

My name's Holly. I'm retired, two sons, four grandchildren, one girl, three boys. As far as hobbies, I like to dance and play golf. I like to do some volunteer work.

I'm Ivan. My wife and I have been married 43 years. We have three children, seven grandchildren, two of the seven are Chinese adoptees. I've been retired for four years. My wife and I both do a lot of volunteer work. That's about it.

MODERATOR—GOOD. THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING OUT. I WANT TO START OUR CONVERSATION REAL BROAD 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 THIS COUNTRY'S HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION OR IN THE WRONG DIRECTION RIGHT NOW?

With what? Regard to what?

MODERATOR—WHATEVER'S MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU, LIKE I SAID. REAL OPEN-ENDED AT THIS POINT.

I think we're going in the wrong direction. We're focused on one thing only and running up tremendous debts and not really facing the real problems we have of environmental, oil, education. I think we're just going in the wrong direction.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

I would agree with you 100 percent.

America will survive though. It always has and always will. It goes through these things every time, every time. The Depression was here, it's gone. The oil crisis, somebody's got soybean oil, every gallon of soybean oil you buy, you won't buy a gallon of gasoline. So that's going to cut the demand down. America will survive. We're too well-organized.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK, RIGHT DIRECTION OR WRONG DIRECTION?

Morally wrong.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY MORALLY?

Well, I just, you know, I look at all of our elected officials and stuff like that and I know they're human and this and that, but I want somebody I can look up to.

I'm worried about the deficit. I think some days, sooner or later, somebody's going to have to pay the piper.

That's for sure.

(Inaudible) being able to ever pay it, I think.

Yeah, I'm a little bit concerned about the future for my sons and their wives and my grandson. I think we're leaving them a bad legacy. And I think somebody's going to have to pay, somewhere down the line it's going to have to be paid.

MODERATOR—WHAT ELSE?

I think we've lost control because illegal don't seem to be illegal. They find a way, they want to make a way to make it legal and then the shootings in Cincinnati every day, we've lost control over everything. And it seems like we're always making excuses rather than fixing it. Or it's because of this and it's because of that and all. Fix the because.

There's no if you do the crime, you pay the time.

No, there's none of that. You know, someone does a nonviolent item, he'll go to, they will go to prison for 15 years and somebody will shoot somebody and kill them and they go to prison for 7 years. Don't make sense to me. You're better off shooting somebody than you are just beating them up.

MODERATOR—OKAY, I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

I don't recommend either one.

You'll be the one they make the example out of.

Yeah, you or I do this and we don't pay Social Security or do something like that, we go to jail. Other people don't pay Social Security, oh that's okay. We'll just take your name and let you go. I don't understand why we don't fix them rather than finding ways to say it's okay.

MODERATOR—WHAT ELSE?

I'm concerned with the security, the national security. People are more concerned with their privacy rights than protecting us from another terror attack. As we saw last week, they don't want any wiretapping of suspected terrorists. They don't want anybody looking at their bank and money transfers. And I think that's terrible.

And that's because you've got a lot of crooked people doing that stuff, see. And they go past their boundary of what they should do and that's what makes it bad for everybody else but you're always going to have them crooks. They've always been here. There's a new one born every day. You're always going to have it. You've always got problems. Even when things change, you're going to have more problems.

So, America will survive.

Well, I've listened to all the comments and of course, I read the paper and all of that just sounds awful, the headlines and everything. But yet I, my own individual life and it's because of things that are here that I'm very grateful. The health system, I mean, I'm on Medicare now and I just think it's, you know, we have medicine here. You know, we have clean water and our son was in the military, he went to Miami on a ROTC scholarship, don't know if you're familiar with that, but he had to serve in the military after he got out, and he was in for six years and he commented to us, he said I never come back from being, and he was in the Persian Gulf, he was in South America, Europe and he said I never come back that I don't get off of the ship and go down and kiss the ground. I am so grateful to be an American. And sometimes you read in the headlines and you think, oh my goodness, it has to be terrible. We're just . . .

And we pull through every time, we pull through every time. I mean, you know, it's just that things look bad. We've got the best country going, but it needs improvement. It needs some new people in office and even those who come in, they'll turn sour and you get some new ones. You just keep, nothing stays the same.

But we need to address that.

I agree.

(Many talking at once.)

We do need to address the problems.

MODERATOR—OKAY. BRUCE, WHAT DO YOU THINK? I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU.

I agree with a lot of what's said. One of my concerns is I think they need to curb a lot of the health care costs. I think, I mean I just got a statement today from that. I mean, you can't, like an anesthesiologist's Frank was \$765. Okay? I mean, I don't have to pay any of this. I mean, the insurance company paid \$158 which I don't think is really very reasonable for the, for an anesthesiologist although I think the \$765 is way off the roof for what they did. And I think there has to be something done to curb the costs and bring it more into balance. I mean, someone that doesn't have medical insurance, they're going to have to pay that \$765. That's not right. And I think there has to be a lot done with health care charges. I think they're exorbitant.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHAT ELSE? WHAT'S YOUR FEELING ON THE ECONOMY IN THE COUNTRY RIGHT NOW? DO YOU THINK IT'S IN GOOD SHAPE, BAD SHAPE?

I think it's in good shape.

MODERATOR—YOU DO? WHY?

Well, I personally don't know anyone who's laid off or out of work. And usually there's somebody. The stock market has been pretty good. It's on a low right now, but the last two years it's been pretty good. And all the reports are good, all of the economic reports are good.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK ABOUT THE ECONOMY?

Stock market is recovering. Not back up to where it was, but it is recovering. And I think it's doing fairly well. It's just going to take a while for it to get back up where it was, but barring any unforeseen catastrophes, why, it should go back to where it was but you never know. It doesn't take much to upset it.

I really don't think it's going to go up to back to where it was because, I mean, you just figure General Motors, how many people have they got to get laid off? You're talking about 30,000 just to collect their benefits payouts and that's just one company. Then you pick Ford. What have they got? I mean, companies, they're going to be shutting down. It's scary.

But then there's a new one in Greensburg.

Yeah.

There's always somebody.

Bring in the foreign company and put Americans to work.

Well, I don't (inaudible) I mean, that's a bad deal but I know, you're . . .

You're going to be . . .

(Many talking at once.)

Mine says Ford and probably always will, but or Chevy or something like that. I don't like the foreign names either, but you know, half your Ford is built somewhere else. And Chevy is too.

Because they don't want to build them here.

Right, cheap labor. Cheap labor is what they want.

That's what they want.

MODERATOR—OKAY, IVAN KIND OF ELUDED EARLIER TO THE WAR. WE HAVEN'T REALLY TALKED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN IRAQ. WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS ON THAT?

I have trouble with Iraq. And, of course, our son was in the military. My father was in World War II, so I have, I have a real loyalty towards the military and I just, I want it over with. I want them home. I don't think we should cut and run, but I just don't like what's happening. There was an interesting article I read that compared Iraq to Viet Nam and Korea and World War II and the deaths that have occurred in those. I couldn't believe it until I read that. I mean, there haven't been that many deaths and not that any are any good, but I have trouble with Iraq.

I kind of feel like you do that now that we're over there, we can't just pull up our boots and leave. But I had a problem right from the start of us ever going in there. I mean, this is the first time I think this country has ever did a preemptive strike on another sovereign nation. I mean, there's worse people (inaudible) over there and why did we pick on Iraq? You know, why not Iran? Why not North Korea?

Maybe it was oil.

Well, I think it was.

That's what I'd like to know, what are we doing over there? It could be oil, that may be what it is. They used to have the Shah of Iran too and he, they got him. And they could be, oil could be it. That's the thing right there. Are we sending our family over to fight for oil? And they're sure giving us a break on it, on the other hand, are they?

Hm-hmm.

I think oil's the bottom line on our whole position over there.

I hope it isn't.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

Well, it's amazing that we go over there to fight for oil and we've got enough oil in Alaska to cover us, all we need. But we have a group, a small group, that's keeping us from drilling in Alaska, environmentalists. Supposedly an environmental problem. They've got the Alaskan pipeline up there and I think they've still got all the bears and caribou they need up there. So I don't understand why we get locked in to small groups.

Well, you said that Alaska could meet our supply needs in this country. I don't think that's true. I think what's left up in Alaska is a very small part of what we use on a daily basis.

Offshore, anywhere, we have capabilities of getting it somewhere else. In our country, in our capabilities.

I just think that we, you know, we haven't done anything about alternative fuels until the price gets up to where somebody does it on their own.

That's true with everything.

There's nobody that had a vision of this 20 years ago and was doing things about it.

I can remember 20, 30 years ago talking with, oil was \$2 a barrel.

I know, if we'd have spent money then at developing other forms of transportation, we'd be 20 years ahead of the game.

We always have spending money for something else. It's like he says, the only reason that GM and Ford are gone is because they got up so high, then the foreign cars came in and whipped them. They sold what people wanted rather than what Ford and (inaudible)

Quality.

Yeah, quality.

(Many talking at once.)

MODERATOR—OTHER THOUGHTS ON IRAQ?

Truth? Truth? Are we told the truth? Do we really know what's going on over there? Where we can really make a decision? See, we don't because we're here at the bottom, we don't know what's going on over there. We don't know what the truth is. We really don't. And that's one reason I don't jump to make a quick decision. I'm with her, you can't pull out of there now once that you're in there. But we lost I think 2,400 lives over there. So what are we doing there? What's the truth? Somebody knows what we're doing over there.

I've read and I've heard servicemen who were over there fighting who believe that we should be there and think that the people want us there and the people are grateful that we're there.

Now that we're there . . .

And their lives have changed for the better. And I think if we would've entered World War II earlier, we would've saved millions of lives of the Jews who were slaughtered.

Possibly, yeah, possibly but . . .

And maybe we learned a lesson there.

We say, the American (inaudible) we wouldn't have had to go in on a beach.

Yeah, right.

Sitting ducks on a beach. We could've gone in a lot better. Those things, all those, if you do something earlier, but what we do is we hold off until it gets to the point where it's just too much, then you go. In Iraq, we're there to finish the job. But the newspapers are killing everybody on the why we're there. I mean . . .

The media is terrible.

The media, I don't trust the media on anything they tell us.

It sells papers.

Yeah, but they're not . . .

I don't trust prosecutors because I think they've got a number to get.

And for years, they wouldn't let us in to check for the weapons.

Why didn't he just open the door?

Yeah.

Don't make sense to me.

We gave them 12 years of chances.

There's a reason for that. What is it?

You take weapons of mass destruction, it's a known fact that he used gas on the Kurds so I mean he had them.

It's a tough war now because they don't have uniforms.

MODERATOR—LET ME ASK ABOUT ONE OTHER ISSUE DORIS BROUGHT UP WHICH IS HEALTH CARE, IN PARTICULAR THE NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN FOR MEDICARE. WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS ON THAT?

It's wonderful.

I'm glad I've got it. I wonder how long it's going to last sometimes but I'm glad I have it.

It's great now.

It's got me worried. I haven't got there yet. I've got one more year before I can get there.

Mine stinks and I hope it's better and I hope it gets better by the time I get there. I know you guys maybe are already on it. I'm hoping it gets better before I get there because mine isn't good.

(Inaudible) but if you go the right way, it's great.

Unfortunately, there's been a lot of fraud. I just heard just today on the news how many billions that Medicare has been cheated out of by corruption.

Hard to believe that.

It's terrible. It's really a shame.

That's because it's so complicated.

That's it, yeah.

They're sending bills that are phony and everything.

They always did that though, didn't they? Didn't doctors always Frank for everything they could get? They always did.

I was just going to say that insurance that my wife and I have, they told us not to sign up for this new drug plan because what we're getting is better than what we would get through Medicare.

Yeah, that's right.

I have the same. But it sounds so confusing to me and I feel like I can read pretty well and I feel for the people who tried to figure it out. I mean, trying to figure it out was a major problem. I don't understand it. I don't understand why they put something in like that that's so complicated.

Well, we're in an HMO, a Medicare HMO, and they took care of it all and I'm sure the government is involved in that.

You're in an HMO that and you're with another company.

And it's great.

And they just accept the government, Medicare policy.

MODERATOR—LET'S DO SOMETHING A LITTLE DIFFERENT NOW. I WANT TO THROW OUT THE NAMES OF SOME PEOPLE, ORGANIZATIONS, STUFF LIKE THAT AND JUST

TELL ME THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND. I DON'T CARE IF IT'S RIDICULOUS. I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS. JUST KIND OF THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND. LET'S START WITH ONE EVERYBODY KNOWS. BOB TAFT.

Governor.

I'll be glad when he's gone.

He golfs too much.

One Taft too many.

Maybe he should golf more.

Nobody golfs too much.

I don't either, but I think he should golf more and not be in office.

(Many talking at once.)

He's messed up.

Oh, terrible.

He got caught. The rest of them didn't get caught, but he did.

MODERATOR—OKAY, HOW ABOUT TED STRICKLAND?

Possibly.

I agree with possibly. There are some things I don't, he looks like he does sway from issue to issue on a few things.

You can't trust a politician.

I know, well yeah.

First of all, you've got to start with that. You can't trust a politician. But yet he has a school plan. He claims he has a school plan. Pat Clancey said it's worse than the one we've got. I said, yes, but he has a plan.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK OF STRICKLAND? ANY SENSE OF HIM?

I don't know too much about him.

Me neither.

Neither do it. I don't know too much about him.

I think he's honorable.

Started out as a Democrat and switched over to Republican.

He's been fighting taxes for a long time, he really has. I've watched him.

Yeah, I appreciated that.

He started back when they put your state income tax on and the Democrats raised it to doubled it and tripled it. He got it cut back. I know for a fact he's, it looks good on mine but one or two things are holding him back on him.

MODERATOR—OKAY, ANY OTHER THINGS ON BLACKWELL? HOW ABOUT MIKE DEWINE? WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF HIM?

Taft's man.

One of (inaudible) people.

Don't care for him.

MODERATOR—OKAY, BASED ON ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR, BILL, OR?

No, I don't know. I just, somehow I think he, I don't know, he says one thing and does another I think sometimes. I just, somehow I don't quite trust the man.

I read in the paper this morning where the politicians went to these Indian casinos and how much they won at the Indian casinos. It had to be that they were affiliated with the, what's that guy's name up in Washington?

Hubert Hoffer?

Yeah, and he was associated with him and that. So, I really don't know. I wouldn't trust him.

MODERATOR—OKAY, ANYONE ELSE ON DEWINE?

I just read something the other day about him and I was trying, I didn't like it and I was trying, I can't think of what it was. It was totally opposite of what my thoughts were about it.

Puts on a good show. He puts on a good show.

MODERATOR—OKAY, HOW ABOUT SHERROD BROWN?

I don't really know very much about him.

I don't either.

Sherrod Brown? Isn't he up, didn't he have some problems? Didn't he get into some stuff here?

MODERATOR—I'M NOT SURE. ANYBODY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT HIM?

No.

MODERATOR—LET'S KEEP MOVING. HOW ABOUT STEVE CHABOT?

I like him.

MODERATOR—OKAY. HE'S NO, DORIS'S YES.

He ain't on our side.

I generally like him.

Puts on a good show.

MODERATOR—GENERALLY LIKE HIM, YOU SAID BRUCE?

Yeah.

MODERATOR—WHY DO YOU LIKE HIM, DORIS?

I like his conservative approach.

MODERATOR—OKAY, IN TERMS OF?

I guess mostly abortion.

MODERATOR—OKAY. ANYONE ELSE ON CHABOT?

I just knew him before, or I didn't know him, I knew somebody who had dealings with him before he got elected and they just told me he was a good person. I never heard or felt that I heard anything really bad about him.

Yeah, the point of him being a decent type of person.

I think he's a Bush follower. He just does what Bush tells him to do. I think that's what his main character is, you know. And the other guy, he says he's willing to go against big business, the oil business, and fight them where he's done nothing.

MODERATOR—OKAY. ANYTHING ELSE ON CHABOT? ANYTHING ELSE THAT COMES TO MIND? HOW ABOUT CHARLIE CRANLEY?

Yeah. Yeah, I'm for Charlie Cranley. That's the guy that's willing to speak out, which he has, and he's climbing the ladder fast.

MODERATOR—ANYBODY ELSE KNOW CHARLIE CRANLEY?

I don't know very much about him.

I know who he is, but I don't know very much about him though.

He's fairly new on the scene and young.

MODERATOR—OKAY, ANYTHING ELSE ON HIM?

The last six or seven years, remember the old man downtown? Can't think of him, he's always way out, the son was mayor just past. What's his name, the little skinny guy? Charlie Luken. The old man Luken, the old man, Tom works with Cranley. Him and Cranley works together and they're doing a good job.

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT, HOW ABOUT CONGRESS? WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF CONGRESS?

Corruption.

For sure.

Part-time work.

Full-time pay.

Yeah, really.

Freezer full of money.

Yeah, freezer full of money.

They don't get paid by the hour.

Can't get the minimum wage up, but they can get their own wages up.

Yeah.

And when they retire, they all get the same pay all the way through, right?

I don't know how that works. They get plenty.

They get their same pay.

More than they need.

They just, they're in it for the money, not for the country or you or me.

It could start out good, you never know. Give them a little break here. Maybe they start out good, you know.

They might start out good, but that's about it.

I don't like it when they pass laws and add these little tags on.

Yeah, all the pork on there.

I think that is so wrong. Something needs to change there.

That's for sure.

This might be (inaudible) they didn't pass a Frank for being a crime to burn the flag. Well, I mean, I don't agree with that at all. I mean, there is somebody that's only . . .

I don't either.

There's no reason why they couldn't pass it. I mean, the House did but I don't know why the Senate wouldn't.

They say it's because of First Amendment.

Well, I don't think Bush has exercised the veto power once yet in six years. But he has exercised another right many hundreds of times whenever he signs a Frank into law, he puts a little comment down the bottom that I don't have to follow this even though I'm signing it. Well, he's done that probably a hundred times more than any other president.

Is that instead of a veto?

Well, that's the reason he hasn't vetoed anything I believe. He's on his way out. Got one month.

I think Congressmen are in the pockets of lobbyists.

I agree with that.

I think lobbyist is nothing but a bribe organization. Why do we have lobbyists? They should have, the Congressmen are there to think and they're not thinking.

You know, I tend to think that Congress is a, they're all fairly, most of them, for the most part, are decent people. Some are bad apples, but I mean after all this is our legislative body.

Then when the lobbyists get a hold of them . . .

Yeah, but what if the lobbyists were on your side? What if you had a company . . .

I don't care.

I'm not saying it's right. I'm not saying, but it's the way it works. So you as a . . .

It shouldn't work that way.

And you hire a lobbyist to go to Columbus to do good on your black topping company, that's . . .

It wouldn't have to work that way though.

I know. But what else have we got better?

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT, LAST ONE I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS PRESIDENT BUSH AND I WANT TO HAVE YOU GUYS WRITE SOME THINGS DOWN BEFORE WE START.

Oh boy. Is this a test?

MODERATOR—OH YEAH, I'M GRADING YOU. SPELLING, GRAMMAR AND EVERYTHING. NOT REALLY. SO, RIGHT NOW, WE'RE ONLY GOING TO LOOK AT HANDOUTS 1 AND 2. I DON'T WANT YOU FLIPPING AHEAD. 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 ALL THE DOUBTS AND NOT SO GOOD THINGS THAT COME TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF PRESIDENT BUSH. AND AFTER YOU FILL THOSE BOTH OUT, WE'LL TALK ABOUT THEM.

These are good things?

MODERATOR—ON THE FIRST ONE.

How many do we have to have?

MODERATOR—AS MANY AS COME TO MIND. DOESN'T HAVE TO BE EXHAUSTIVE, JUST GET THE HIGHLIGHTS ON THERE. JUST DOING HANDOUTS 1 AND 2 RIGHT NOW. IF YOU'RE STILL WRITING, TAKE YOUR TIME. BUT IF YOU'RE DONE, FLIP BACK TO HANDOUT 1 AND TELL ME WHAT ARE THE GOOD THINGS THAT COME TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF PRESIDENT BUSH.

You want me to read mine?

MODERATOR—JUST GIVE US THE HIGHLIGHTS, YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ THEM ALL.

He has strong moral character. He's decisive. He's a strong leader in time of war. He's a pretty good foreign policy maker. He cut our taxes. And he's a good example for citizenry as a husband and father.

He gave me cash when he ran for office here a couple of years ago. Remember that \$650 check we got? That wasn't bad. He think he's fighting a good war. He thinks so. Makes America look strong as we are one of the superpowers. He makes us look strong.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER POSITIVES?

I have loyalty. He seems to have loyalty to the people he brings around. I think of people on his cabinet that he stayed loyal to. He's a good son. He's I think smarter than he appears. He hires good people and that's a sign of a good manager. I was pleased with the Hawaiian Island environmental program he just recently did. Picked the right wife, raised daughters that are a credit to him, one is a teacher to disadvantaged kids.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER POSITIVES?

I think he's done well on the Supreme Court and his appointees. I think his staff is a very good staff as in Condoleeza Rice.

MODERATOR—ANYTHING ELSE? OTHER POSITIVES?

I can't think of a thing.

MODERATOR—GO AHEAD, BRUCE.

I think he's done good as far as counteracting the 9/11 terrorist act. I think he's done good legislation towards that.

I think he's had some good intentions. I think he has some good moral values.

You could say he dresses nice.

Yeah, I could do that.

That counts.

MODERATOR—OKAY, FLIP TO HANDOUT 2. WHAT ARE THE DOUBTS YOU HAVE ABOUT HIM?

My main one is his ability to end the war.

I think that his policies are creating a bigger gulf between the have's and the have-not's in this country. It's getting bigger and bigger. His tax policies have pretty much helped the rich.

I think he's weak on the immigration laws.

Definitely.

Hear, hear. Illegal aliens running free for cheap labor. Cheap labor, that's what he wants.

I think he's kind of (inaudible) headed. I mean, I like him but I think, I'm not sure how much he listens to his advisors and stuff like that.

How about Bush is oil people so nothing will be done about the price of oil problems?

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHAT ELSE?

I just don't think he's a strong leader. He doesn't have any vision about the future.

I think he's increased spending more than he promised.

Don't you think the war did that though?

Well, yeah, that's true.

We're going to pay for this war.

Yeah.

The armor they didn't get on their vehicles, remember?

I think he comes across as being very brisk sometimes or calloused. He doesn't seem to be as feeling as some of them were in the past. I don't get that warm and fuzzy feeling from him.

I do.

I do from Laura, but not from him.

I think the war is one thing I have doubts about and then the economy. I still think a lot of people, too many people is actually out of work and not just . . .

I don't know anybody that's out that wants to work.

Well, that's just in this area.

The whole country's a big place. What's good here might be bad there.

Yeah, you figure the whole country.

But the numbers are way down.

They manipulate the numbers too, you know.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER DOUBTS ABOUT BUSH?

I think he responds slow. As in New Orleans, the armor. A problem is clear but he does not respond to it fast enough.

I think he responded pretty fast to the attack on the Twin Towers. That was a major thing.

I believe the Governor of New York pushed that more than he did.

I don't know.

Not that he was the guiding light on all that. That guy's good.

How about Frank Clinton should've had a closer eye?

Pardon me?

How about Frank Clinton should've had a closer eye on the Twin Towers before he got there?

Frank Clinton had his eyes on something else.

That's true.

Maybe 4,000 lives would've been . . .

MODERATOR—I WANT TO GET OUT OF THE FRANK CLINTON . . . BUT LET'S TALK ABOUT THE ELECTIONS THAT ARE COMING UP. WE TALKED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT ALL THE DIFFERENT FOLKS HERE IN OHIO WHO ARE GOING TO BE ON THE BALLOT THIS YEAR. AT THE BEGINNING, WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT WHAT WAS GOING ON IN THE COUNTRY, I HEARD A LOT OF THINGS ABOUT HOW THE COUNTRY'S GOING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION AND A LOT OF CONCERNS ABOUT ALL THE DIFFERENT THINGS GOING ON. HOW DO ALL THOSE CONCERNS EFFECT YOUR LIKELIHOOD OF VOTING? DO THEY MAKE YOU MORE MOTIVATED TO GO, LESS LIKELY? HOW DO THEY INFLUENCE WHETHER OR NOT YOU GO TO THE POLLS AND WHETHER OR NOT YOU VOTE?

I was raised to vote no matter what. You go and vote. It's your duty.

I haven't missed an election since I was 18 years old. So I'm going no matter what.

And I've tried to inflict that on my children. You know, you are a citizen and you have a responsibly to vote.

I vote no matter what, but sometimes I wonder if it does any good.

MODERATOR—THAT'S KIND OF WHAT I'M GETTING AT. I DON'T KNOW IF FOR YOU PERSONALLY, DO YOU SENSE THAT THE PEOPLE ARE MAYBE MORE APATHETIC, MORE CYNICAL, LIKE IT DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Yeah.

MODERATOR—YOU GUYS SAID THEY'RE ALL CORRUPT, IT'S A CORRUPT SYSTEM. IT DOESN'T MATTER.

I kind of sense that sometimes.

I would say cynical.

There's always hope.

There's always hope and you have to get rid of the bad guys that are in there.

Yeah, but they turn bad once they get in.

Well then get some more new ones in.

(Many talking at once.)

That's the way it is.

I've always felt that the, it doesn't do the country any good when both the president and the legislation are controlled by one party. And I'll say that whether it's a Democrat or a Republican. I think when you have split between the two, it's better for the country.

But then they never seem to get anything done. I mean, you know, sure I agree with you if it's an ideal situation but they seem like they're more interested in fighting each other than doing the job.

They want credit for what they get done and good (inaudible) they both want all the credit for it.

That's where they're not representing us. They're doing their own thing.

MODERATOR—SO, DO YOU THINK THAT THE MOOD THAT'S OUT THERE IN THE COUNTRY, PEOPLE ARE CLEARLY PRETTY NEGATIVE ABOUT THE DIRECTION OF THE COUNTRY, DO YOU THINK IT'S MAKING THEM ANGRY AND WANT TO GO VOTE OR DO YOU THINK IT'S KIND OF APATHY AND CYNICISM AND LESS LIKELY TO DO SOMETHING?

I think it can go either way. It's according to the people.

I think it will make people go out and vote because it's going to be up to them or whoever they want in. If they think it's somebody different that can run it better, then they're going to talk to them to get them in.

You know what? I work at the polls and you make them mad, they'll show up. They will. You make them mad, they'll be there.

MODERATOR—THAT'S WHAT I'M ASKING. ARE THEY MAD OR ARE THEY JUST CYNICAL?

Some of them are. I think some of the, the presidential election, they're always an amount of people there. I mean, it's just . . .

That's a major one though.

MODERATOR—RIGHT, THIS ISN'T A PRESIDENTIAL, THIS IS JUST CONGRESS.

Even small, you make them mad, they show up. Big turn outs.

MODERATOR—IN THE ELECTION THAT'S COMING UP FOR CONGRESS, WHAT IS THIS ELECTION ABOUT FOR YOU? WHAT'S GOING TO HELP DETERMINE YOUR VOTE, WHICH CANDIDATES YOU DECIDE TO SUPPORT? WHAT ARE THE ISSUES OR WHAT ARE THE FACTORS THAT ARE GOING TO BE MOST IMPORTANT FOR YOU PERSONALLY?

Immigration, that's a big one. The war policy.
Taxes, because I understand they're going to really soar.

MODERATOR—TAXES YOU THINK ARE GOING TO GO UP?

That's what all the columnists are saying. To pay for these wars and everything. How else are you going to do it?

How about the crookedness that was in office the last few years?

MODERATOR—WHAT ELSE? WHAT OTHER FACTORS ARE GOING TO BE IMPORTANT FOR YOU GUYS?

The economy. And security of the country. I think, to me, that would be the best, the biggest indication.

MODERATOR—WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ON THOSE FACTORS? WHAT IS IT THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

Well, it's up to the individual and who I'm going to be voting for. What's their policy on it? That's what you're going to have to go for. I mean, you're not going to be just saying well, he's been in there and these guys have been in here for so long, they know what they're doing and all. It's not the way to go. It's, what's he going to do for us, what are they going to do for the country. To me, that's where I think it should go.

MODERATOR—WHO ELSE? WHAT OTHER ISSUES ARE GOING TO BE IMPORTANT FOR YOU? OR IF IT'S THE SAME ISSUES WE'VE ALREADY HEARD, TELL ME THAT TOO.

Yeah, I think the same issues but also I would like to know about their character as much as you can, as honest as they would be with you.

(Inaudible) a year sometimes.

MODERATOR—THAT'S WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY. HOW DO YOU DETERMINE THAT? YOU'RE LOOKING FOR INTEGRITY, YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HONESTY, YOU'RE LOOKING FOR THOSE KINDS OF THINGS. BUT HOW DO YOU . . .

Well, past history, past history.

Yes, past history.

What have they done? How have they operated? How have they voted on issues? What is their personal life like?

Yeah, but that's what I said, sometimes like Thomas Jefferson and stuff like that, it comes out hundreds of years later. You know, I don't know. There's no, I'm sorry.

Well, women have been in there screwing things up too. They have. How about the lady that called the guy a wimp? That was a good one.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER THINGS YOU'RE GOING TO BE LOOKING FOR? HOW IMPORTANT IS THE WAR GOING TO BE IN DETERMINING YOUR VOTE?

Well, I think it's very important because if, with past history, if they change their, if they say something and change their word, I mean, wishy-washy back and forth. I'd like for them to stand up and say here's what I believe and here's what I feel.

And here's what I voted.

Yeah, and here's what I voted. Most of those guys get up there and they, by the time they answer the question, you don't know whether they feel one way or another. It's just, don't give me a political answer, give me an answer that you really feel. I mean, they're afraid to give the answer because they want both sides to vote for them. So, you're not always going to have both sides vote for you. Just give me the right answer.

I think the war's winding down. I think it's, I think it's winding down.

I don't think so.

I think it is. I think it is winding down.

I hope so.

I think it's hard to . . .

It's starting to wind down. In a couple of years, I think . . .

MODERATOR—SO, YOU LOOK AT HOW THEY VOTED, THAT'S OBVIOUSLY A BIG THING FOR YOU AND THAT APPLIES TO PEOPLE WHO ARE IN OFFICE. BUT HOW ABOUT THE OTHER HALF OF THE EQUATION, THE PERSON WHO'S RUNNING AGAINST THEM, WHERE DO YOU LOOK?

Well, he did something before he got where he's at.

They have to bring a history.

We've got news on him somewhere.

I'm going to be looking for candidates' positions on environmental issues. I think that's extremely important in the near future. Positions on oil, education. People want a vision of the future.

Global warming.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN HEARING SO FAR FROM THE CANDIDATES HERE IN OHIO, WHETHER IT'S FOR CONGRESS OR FOR THE SENATE? HAVE YOU BEEN HEARING ANYTHING FROM THEM YET?

I haven't heard much of anything.

Not too much of anything.

No, not much. There really isn't.

MODERATOR—IT'S ONLY ABOUT FOUR MONTHS AWAY NOW.

Yeah, Blackwell has been in the news.

MODERATOR—RIGHT, THAT'S FOR GOVERNOR.

That's state.

Oh, okay.

MODERATOR—SO YOU'RE HEARING SOME STUFF ON THE GOVERNOR'S FRONT, BUT HOW ABOUT SENATE AND CONGRESS? ANYTHING?

I've heard on Cranley, he's going to fight the big man. He's already wanting the oil people, Cranley and Chabot. Cranley has my vote. Chabot doesn't do nothing for me.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

That's what I'm going on. What he has done in the last six years.

MODERATOR—OKAY. IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN HEARING ANYTHING FROM INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATES, HOW ABOUT FROM THE PARTIES IN WASHINGTON? WHAT ARE REPUBLICANS TALKING ABOUT? WHY ARE THEY TELLING YOU THAT YOU SHOULD VOTE REPUBLICAN THIS YEAR?

Well, I think Republicans, it seems to be terrorism, to keep safe, safety seems to be the issue with the Republicans. Security and safety.

And keeping taxes down. So they say.

Yeah, so they say. The Democrats need to come up with, I wish they had a plan, a program and it doesn't seem like they do. It's just, you know, if the Republicans say something, then they're the other side. They need, remember like when they had the Contract with America? The Democrats need to come up with something like that. Some kind of a program where they can say it's point, point, point, point.

They won't do that unless, they'll give you the political answer. That's the problem.

MODERATOR—BEFORE WE GET TO THE DEMOCRATS, ON THE REPUBLICANS, YOU SAID TERRORISM AND TAXES. ANY OTHER REASONS THAT THEY'RE OFFERING FOR WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE REPUBLICAN THIS YEAR?

Well, I think they're going to take a position of attack, attack, attack. That's going to be their position. Anything a Democrat says or anything the New York Times says, it's going to be attack it. And I think that's Carl Rove's mission.

I do think you're right about the media. They will probably go after the media with things that have happened with Dan Rather and the New York Times.

I mean, that's basically been successful for the Republicans in the last couple of elections. That's all they've done is attack, attack, attack.

Yeah, I think you're right.

MODERATOR—SO THEY'RE MAKING THE CASE ON TERRORISM AND TAXES. IS THAT A COMPELLING REASON? WHAT YOU'RE HEARING NOW, IS THAT A COMPELLING REASON TO VOTE REPUBLICAN?

Well, their Social Security plan on the Medicare, that was Republican.

MODERATOR—OKAY. ARE THOSE COMPELLING REASONS TO VOTE REPUBLICAN?

Well, the security, national security is.

Yeah, security is a major issue.

MODERATOR—DO YOU FEEL, I MEAN ANYBODY CAN SAY IT, BUT DO YOU FEEL THAT IT'S BELIEVABLE? DO YOU FEEL THAT WE'RE SAFER, THAT THEY'RE DOING THE JOB PROTECTING US FROM TERRORISM?

I think they have been.

I mean, I just don't think it's by accident there haven't been any terrorist attacks on our soil.

We expected there to be.

Yeah, and they might come but when you look at Madrid and you look at London and all around the world, Indonesia, Canada, I mean, yes safety has been pretty good.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK? IS IT A COMPELLING REASON TO VOTE REPUBLICAN OR NOT?

Some are most likely afraid to vote any other way because you don't want it to happen. You think that if I voted Democrat, then you relax and bingo. It's almost a scare tactic.

MODERATOR—DO YOU BELIEVE THAT? DO YOU THINK THAT IF DEMOCRATS WERE IN CHARGE OF CONGRESS THAT THEY WILL BE LAX ABOUT SECURITY, THAT WE'LL BE LESS SAFE?

No.

Not necessarily.

I do.

I don't, but . . .

Well, if you look at reality, there was like, what, a 10-year period between the first attack on this country and the Twin Towers? Wasn't that 10 years ago when they set a bomb off?

In the parking garage.

The parking garage, yeah.

(Many talking at once.)

Somebody wasn't watching.

You know, and I would certainly hope that all the money we're spending on this is working. But I don't think you can automatically say that it is because it was, you know, it's not something that the terrorists were doing in this country every year or every couple of months or something. I think we could have a major attack right now. I don't think it would be a big problem for a terrorist.

I don't believe that the Republicans per se are the ones that'll stop us from being attacked until they close the borders. I mean, a terrorist can climb the wall and he's in. And I don't understand why they don't, it don't make sense to me. Illegal is illegal and why, and you show that picture every day of them climbing the walls.

That's cheap labor coming in for the south. They're looking at the ones coming into the north. New York, coming in from New York and New Jersey. That's where the bad guys come, the terrorists come that way.

A lot of the terrorists, you saw the picture, climbing over the fence. I would climb a fence. I mean . . .

Well, Bush would probably let you in then if you come that way.

MODERATOR—LET ME ASK THIS. WITH ALL THE NEGATIVE YOU GUYS HAVE SAID ABOUT CONGRESS AND ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN WASHINGTON, REPUBLICANS CONTROL THE WHITE HOUSE, REPUBLICANS CONTROL THE SENATE, REPUBLICANS CONTROL THE HOUSE. IF REPUBLICANS MAINTAIN CONTROL IN CONGRESS, DO YOU FEEL THAT ANYTHING'S GOING TO CHANGE?

If they maintain control?

MODERATOR—IF THEY MAINTAIN CONTROL.

No. It won't.

It'll stay the same.

Are you saying then we would continue to be safe? I mean, if we were safe . . .

MODERATOR—I'M TALKING ABOUT ALL THE COMPLAINTS THAT YOU SAID ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT'S GOING ON.

Oh, I see.

I guess there's a point that we don't feel that the Democrats would do any better.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

It isn't the Republicans are going to keep it. It's just that nobody's doing anything.

MODERATOR—THAT WAS THE FLIP SIDE OF THE QUESTION. WILL THINGS CHANGE IF DEMOCRATS, THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE ARE BOTH THIS YEAR HERE IN OHIO AND IN SEVERAL OTHER STATES, AND THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THE DEMOCRATS COULD TAKE BACK THE HOUSE OR THE SENATE OR BOTH. IF THEY DO THAT, HOW WOULD THIS COUNTRY BE DIFFERENT? HOW DO YOU THINK THINGS WOULD BE DIFFERENT IN THIS COUNTRY IF DEMOCRATS TAKE CONTROL OF THIS?

They'll just fight more among themselves.

You see, you start out with Republicans are supposedly keeping us safe, yet the Democrats won't let them, hollers and screams every time that they find someone tapping a phone or someone doing this and to me, that's helping keep us safe. So I don't understand who's running the ship.

That scares me.

I mean, it looks to me like the fox is running the hen house and that's the guy in Mexico. He's, they're coming over the fence in droves. I mean, how many years does it take us just to get the National Guard down there to do something and they're not stopping, they're not stopping anybody. They just go to the next . . .

Cheap labor. He wants the people over here.

MODERATOR—SO, WHAT'S THE CASE THAT THE DEMOCRATS MAKE? WE TALKED ABOUT WHAT THE REPUBLICANS WERE SAYING WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR THEM. WHY ARE DEMOCRATS SAYING YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR THEM?

They haven't said anything yet. There's no program. There's no . . .

They'll end the war.

They think they're going to. Well, they say they're going to end the war.

You know, this is heavy Republican area right here. Are you, we don't hear a lot of Democrat stuff. That's probably what it is.

But I voted for some Democrats.

But you take Cleveland and that's, the Democrat up there and maybe, New England, that's Democrat. We're Republican down here. I guess we get more Republican news. We don't know what the Democrats are doing.

MODERATOR—OKAY, ANYBODY ELSE HEAR WHAT DEMOCRATS ARE SAYING WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE FOR DEMOCRATS THIS YEAR?

Maybe we should try one.

Because they won't wire tap or because they won't do this or they won't do that.

They might. You never know, they're not in there.

They don't say what they're going to do. They just say what they won't do.
(Inaudible) wire tapping.

I think you need to look back at the eight years before Bush came in. It was a damned good eight years.

Great economy.

The stock market has never gotten back to where it was before Bush took office. The Dow was up over 11,000. It has never got back to that point.

Mine went down, way down before Clinton left.

Mine went down with the Clinton administration.

But I mean, I don't see (inaudible)

(Many talking at once.)

Mine did too. Right during Clinton's.

Yeah, but you know, they say that was Bush's, that was Bush's time. Bush was building it up and Clinton came in and it turned to (inaudible), then Bush came back and he's still, it was all screwed up.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE DEMOCRAT?

I think historically Democratic party has been more open than the Republican party.

MODERATOR—OPEN HOW?

In what they're doing. I mean, right now it's nothing but a bunch of secrets, the way I look at it. I don't think you see that under the Democratic party.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

I see some good things out of the Democrats. I think it tends to be more for the working class people.

You believe that?

No, no, no, first of all, you've got to remember they're a politician. You have to remember they're politicians, then you go from there.

If anybody was for me, I'd be surprised.

Well, that may be true too but they . . .

MODERATOR—SO, IF THE DEMOCRATIC MESSAGE THAT YOU GUYS ARE HEARING IS THAT THEY'RE NOT REPUBLICANS, THAT SEEMS TO BE WHAT YOU'RE HEARING.

Yeah.

MODERATOR—THEN THAT SUGGESTS THAT THERE'S SOME CONSEQUENCE IF REPUBLICANS REMAIN IN CONTROL, THAT CERTAIN THINGS ARE GOING TO HAPPEN. WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENS IF REPUBLICANS MAINTAIN CONTROL OF THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE AND THE WHITE HOUSE? WHAT HAPPENS OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS? HOW DOES THAT IMPACT THE WAR?

Straight down, just the way it's going now. Why would they want to change?

The first thing Bush said after he won in 2004 was I just built a lot of political capital and I'm going to start spending it now. He didn't try to offer any conciliatory words to bring the two sides together. He just said I'm going to start spending my political capital.

MODERATOR—SO YOU SAY YOU DON'T THINK ANYTHING WILL BE DIFFERENT.

It won't change, no. Everything's in bad shape now, I mean it's just going to stay that way.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

I agree with him. I agree with him.

Hopefully, we'll stay safe because we have been safe for the last four years. Or the last six years, I guess.

Hopefully they'll work on immigration.

Can you say for maybe the last three years . . .

(End of Side)

MODERATOR—THE OBVIOUS QUESTION IS WHY HAVEN'T THEY YET.

Well, they're starting. They sent the National Guard down.

Well, they're starting because the election's coming up.

Yeah.

MODERATOR—HOW ABOUT ON SOCIAL SECURITY? THAT WAS ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS THAT BUSH TRIED TO DO AFTER HE WAS ELECTED WAS TO CHANGE SOCIAL SECURITY TO BRING IN THE PRIVATE ACCOUNTS THAT ALLOW PEOPLE TO INVEST SOME OF THEIR OWN MONEY. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT PLAN AND DO YOU THINK IT'S MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN IF REPUBLICANS MAINTAIN CONTROL?

Well, it didn't happen in the four years he tried and I think it's a good plan but it's just too much for people to handle. Something needs to happen.

I think that eventually, no matter who's in office, Social Security is going to be a bad issue. I think the only thing that's going to be in existence is something like a 401(k). I mean, it won't effect people within 10 years of retiring or something, but young people now are going to, I question whether they'll ever . . .

You know what I believe? I believe the stock market is manipulated very big time and if you got all these people that put all their money in there, that's a bad situation. You know, I really believe the market is manipulated and I think you guys know that too. They've been caught, enough people have been caught. How big is it? You know what I mean? What if everybody took, you wouldn't want them to take all their Social Security and put it in there, maybe 5 percent, like Bush wanted to do, 5 percent, just try small amounts and see if they steal it all. Maybe they would steal it all, you know. Maybe they'd just steal half of it. It might be a good deal and this is serious. And 5 percent, because if it works, okay. But you put it all in there, these big businesses will take it all.

MODERATOR—OKAY. LET'S TALK ABOUT THE WAR IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL AND GET YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN IRAQ. THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF DEBATE RECENTLY IN CONGRESS ABOUT IRAQ AND ABOUT WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. I'M NOT INTERESTED IN HOW WE GOT TO THIS POINT, BUT WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT THAT DEBATE? WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENT SIDES? WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT? HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING?

Well, now you turn it over to them.

There was one, was it Charlie Kerry who wanted us out, trying to introduce an amendment that wanted us out. Was it year end or, yeah. So that's, I heard that. And then I've heard that now the two groups are coming together if the troops are drawn within two years. That was in I think today's paper.

Well, you know, Casey who's the general running the show over there has come out in the last couple of days and said we're going to start getting, which is the same thing the Democrats have been saying. When they say it, it's cut and run. But when a general over there says it, it's different.

Well, that's when we're . . .

But he didn't want to set a definite date.

That's when we're assuming the general knows what's going on over there and the Democrats . . .

Well, then Bush came on and said the generals are going to be making the decisions.

Well, not when they introduce a Frank in the Congress, generals aren't making the decision. The Congressmen are. And that's what happened in Viet Nam. People over there didn't make the decisions. They made it over here. But I don't understand the war really in a way. I understand, but don't understand. We went over there to get the guy out of the office and put the country in. And now we're not fighting that country anymore, we're fighting insurgents which are part of the country.

Coming from everywhere.

Yeah, they're coming from everywhere. They're not in uniform. It's not like World War II where one color uniform here and one color, let's shoot at each other. Now they're not in uniform, so you don't know who you're shooting or who to shoot.

But all of a sudden the war now, not suddenly but the war is no longer against Iraq military. It's against insurgents. So you'll never win that war. You'll never win a war against insurgents because you don't know who they are.

Russians tried that 20 years ago, didn't they?

Yeah. And finally gave up.

They've got, and I think they're on the right path, to build up the Iraqi army or military or police or whoever's supposed to stop the insurgents and they do it. But the U.S. will never stop the insurgents.

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT, SO IN THIS DEBATE IN CONGRESS, WHAT IS THE REPUBLICAN POSITION? WHAT DO THEY THINK WE SHOULD DO?

I believe they're wanting the country to take over their own destiny.

But they want to wait until they're ready.
Easing out of there.

And they took forever to get their own government and now they've got it and I believe that the politicians want the politicians to take over Iraq. And to run the country. And they're aiming at that particular direction, I feel, but I don't know.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHO ELSE? WHAT DO YOU THINK THE REPUBLICAN POSITION IS ON WHERE WE GO FROM HERE IN IRAQ?

I think it's just stay the course.

MODERATOR—WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

Follow what, well I mean they have a plan with the government taking over, create a new Iraqi army and police force and to fight the insurgents and whatever. And I think that eventually who knows how many years it'll be, but eventually then hopefully they'll get strong enough that we'll be able to leave. But it may . . .

Create a democracy.

I think it'll take at least five years or so. I don't know if they'll ever create a democracy over there because their whole, their whole picture is tribal. They've always fought against each other. One tribe will never . . .

I don't think there'll ever be a democracy there.

No, no, they'll never. It's not their nature.

It's a different culture.

It's not their culture, right.

And their culture isn't run by politicians. It's run by religion.

Right.

It's a religious war.

That's a big part of it.

And neither one can get along with each other.

That's the way it's always been and that's the way it's going to continue.

It's all religion.

I wonder sometimes are we trying to change their religion when we're going over there? I mean, if you change their politics and everything, you have to change their religion and you're never going to do that.

Never going to do that, for sure.

No, and religious people run the country.

I don't think we should try.

MODERATOR—ARE THERE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRESIDENT BUSH AND REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS ON THIS, ABOUT WHERE WE GO FROM HERE? OR DO YOU THINK REPUBLICANS ARE UNITED ON THIS?

Well, I think at one time there seemed to be some opposition from people like McCain and that, but it seems like they're all mulling together now.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

Pretty much so, I think.

It appears that way.

MODERATOR—OKAY, AND HOW ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS? WHAT'S THEIR POSITION ON WHERE WE GO FROM HERE?

The opposite of the Republicans.

Yeah.

That's their position.

Set a deadline.

MODERATOR—A DEADLINE FOR WHAT?

Getting our troops out.

Pulling out. They want to make their government fight stronger to get everything more for their unit instead of having us defend them all the time.

Now, that's all I hear out of the Democrats. Set a time to move out and I've never heard in any war saying, well, okay guys, we're all going to quit on December 25th of 2010. I don't understand that.

I remember Bush, I don't know exactly when Bush made this statement, maybe it's been six months ago, but he said it's going to be up to the next president to determine what happens in Iraq, like he had given up hope for the next two years.

You know what? They take surveys and find out what the American people will put up with and one of the surveys says you can't kill too many people for a very long time but you can kill a few for a year or two. That's the way it works and that's why they all got a date. When they give you a date, everybody feels more comfortable. We're going to be out of there in a year and a half. See? That's the way it works. And that's in their policy.

MODERATOR—SO, ARE DEMOCRATS UNITED ON THIS?

No, I don't think they have a program. They just, at least if they have, I haven't read about it. And that could be maybe I just kind of . . .

Well, what's the program of the Republicans? What program do they have that the Democrats don't have on Iraq?

Slowly backing, coming out. Slowly pulling out.

I thought they were, their program was set the government up and the government take over their own responsibilities.

And once they . . .

And without a time limit. But the Democrats say, well I want a time limit. That's all they talk about.

MODERATOR—OKAY, LET'S LOOK AT SOME OF THE PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN PUT OUT THERE. FLIP TO HANDOUT 3 IN THOSE PACKETS OF YOURS NOW. AND BASICALLY THESE ARE FOUR DIFFERENT POSITIONS THAT HAVE BEEN STAKED OUT IN THIS DEBATE IN CONGRESS. I WANT YOU TO READ ALL OF THEM HERE ON HANDOUT 3 AND THEN PICK THE ONE THAT YOU AGREE WITH MOST, THAT YOU THINK IS THE WAY THAT WE SHOULD BE GOING HERE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO AGREE WITH IT COMPLETELY, BUT WHICH EVER ONE COMES CLOSEST TO YOUR OWN OPINION. EVERYBODY PICK ONE? LET ME GET A QUICK SHOW OF HANDS. HOW MANY PICKED THE TOP ONE? THREE. OKAY, SECOND ONE? THREE. THIRD ONE? THREE. OKAY, SO WE'RE CLEARLY DIVIDED AND NOBODY LIKES THE LAST ONE. START AT THE TOP. WITHDRAWING FROM IRAQ BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT IS ABLE TO MANAGE ITS OWN SECURITY WOULD BE A DISASTER. WE MUST NOT CUT AND RUN OR SHOW ANY SIGN OF WAVERING TO OUR COMMITMENT, BUT AS THE NEW IRAQI GOVERNMENT MAKES PROGRESS, WE CAN BEGIN TO TRANSITION (INAUDIBLE) AND ULTIMATELY REDEPLOY. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THAT ONE?

I agree with it. That last part of it. As the Iraqi security forces continue to strengthen, then we should start pulling our units out.

We don't want to show any sign of wavering because the insurgency, I think they need to know that we're there and we're going to take care of it.

That was my second choice.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER REACTIONS ON THE TOP ONE?

I think we might still be there 20 years under that one. 20 years from now.

MODERATOR—OKAY, THOSE OF YOU WHO PICKED THAT ONE, DOES THAT CONCERN YOU, THE FACT THAT IT IS OPEN-ENDED, IT DOESN'T SET ANY . . .

No, because we are making progress. We have made a lot of progress. There's a government now. There's been elections. People have come to the elections. We are making progress. We've captured Saddam Hussein. That would mean that we hadn't made any progress, that it wasn't going anywhere. But it is. I think it is.

I think what we should do is push our, start pulling our people out. I mean, slowly. But that would give the Iraqis more incentive to strengthen their people and their battalions and security over there.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WELL LET'S TALK ABOUT THE OTHER CHOICES. THE SECOND ONE, SETTING A SPECIFIC TIME TABLE FOR COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL IS IMPRACTICAL BECAUSE THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IS IN FLUX, BUT AS IRAQI SECURITY FORCES CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN, WE CAN BEGIN REDEPLOYMENT STARTING THIS SEPTEMBER. AND THEN IT GOES THROUGH REDUCING THE NUMBER BY HALF BY DECEMBER, 2007. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT ONE?

I like the idea that we're setting some dates to have a target, some target dates, whereas I did agree somewhat with the first one but I think this one kind of sets some target dates which will satisfy a lot of people's opinions.

It seems to me like the first sentence in that paragraph and the second one are kind of counter opposed. The first one said do not set any specific time table and then the second sentence, you're setting two times, setting a time table.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHO ELSE PICKED THAT ONE? BRUCE, I KNOW YOU PICKED IT. I picked that.

Number 2? I picked it.

I picked that second part of it.

MODERATOR—OKAY, STARTING THIS SEPTEMBER TO DRAW THE TROOPS DOWN?

Yeah.

I think you can always set a time table. You don't always have to meet it.

No, right.

(Many talking at once.)

. . . combat brigades and the less things that we have to furnish over there, I mean it's going to be the Iraqis have to build it back up. I mean, if we stay over there, they're not going to do nothing.

MODERATOR—OKAY, THIRD ONE. OUR CURRENT OPEN-ENDED COMMITMENT IS COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, COSTS TOO MUCH. BY BEGINNING TO REDEPLOY BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, BY BEGINNING TO REDEPLOY BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, WE WILL FORCE THE IRAQIS TO ASSUME GREATER RESPONSIBILITY. WE WON'T WITHDRAW PRECIPITOUSLY OR ALLOW TERRORISTS TO SEIZE CONTROL, BUT WE MUST BEGIN THE PROCESS NOW TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

I picked this one. The last sentence was the reason I did.

MODERATOR—WHY?

I just felt we wouldn't just withdrawal and allow the terrorists to seize control, but we would begin toward self-sufficiency. We wouldn't just leave it open-ended and that was why I picked that one. Mostly that sentence.

That's pretty much why I picked that too.

That's pretty much why I did also.

MODERATOR—SO THAT REASSURANCE THAT IT'S NOT JUST GOING TO BE . . .

Just cut and run.

MODERATOR—IT WON'T BE A CUT AND RUN, IT'LL BE MEASURED AND WE WON'T ALLOW THE TERRORISTS, OKAY.

But we will begin the process towards Iraqi self-sufficiency.
But they're all saying basically the same thing.

But we can't do that. We can't do that.

MODERATOR—WE CAN'T DO WHAT?

We can't, we must begin the process now toward Iraqi self-sufficiency. How do we do that?
They've got to do that themselves.

You know, the only way you're going to be doing it is if they have to do more. If they don't have to do more, they're going to sit back and just watch us.

I don't think so.

They want us out of there just as much as the insurgents do.

They're doing a lot now. I mean, I just, we just, I was with a guy that just came back, he was over there for two trips. He's going back for a third one in about six months. And talking with him, most of what they're doing now is training them.

So, Bruce, you would say the process then is training? That would be part of the process.

Right, and that's, from what I understand, and I know some people that are going over there, and that's mostly what they're going over there for now is training.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO SIX OF YOU WENT WITH THESE TWO IN THE MIDDLE THAT BASICALLY SET A TIME LINE FOR THE BEGINNING, THEY DON'T SET AN END DATE TIME LINE. THEY SET A TIME LINE IN THE BEGINNING, RATHER THAN AT THE END. IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYBODY KIND OF REJECTED THE IDEA OF A TIME LINE AT THE END, LIKE EVERYBODY'S GOT TO BE OUT BY THIS DATE. IT SEEMS LIKE NOBODY'S REALLY AGREEING WITH THAT, BUT SIX OF THE NINE OF YOU ARE AGREEING WITH ONE OF THESE ONES THAT SAYS SET A TIME LINE TO START. DON'T CUT AND RUN, BUT SET A TIME LINE WHERE WE START THE PROCESS AND FORCE THEM TO START ASSUMING SOME RESPONSIBILITY AS WE PULL OUT OF CERTAIN AREAS. IS THAT FAIR TO SAY?

Hm-hmm.

If I was an insurgent, I'd say ah, they're going to get out of here December 2007. I'll just stop and get all the troops out and then we'll go back in again and say, okay. You think the United States is going to put troops back in there?

MODERATOR—IS THAT AN ARGUMENT AGAINST SETTING A TIME LINE TO BEGIN OR IS THAT AN ARGUMENT AGAINST SETTING A TIME LINE AT THE END?

I think it's both.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN SET ANY TIME LINE?

No time lines. No time lines.

MODERATOR—BUT THEN DOESN'T THAT ARGUMENT SAY THAT WE HAVE TO MAINTAIN OUR CURRENT TROOP LEVEL FOREVER BECAUSE THE SECOND WE START TO PULL ANYTHING BACK?

No, we can continue to transition in supporting roles and ultimately redeploy from Iraq, that's number one.

MODERATOR—RIGHT, BUT WHAT YOU'RE ARGUING IS THAT ANY TIME THAT WE PULL ANY TROOPS OUT, THEY'RE GOING TO . . .

No, no, any time we set a time line. Not the, we're going to pull the troops out. I'm saying get out of there completely, not like Korea, not like anything. You get out of there completely. But don't set the time line you're going to do it. And we know that it's, well we don't know that it's short, but it's not December of 2007 we're going to pull out half the troops.

You know, I've got to think this war is not only bombs and guns, but the Third World is kind of just forcing us to defeat ourselves economically by the amount of money we're spending over there. You know, they could wreck this country just by prolonging this war as long as they can.

There's truth in that.

We're spending billions and billions, couple of billion dollars a month.

MODERATOR—LET'S LOOK AT THIS ISSUE IN THE CONTEXT THAT IS GOING TO PLAY OUT IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS WHICH IS THE ELECTIONS. FLIP TO HANDOUT 4 AND WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS TWO STATEMENTS FROM TWO DIFFERENT CANDIDATES FOR CONGRESS, LET'S SAY. THIS DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO VOTE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, BUT I'LL READ BOTH STATEMENTS OUT LOUD, AND AGAIN MARK THE ONE THAT YOU FIND YOURSELF AGREEING WITH MORE. IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU'RE GOING TO VOTE THAT WAY, IT JUST MEANS ON THIS ISSUE YOU AGREE WITH ONE STATEMENT MORE THAN THE OTHER. 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 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. EVERYBODY PICK ONE OR THE OTHER THERE?

I've got a question. How did you link each one of those up with Democrat or Republican? That's my question. I don't know how you did that. Is that the Republican and Democrat forum? Is that their statement or . . .

MODERATOR—SEVERAL CANDIDATES ON EACH SIDE, I'M NOT SAYING EVERY CANDIDATE ACROSS THE COUNTRY . . .

This is sort of like a quote from a Democrat and a quote from a Republican.

MODERATOR—YEAH, IT'S PULLED FROM, AGAIN, THE DEBATE IN CONGRESS AND WHAT A LOT OF THE DEMOCRATS ARE SAYING AND WHAT A LOT OF THE REPUBLICANS ARE SAYING.

I hate this phrase "cut and run." I don't know why.

It almost is like the newspaper. They can word an article that drives me crazy. They'll put in adverbs and nouns that don't, that . . .

MODERATOR—SPIN IT ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

Yeah, spin it, spin, they're spinning it. Sounds like a spin job to me.

MODERATOR—WELL AGAIN, WE'RE PUTTING THIS IN THE CONTEXT OF AN ELECTION. WHAT ISN'T A SPIN JOB? SO AGAIN, LET ME GET A SHOW OF HANDS. HOW MANY PEOPLE FIND THEMSELVES, DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO AGREE WITH IT COMPLETELY, BUT IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER, HOW MANY WOULD CHOOSE THE TOP ONE? ONE, TWO, THREE. AND HOW MANY WOULD CHOOSE THE BOTTOM ONE? SIX.

But there are things that I like in both.

MODERATOR—OKAY, THAT'S WHAT WE'LL TALK ABOUT. LET'S START WITH THE BOTTOM ONE SINCE THAT GOT THE MOST VOTES. WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS ON THE BOTTOM ONE? WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU, POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE, THERE?

I disagree with the Al Qaida will have a new terrorists' haven. There's nothing to say that they will or they won't. I mean, who can say that the new Iraqi government will allow it? We don't know that.

Well, I think the terrorists' haven has been there since we've been in there in Iraq. It's becoming more of a terrorists' haven every day as long as we're over there.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER REACTIONS TO THIS BOTTOM ONE? WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU THERE?

I don't think the bottom line, starting at Al Qaida, is a true statement.

MODERATOR—SO YOU DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF WE START TO PULL TROOPS OUT?

Well, if we cut and run.

Yeah, if we cut and run. I mean, if we, wait a minute, let's start all over.

What's the definition of cut and run? May I?

Leaving . . .

(Many talking at once.)

You withdraw them, period.

Leaving in the middle of the war, before it's completed.

You're just pulling out? Okay, nobody's saying that, are they? To just pull out? Hey, nobody's saying that there, are they?

No, wasn't that . . .

I mean, if we start getting troops out, they're not going to just pull the whole shebang out.

But wasn't that an amendment that was offered in Congress? To pull out the troops?

By a certain date.

By a certain date? Yeah.

A proposal.

Yeah, it only got like three or four votes.

They could start. If it don't work good, stop.

Not that I know of.

Yeah, Charlie Kerry introduced it.

MODERATOR—WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT DEMOCRATS AREN'T, THAT'S NOT WHAT THE DEMOCRATS ARE CALLING FOR. YOU'RE SAYING THAT THE DEMOCRATS ARE CALLING FOR A PHASED, TIMED . . .

Yeah, it's not just a cut and run deal that all of a sudden you're pulling everything out. What they're saying is, to me, the way I get it, is what they're trying to do with their general over there said we should pull some out, a little bit here now. And that's going to make up the Iraqi filling that part in. They're going to have to get stronger. So, they get stronger. Then he comes back and say, maybe six months from now, and says we'll pull this much out. Don't put any more people in there, just back them out.

MODERATOR—OKAY. OTHER FEELINGS ON THE BOTTOM ONE? HOW ABOUT THE TOP ONE? WHAT'S THE TOP ONE SAY TO YOU?

I don't like that they say that the current course has no accountability. I think they do have accountability. Every day.

MODERATOR—HOW SO?

Well, there's Democrats in Congress, there's reporters, there's constant accountability for what's going on over there and there's constant press conferences by Bush and generals telling what's going on and what they're doing and there is accountability. And I think that word "cut and run" could be just a Republican way of describing negatively what the Democrats are saying.

I think that you got that right.

Well, you know, there's two statements in this top one. First that the U.S. general proposed a phased time withdrawal and also the elected Iraqi government is calling for a phased time withdrawal. So, Bush, on the news yesterday, said those were exactly the two that were going to make the decision. Not him. So, I mean, if those two are already saying that, why should we oppose it?

MODERATOR—OKAY.

But that is what the Republicans are proposing. Phased time withdrawal.

Not yet they haven't.

They're not giving the time, but they are going in that direction. You can name a time. That doesn't take months to name a time. They can see that it's ready and name a time.

Yeah, but they haven't done that yet.

No, they haven't done it yet. It's not ready.

MODERATOR—OKAY, LET'S KEEP MOVING. FLIP TO HANDOUT 5 AND GETTING BACK TO THE ELECTION, THE CHOICES THAT YOU YOURSELF WILL FACE WHEN YOU GO INTO THE VOTING BOOTH. A LOT OF DIFFERENT WAYS THAT YOU CAN LOOK AT THIS ELECTION AND WHAT IT'S ABOUT. WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO HERE IS KIND OF EXPLORE SOME OF THE DIFFERENT WAYS THAT AGAIN THE TWO PARTIES, DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS, ARE TRYING TO FRAME THIS ELECTION AND TO DEFINE WHAT CHOICES THAT YOU'RE GOING TO FACE WHEN YOU GO IN TO VOTE. AGAIN, WE'LL READ EACH ONE AND THEN SEE WHAT YOUR REACTION IS TO IT. WE'LL START WITH ONE FROM THE DEMOCRATS. 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 RULES REQUIRING THAT ANY SPENDING OR TAX CUTS BE OFFSET BY ACCOMPANYING SPENDING DECREASES.

Boy, if they would do that.

That sounds wonderful.

It sounds wonderful, but I don't think they have, I've never heard it.

Neither one, neither party.

Yeah, right.

It would be great if they did.

Yeah, but if they down lies, you wouldn't vote for them.

I'm deciding I'm a Democrat.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO EVERYBODY'S HAPPY WITH THE SUGGESTED CHANGES THAT THEY'RE PROPOSING AND THE NEW DIRECTION. THEY SAY THIS IS ABOUT MOVING THE COUNTRY IN A NEW DIRECTION. YOU AGREE WITH THE DIRECTION THEY WANT TO MOVE IT, BUT YOU DON'T, DOES ANYBODY THINK IT'S BELIEVABLE?

Nope.

No.

They could do some of it. I think they will do some of it. They've got to do something or they'll be out in a couple of years.

MODERATOR—IT SEEMS WHAT THEY'RE SAYING HERE IS WE'LL IMMEDIATELY START TO DELIVER A CHANGE THAT VOTERS CAN SEE. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY'RE NOT SAYING WORLD PEACE AND EVERYBODY'S GOING TO BE MAKING A MILLION DOLLARS A YEAR. THEY'RE SAYING THESE ARE SMALL BUT THESE ARE THINGS THAT WE KNOW WE CAN DO AND YOU CAN SEE THE PROGRESS. DO YOU AGREE THAT THESE ARE THINGS THAT THEY CAN DELIVER ON?

Oh yeah, I think they might invest in expanded stem cell research. That's the only one I would . . .

It would be good if they put their mind to it.

I think they could do all those if they really . . .

MODERATOR—WELL, DO YOU THINK DEMOCRATS WOULD DO THAT IF THEY SAY NO PAY RAISES WITHOUT INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE?

Republicans always vote no on the raise for the minimum wage. They're the ones that vote no.

I'm talking about Congress. There's no way that they're going to vote not to give them a raise. They might vote for an increase in the minimum wage, but they won't tie it to their Congressional pay raises.

You never know.

Oh no.

Oh no.

Put them in a bad enough position, they might have to.

MODERATOR—HAS ANYBODY HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT ISSUE?

No.

They didn't get no minimum wage increase. It stayed the same.

The minimum wage, yeah.

But they got their own raise.

You'll see a Congressional raise before you see an increase . . .

They got that, oh yeah.

How many people actually get a minimum wage anyway that work for it? I don't know that many people that actually are, or how many companies actually pay minimum wage. Almost all of them pay more.

Your fast food places.

I was in a White Castle the other day. They've got a big sign up on the wall, showing their benefits and everything. They're paying over \$10 an hour with their benefits.

Oh, with benefits, okay.

But their benefits, they're still paying over \$6.

But minimum wage doesn't take that . . .

MODERATOR—LET'S KEEP MOVING. LET'S GO TO HANDOUT 6 AND SEE, AGAIN THIS IS FROM THE OTHER ANGLE, THE REPUBLICANS, AND ONE WAY THAT THEY THINK YOU SHOULD LOOK AT THIS ELECTION. 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?

Good political writing.

I think they have undermined, or some of them have undermined the Patriot Act. They want to repeal it.

MODERATOR—DO YOU AGREE WITH THE REPUBLICANS SAYING THAT THAT'S WHAT THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT? A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO PARTIES WITH VERY DIFFERENT VIEWS ON NATIONAL SECURITY.

They didn't even mention national security there.

Yeah, I think their views are different on national security.

The Democrats here are saying what they're going to do and the Republicans are here saying what the Democrats' mentality are, that it's all and it's just national defense. Period.

Yeah, yeah.

MODERATOR—WELL, WHEN WE TALKED AT THE BEGINNING, YOU SAID, WHEN WE SAID WHAT ARE REPUBLICANS TALKING ABOUT, YOU SAID TERRORISM AND TAXES.

Because that's what they've got going for them. That's what the Republicans have got going for them as the national security.

If I look at the two, I want to be safe more than I want the minimum wage, more than I want stem cell research, more than I want tax cuts, more than I even want (inaudible). I want to be safe. That's my first . . .

That may be why they're in there.

And the main thing is that we in here, every one of us, are not really effected by minimum wage, not effected by stem cell research, we're beyond that. And repeal tax cuts for companies that shift jobs overseas, we're all retired so we're not worried too much about that. And they are going to make college tuition tax deductible, we're not going to college. So it's all directed towards a younger group of people and then, when you go to the older people, older people always get worried about our safety.

Stuff that pertains to you.

Safety. We put more locks on our doors. We do all those things.

MODERATOR—SO YOU AGREE WITH THE BASIC DEFINITION THAT REPUBLICANS HAVE LAID OUT HERE IS WHAT I'M HEARING.

So what they've done, yes, because of my age group.

MODERATOR—OKAY, LET'S LOOK AT ANOTHER ONE.

I think my age group ran me toward this Republican statement.

MODERATOR—THERE'S NOT JUST THOSE TWO. WE HAVE SOME OTHER ONES, SO LET'S SEE YOUR REACTIONS TO THE OTHER ONES. 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 THE 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.

Got a good line, don't they?

Yeah.

MODERATOR—WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO THAT ONE?

I like it.

I agree with it all.

Sounds very good.

Now, what they've done is . . .

(Many talking at once.)

Now they've moved from the first statement they made from just non our age group and brought it into our age group.

You know, I think stem cell research, whether you're religiously for it or against it, but I mean the United States has always been at the forefront in research and development. Here we're letting Indians and the Chinese do all the stuff and they're the ones that are going to reap all the profits from this stem cell research. We'll be paying for it to them. That's my opinion on that.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO WHAT'S YOUR OVERALL REACTION TO THIS ONE? IS IT BELIEVABLE? I MEAN, YOU SAID THAT THE FIRST ONE THEY AT LEAST MAYBE COULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT SOME OF THOSE. AT FIRST, YOU DIDN'T FIND IT BELIEVABLE, BUT THEN YOU SAID MAYBE A LITTLE. WHAT'S YOUR REACTION ON THIS ONE?

I think they could. Would they?

Yeah. I believe they'll try to make our country energy-independent. I think there's a concerted effort from both parties to do that and I think the Democrats will do that. I didn't, in their eight years or in their years of being the majority party, I didn't see them protecting our security. I hope that they would now, now that it's gotten out of hand. And I didn't see them provide affordable health care.

They tried to. Don't you remember the wife?

I think Bush has done more in that area. Maybe they'd work on the gas prices.

I think they could do some of these things. I think they could do some of these things, and I think they will make an attempt to, I really do. I think the country's ready for a change. I really do.

MODERATOR—OTHER REACTIONS TO THIS ONE?

I agree with it.

MODERATOR—OKAY, MOVE TO HANDOUT 8. 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 INCREASED 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 NEW IDEAS ON HEALTH CARE AND RETIREMENT THAT LOWER COSTS AND GIVE INDIVIDUALS MORE CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN MONEY. WHAT'S YOUR REACTION TO THAT ONE?

I feel like it's a weak statement. I don't know.

It sounds good.

It does sound very good. That's politics.

It sounds weak. It doesn't say, I mean the only thing it says is they're trying to raise taxes and it's just saying they're going to try to allow you to keep more money. It's not anything definite. We're going to do this, this or this. There's no, I don't know, I just think it's weak.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER PEOPLE?

If they're so good on retirement, why is the airline pilots losing their retirement? Why are some other people losing? This is politics is what this is, I mean if you read between the lines. Read the paper, what's going on.

It's throwing the blame. It's not really saying what they're going to do.

It's saying Democrats are going to do this and what the Republicans are going to do is what they haven't done in the four, eight years they've been there.

Well, Republicans and Bush has lowered taxes. They've tried. They've tried to . . .

I think they've done some things on health care.

And I think they've done a great job on health care.

As far as privatizing a lot of the Medicare with the HMO's and the PPO's and turning them over to . . .

A start, a start, yeah.

But they're saying they didn't.

It's a very good start.

Well, that's what I said. I hope it gets better by the time I hit 65.

Well, I hope it gets better too.

Really, I mean you've got to start somewhere. And then it progressively gets, it's a good thing.

I agree, they've done things, but here they're trying to tell us they haven't. Right? It said they're going to . . .

MODERATOR—IT SAYS THEY'LL CONTINUE TO FIGHT FOR LOWER TAXES.

Oh, continue. The word continue, where is that word?

And they have lowered taxes.

Well, they have lowered it a little bit. They have. The retirement, I was a little touchy on that and Social Security.

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT. FLIP IT ONE MORE. FLIP TO HANDOUT 9. 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.

Well, this statement, unprecedented levels of corruption and waste, I mean didn't we have a Democrat have \$95,000 in his freezer? I mean, I wouldn't say corruption and waste is just one party.

No.

No.

I think they should change that statement to say taxpayers say, at the beginning, and then say Democrats and Republicans in Congress have given Bush, given blank checks. I don't think that's one party.

I agree.

They're all like that.

I agree with you.

MODERATOR—SO YOU DON'T THINK THAT THE DEMOCRATS, BECAUSE THEY'RE SAYING THEY'RE GOING TO USE CONGRESS' SUBPOENA POWER, THEY'RE GOING TO START INVESTIGATIONS INTO ALL THESE DIFFERENT THINGS TO TRY TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF IT.

Won't be any different.

Well, it might. It might . . .

(Many talking at once.)

Never have, never will.

They'll spend more money trying to find it than they will . . .

(Many talking at once.)

We'll clean them all up.

I voted for Ross Perot.

What happens is I believe is the Democrats, I mean they have to, you vote for me on my highway and I'll vote for you on your buildings. All it is is just a big . . .

A little bit of pork here and a little bit of pork there.

(Many talking at once.)

Built a highway starting nowhere and went nowhere.

Yeah.

One thing I think is that Bush and Cheney, Cheney mainly, have been very much under control of big energy, big oil. And I just think that that's one area where Democrats would be different.

MODERATOR—THE PRICE GOUGING BY OIL COMPANIES PART.

Price gouging because they've got those two right in their back pocket.

And the Democrats would have someone else in their back pocket.

Yeah, I don't see how you could ever stop it. To me, the oil companies are in collusion. If BP raises their . . .

(Many talking at once.)

Free enterprise.

(Many talking at once.)

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT, SO TAKE A MINUTE AND LOOK BACK, BASICALLY WE HAD FIVE DIFFERENT WAYS OF LOOKING AT THIS ELECTION. THEY'RE TRYING TO SAY WHAT THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT. HANDOUT 9 ABOUT RESTORING ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT. HANDOUT 8 ABOUT TWO DIFFERENT IDEAS ABOUT ECONOMIC GROWTH AND PROSPERITY. HANDOUT 7 FINDING NEW SOLUTIONS TO THE GROWING CHALLENGES FACING OUR COUNTRY. HANDOUT 6 A CHOICE ON NATIONAL SECURITY. AND HANDOUT 5 ABOUT MOVING OUR COUNTRY IN A NEW DIRECTION. WHICH ONE OF THESE BEST CAPTURES FOR YOU WHAT YOU THINK THIS ELECTION IS REALLY ABOUT.

You can only choose one?

MODERATOR—YUP.

I say number 6. That's our main issue right now.

MODERATOR—LOOKING AT 5, 6, 7, 8 AND 9. WHICH ONE DO YOU THINK BEST DEFINES WHAT THIS ELECTION IS ABOUT.

For me, 6.

MODERATOR—SO YOU SAY 6, GAIL. FOR YOU, HOLLY, 6 AS WELL.

Oh, yeah, safety, number 6. Nothing else matters if we're not safe.

I agree with 6.

I go with 6.

Yeah, might as well make it a full house.

I'm going to go with 7.

I'll go 7.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

Yeah, I kind of like 7.

MODERATOR—OKAY. SO THE SIX OF YOU WHO WENT WITH NUMBER 6, IT'S JUST IT'S ALL ABOUT SAFETY AND NOTHING ELSE MATTERS IF WE'RE NOT SAFE?

Right.

But, number 7 is . . .

It'd be good to combine them.

It'd be great.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT 7?

I think it's all good.

Gas prices.

Yeah, you got one, two, three, four items there. And then security of our ports and borders, it's got it all in there. I think I'm going to change mine.

Except for the safety.

I am concerned about the deficit and that, 7 does deal with the deficit.

It's got gas prices, broken health care, American jobs overseas and record deficits. And then the Republicans have done nothing about it. Security of our ports, expanding our current system, affordable health care, investing in research and technology.

MODERATOR—OKAY.

You know, the gas prices, how can you say that when you're being gouged by people that own the stations around in your area? I mean, look at the difference. You've got a station over in (inaudible) that's say \$2.95, you've got one over in Springdale that's \$2.85.

But they don't, the owners don't do that. It's the main corporation that tells them what to do.

Costco, why is Costco 15 cents cheaper than anybody else?

Not really.

They probably make it up on the groceries.

Yeah, not really.

(Many talking at once.)

But Costco doesn't tell you what kind of gas, does it? It don't say BP or . . .

(Many talking at once.)

They all come from the same.

I know they do.

MODERATOR—LET'S NOT GO TOO FAR DOWN THAT ROAD. THE LAST THING I WANT TO DO IS SHIFT THIS TO THE REAL CHOICES THAT YOU GUYS ARE GOING TO BE LOOKING AT IN THE VOTING BOOTH IN NOVEMBER. THE CONGRESSIONAL RACE

WHERE YOU LIVE IN OHIO'S FIRST DISTRICT, STEVE CHABOT AGAINST CHARLIE CRANLEY. WE TALKED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THAT RECENTLY. HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT THAT CAMPAIGN YET? ANYTHING ABOUT THE CANDIDATES? ANY SENSE OF WHAT IT IS THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT?

No. There is really nothing that I've heard unless somebody else.

I think you might hear more later. I think you might hear more later.

What? Too early?

(Many talking at once.)

MODERATOR--OBVIOUSLY, YEAH, THE TV COMMERCIALS HAVEN'T STARTED YET AND ALL THAT KIND OF STUFF. SO YOU'RE GOING TO, TAKE THESE AND PASS THEM DOWN. PASS THEM BOTH DOWN TOGETHER, THEY'RE A PAIR. WHAT I'VE GOT HERE IS SOME ARTICLES TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE BIT OF BACKGROUND ON BOTH, THESE ARE, THE TWO OF THEM GO TOGETHER. THEY'RE DIFFERENT ONES. ONE SAYS CONGRESSMAN CONTINUES TO STRESS FISCAL CONSERVATISM FOR HIS CONSTITUENTS. THE OTHER ONE SAYS CHALLENGER HOPES TO LINK INCUMBENT TO DECLINING (INAUDIBLE) OF THE WHITE HOUSE. SO YOU'VE GOT TWO OF THEM. THESE APPEARED ON THE SAME DAY IN THE POST, FROM THE SAME REPORTER, MICHAEL COLLINS. SO TAKE A MINUTE, READ THEM BOTH, JUST TO GIVE YOU A LITTLE BIT OF BACKGROUND ABOUT EACH OF THE CANDIDATES, WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT AND WHAT THEY'RE DOING. THESE WERE IN THE PAPER A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO AND THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT.

MODERATOR--IF YOU'RE STILL READING, TAKE YOUR TIME AND FINISH UP. BUT IF YOU'RE DONE, TELL ME, START WITH STEVE CHABOT, WHAT DID YOU LEARN ABOUT STEVE CHABOT? WHAT'S YOUR IMPRESSION OF THE CAMPAIGN HE'S RUNNING AND WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE TO RE-ELECT HIM?

Not me.

I think he is strong enough to vote against the President and vote against some other Republican issues. He doesn't just follow the party line.

And when you look at what Cranley said about him and then, in reality, when you looked at his record, it was not what Cranley was saying.

In the past, I've seen that Chabot did a lot of things that I didn't think was in my best interest and I may be reading this #7 too hard too, it promises, maybe I believe some of those and that's why I'm for Cranley because I think there's room for change and I think he's a, I think Chabot is a Bush follower. I think that's what that amounts to.

MODERATOR--OKAY.

He's been in there a long time and he's from a working family. His father worked for P&G.

He's against the omnibus budget bills that combine several spending measures into one single piece of legislation. I like that.

MODERATOR—OTHER IMPRESSIONS ON CHABOT? ONE OF THE GREAT MYSTERIES OF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IS, YOU KNOW, PEOPLE ARE SO DISSATISFIED WITH CONGRESS AND SO NEGATIVE ABOUT IT AND YET EVERY YEAR, SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 95 AND 98 PERCENT OF THEM GET RE-ELECTED. SO, YOU GUYS ARE OBVIOUSLY VERY NEGATIVE ABOUT CONGRESS. WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT IT, ALL YOU SAID WAS CORRUPT, THIEVES AND OUT FOR THEMSELVES AND ALL THIS STUFF. IS CHABOT PART OF WHAT YOU THINK THE PROBLEM IS IN WASHINGTON OR IS HE TRULY DIFFERENT THAN THE REST OF THEM DOWN THERE?

I have a hard time believing any . . .

He's an incumbent. It's hard to beat an incumbent.

I think he may be good.

MODERATOR—BUT I'M ASKING YOU, IS HE PART OF WHAT'S THE PROBLEM IN WASHINGTON OR IS HE DIFFERENT?

No, I think he has integrity.

I do too.

Kind of. But I don't think he's a problem, but I wish I could vote for some other ones that are in Congress that I can't vote for.

I thought he was good, I voted for him over and over, in the time he's been there, I don't see where he's done anything for me really.

Well, yeah, but it's not what he has done and what the other ones have done, you don't know.

I kind of keep an eye on it.

MODERATOR—ALBERT, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT CHABOT?

I'm either way with him. Because I don't vote for him, I won't because I have really never knew what he's got to say other than what we're seeing here.

MODERATOR—IVAN?

Well, as I mentioned earlier, I think Chabot's a decent, honorable, morally decent man. I think we need a new direction in Washington. It'd be one reason I'd vote against him.

MODERATOR—HOW ABOUT CRANLEY? WHAT'S YOUR IMPRESSION OF HIM? AGAIN, ONLY A LITTLE BIT OF INFORMATION.

How about up and coming with new ideas?

He eats (inaudible) chili, that's enough to vote for him right there.

(Many talking at once.)

But Cranley was on city council and look what Cincinnati city council has been. I mean, it's been a failure big time.

Yeah, that ain't saying much.
That's a huge minus.

But look where it got Charlie Springer. Remember Springer?

See, that's what I'm saying. Talk about a minus.

(Many talking at once.)

No, you've got to go with new.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK? DOES CRANLEY REPRESENT, OBVIOUSLY YOU GUYS WANT CHANGE IN WASHINGTON, DOES CRANLEY REPRESENT THE KIND OF CHANGE THAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR?

No, between these two, I would stick with Chabot. Even though I want change, this is, if we go with Cranley, we're going with worse rather than . . .

MODERATOR—BASED ON WHAT? JUST THE FACT THAT HE'S LINKED TO THE CITY COUNCIL OR . . .

Yeah, he just has a, I mean he wasn't able to do anything for Cincinnati. So why would he be able to do anything in Congress?

I think he has done some things for Cincinnati and Chabot's been in there three, four, five, six terms, whatever it is. And Cranley, he's new and up and something new, you know. He's got new ideas. Nothing's going to change with Chabot, he's been there too long. He'd have done it by now if he was going to do it.

I don't see any new ideas in here.

Let's see, that guy sounds familiar. He's from over the river, isn't he?

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER IMPRESSIONS OF CRANLEY? BILL?

I don't know. I just can't get too thrilled about him. I'm just not too enthused.

MODERATOR—IS THERE ANYTHING ABOUT HIM THAT HOLDS YOU BACK OR JUST . . .

I don't know. It's just hard to say. I guess that . . .

14 billion in corporate (inaudible)

I guess, I don't know, I guess I'm kind of sticking with Chabot, he's been in. I've been fairly satisfied with the job he's done. I think he's a decent man.

MODERATOR—OKAY, OTHER IMPRESSIONS OF CRANLEY? IT DOESN'T MEAN YOU HAVE TO VOTE FOR HIM, JUST OTHER IMPRESSIONS OF HIM ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.

Here it says Cranley, a Harvard-educated attorney. And I'm thinking, you know, that's money, that is money. Of course, they all come from money. Chabot didn't.

MODERATOR—WELL, AS AL SAID, HE CAME FROM A WORKING BACKGROUND, BLUE COLLAR BACKGROUND, HIS DAD WORKED IN A FACTORY.

But he makes more money than Cranley does. I saw that in the paper the other day. He's making, Chabot's got a lot more money than Cranley. Yes, he does.

He's older, he should have.

I saw that.

Been in politics longer.

MODERATOR—BRUCE, ANY IMPRESSIONS OF CRANLEY?

No, I don't really. Like I said, I haven't seen a whole lot that he's done that would impress me.

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT, LAST THING I WANT TO ASK YOU TO DO. FLIP TO HANDOUT 10. WE GAVE YOU A LITTLE BIT OF INFORMATION ON THE TWO CANDIDATES WHO ARE RUNNING FOR CONGRESS IN YOUR DISTRICT. THINKING BACK ABOUT ALL THE STUFF WE'VE TALKED ABOUT, ALL THE DIFFERENT THINGS GOING ON IN THE COUNTRY, THE CONCERNS THAT YOU HAVE, THE ISSUES THAT ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU, IF YOU WERE TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THESE PEOPLE WHO ARE RUNNING FOR CONGRESS, WHAT WOULD YOU WANT TO TELL THEM? WHAT MESSAGE WOULD YOU WANT TO SEND TO THEM? WHAT QUESTIONS WOULD YOU WANT TO HAVE ANSWERED? WHATEVER IT IS, IF YOU COULD WRITE SOMETHING TO THEM. FORGET THE DEAR WHATEVER, JUST WHATEVER IT IS YOU WANT TO SAY TO THEM, WHATEVER QUESTIONS YOU WANT TO HAVE ANSWERED. TO BOTH OF THEM, ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SAY ABOUT THIS ELECTION AND WHAT YOU THINK THEY SHOULD BE DOING TO WIN YOUR VOTE . . .

(End of Session)