

Democracy Corps Transcript

Name: Group 1
Location: Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Group Specs: Seniors, mixed gender, mixed education, 2's and 3's, undecided in Congressional vote, recruited FL-22 Broward County
Date: September 14, 2006
Time: 3:30 PM

I'm Al and I'm from Astoria, New York. Been down in Florida eighteen years. I've got three kids, one of each, six grandchildren and I'm retired from the liquor industry.

I'm Bruce and I've been in Florida thirty-six years. I'm retired from the construction industry and I have three grown children and six grandchildren.

I'm Claire and I'm a transport from Philadelphia. I used to be a teacher and a counselor. I have a husband and two children and two grandsons. I've lived in Florida sixteen years.

I'm David and I moved here from Chicago in 1997. I live in Fort Lauderdale. I'm a professional actor and I live with my wife, Georgia, just near downtown Fort Lauderdale. I'm happy to be here.

I'm Edna and I was born in the Bronx, graduated NYU and been married going on 58 years. Have a marvelous husband and three wonderful children. That's about it.

I'm Fran and I'm originally from New York. I've lived down here fifty years. I have three daughters, six grandchildren, a great granddaughter. And I work at the airport for a cruise line.

I'm Gail and I'm a registered nurse, retired three years ago. I have two children, three grandchildren. The year I retired, my twelve-year-old granddaughter moved in with me and she's now fifteen. You can't see my gray hair, but it's there. I worked as a nurse all my life and I grew up in the DC/Maryland area. Lived in Maryland and Houston and here.

I'm Harold and I was born and raised in Staten Island, New York. Came down here approximately nineteen years ago. Still working then and I worked in other cities, left and came back and then retired about eight years ago. Two kids and five grandchildren and been married forty-eight years.

MODERATOR—THANKS FOR COMING TONIGHT. WE ARE GOING TO START OUT THE DISCUSSION WITH A VERY GENERAL QUESTION. THINKING GENERALLY ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE COUNTRY, DO YOU THINK THINGS ARE GOING IN THE RIGHT OR THE WRONG DIRECTION?

I don't know if it's right or wrong, I'm not happy with the direction it's going in so I guess I would say it's going somewhat in the wrong direction. I'm primarily referring to the war in Iraq, which I would have preferred to see us have a little more help there. I don't think the economy is as bad as it's made out to be. Or not as good as I think the present administration would have us believe from what I see going on around me, particularly on the local level. So, yeah, I think there's considerable room for some improvement.

I think it's kind of going in the wrong direction myself. I see how hard it is for my two children to find homes to buy. And myself, I thought I could retire and my retirement money would be good, but I'm really looking for a part-time job. I think it's harder to live. I think everything seems to be going up and there are a lot of jobs opening up, but they are very low paying jobs. My granddaughter had a job and she gets paid \$4.00 an hour in tips. It's just harder than when I was growing up, I think.

I'd have to concur as far as the way things are going. I'd like to see them go in a better direction than what they are. I can honestly say when we were first going into Iraq, I thought we were 100% doing the right thing. I can't really say that I feel that way today. And I flip-flop because I know we are there and we've got a lot of military over there that are fighting for us. And I feel guilty if I say we shouldn't be there. And I think that's probably one of the most important things that has been on my mind.

I don't like the way the morals of the country are going. I don't like the way people dress, the young people. I don't like the music. I don't like that they are spending so much time with video games and on the Internet with all sorts of terrible things. I think it was much easier when we were growing up. We were not as threatened by all of this. You sort of listened to what your parents said. Don't do this and you kind of mostly didn't do it. Did some things they said you shouldn't. That disturbs me greatly.

Along the lines, we can go back to Viet Nam. The French told us to stay out. We didn't listen to them. The Russians fought in Afghanistan for ten years and that actually busted up the Soviet Union, which was something we were trying to do for thirty years anyway. And the Afghans did it. The French also told not to go into Iraq and we didn't listen to them. We have our own way and Macarthur said that America runs on a false wartime economy. If we don't have a war going....it provides all the jobs, guys who make the shoelaces on the boots or bullets and guns and everything else as far as economy. It seems like it's fair to the economy. Everybody is buying things. The housing market is dropping down, the foreclosures are going up. So something has got to go in the right direction for us.

I'm more concerned about the....I don't like the way the world is going. I'm 69 and I remember WWII. But I don't remember a time when I was worried that somebody wanted to kill me just because of who I am. They might not like me or they may not agree with me or they may want me to get lost, but there are people out there that just want to kill us because we are Americans or because we are western or because we are Jewish or because we are Catholic. It isn't like they don't agree with us, they want us

dead because of that. I think that's frightening. And I think a lot of us have really forgotten that or never really wanted to admit that. And we have to adjust to that and that is frightening. And I'm not sure that we are doing everything we need to do to confront that kind of a problem. I don't think people reallyI think they've forgotten 9/11. They may have a resurgence now since we've seen it, but that is a terrible thing to think about. And it's real. And I spent a lot of time thinking about it. I'm thinking, well what can we do about it? Maybe we shouldn't be fighting in Iraq, but where are we going to go after them? As far as I'm concerned, if somebody wants to kill me, the only thing we can do is kill them. I don't know any other way to do it. And you are not going to talk anybody out of that. That's why I think that the world is really in a....I think we are close to what it was in the 30's in Europe. I really do.

I have a total lack of confidence in our current leaders, in their decision making ability. I think they've become very complacent. And a total, total lack of confidence in them.

MODERATOR—WHICH LEADERS ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

All the current leaders, all our national leaders. Our state leaders, I'm affected by it, but for the most part our national leaders.

MODERATOR—AND DO YOU INCLUDE CONGRESS IN THAT?

Yes. I don't think there's enough of a turnover in congress, so they become very complacent. They have interests and they are protecting their own interests.

I'm very....I feel that I lived through the second World War and I feel none of us, with the exception of prices going up and everything, really have the same feeling for this war that we had for the last war with rationing, with gasoline, sugar, victory gardens. Everybody was involved. This way our boys go over, they are involved, and the rest of us are driving and the prices are going up. And it's very disheartening.

MODERATOR—WHY DO YOU THINK THAT IS DIFFERENT TODAY? WHAT ARE THE REASONS FOR IT BEING NOW FROM BEFORE?

Well, I imagine it starts from the top and goes down. We had rationing. You hesitated to put on a light. Even if you had gas, you wouldn't be taking long trips and all because you know at the next place you might not have gotten the gas. People had victory gardens. We had heroes. Everybody felt the war.

I think the problem is also the media. Previously, the media was verynow you get news from all over the world instantly. And it's not so much censored, but it's not....you can get a lot of it. Previously, you couldn't. They told you what you wanted to hear.

I think they are still doing that. CIA was paying the president....

I think Irene makes a good point. I don't think the average American, other than people that have loved ones actually in Iraq, we have not made, in my opinion, any sacrifices. We complain and bitch and moan about this, that and something else, but as far as this conflict goes, it hasn't had a direct effect on us. I mean, people aren't reacting to it saying, I'm going to do my part bylike Irene said back in WWII, although I do think

you can't compare the two, this is a different kind of a conflict....when you look back on WWII, that was different. We were the good guys.

Back at the World Trade Center, that was an attack on our territory.

(many talking at once)

In the 30's, we weren't rationed and we weren't victory gardens, we were just sitting there dumb and happy while this jerk in Europe was running around saying all kinds of mean things and we were not aware of it.

Absolutely.

Until we got into it. And actually until Pearl Harbor. We've already been attacked, but we don't have that mentality.

MODERATOR—DO YOU SEE A CONNECTION BETWEEN IRAQ AND THE WAR ON TERRORISM?

It's proven that it wasn't connected time and time again.

Oh sure they must be involved in it, but there's no correlation between Iraq and 9/11. There's a difference between a connection between Iraq and 9/11 and Iraq and the war on terrorism, I think. Iraq's involvement as far as terrorism goes is probably minimal from the standpoint of they probably did provide some training and bases and that and money. But a direct correlation from Iraq to 9/11 I don't see.

And also, it's a war that it's hard to know where you are. There are no battles won. It just seems all bad news. Someone said it's like you take a tank and you drop it on Fort Lauderdale and then start shooting people. You feel sorry for the women and children, the people who live in Iraq. You feel so sorry for them. I remember a little bit about WWII. I was about five or six, but I remember we hated them. We had an enemy, but we are tearing that country apart. It's just hard....

MODERATOR—THERE ARE A LOT OF BAD FEELINGS ABOUT THE WAR. WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD BE DOING THERE GOING FORWARD?

I think we ought to get out.

I agree.

I don't like being there, but I don't know how you can leave now with nothing resolved.

I think we are causing more problems by being there with an army. I think it's an unwinnable fight for our armed people. There has to be another way to help that country and get out without killing a thousand people a week.

I don't like the war either, but I think if President Bush or whoever is going to be president does set a timeframe, they are not doing too good as far as setting up their own police force and training them, but I think if a date is set for us to leave, I think we should leave, regardless of what's going on over there. How good they've trained them

or whatever, it's like the date was set and you should be out of there. Because I can remember when we went over to Yugoslavia, President Clinton was in office then. We sent troops over there and he said they were only going to be there for a year. I bet we still have troops over there. He didn't pull them out after a year. He kept them over there. And if we don't commit to a timeframe and leave when we say, we are going to be there forever. I swear, they just keep coming and coming. It's like they used to say the Japanese, it was like it was never ending. There were millions and billions of them.

I agree. I think there has to be a timetable. I'm not saying that you can fix it and say on this date we are out. It's going to sound naïve, but the timetable should be predicated on the Iraqi army, police. You want to legitimately in somebody's honest judgment to be able to take on the battle and then get the hell out of there.

But I don't know whether they'll ever be capable from what I've been reading and seeing.

I agree. No argument with that.

My sense is that there is a timetable and we are going to get out. They can't say it. I think it would be foolish to say we are going to be out in a week or.....

I think there is one and I don't want anybody to say what it is. I don't even want our leaders to say what it is even though everybody is yipping at them. We can't just pull out and go just like that because it would be awful.

There is a lot of people who feel we did that in Viet Nam. Okay, after so many years in that meat grinder, okay we won. They are ready, we are out of here.

We do have to be receptive, though, to different ideas about how this thing is going to settle down. It may end up being partitioning. Maybe that's the way to go because those people haven't gotten together for a thousand years. This is a battle between religious sects.

That's right.

MODERATOR—LET'S MOVE TO THE ECONOMY. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE ECONOMY? HOW IS IT DOING?

In Florida, with these storms and hurricanes, it takes a lot....the rest of the country doesn't really get these hurricanes that we've been hit with. And I think that hurt our economy a lot, in general.

They say the unemployment is at an all-time low. That's what I've read in the paper. In Florida, it seems like everybody is doing okay, the people that I know, that I interact with. I'm sure there are others who...

The restaurants, they are all full. Some people have money to spend and you have to wait fifteen or twenty minutes.

When my kids were younger, you do not leave unless you finish that.

(many talking at once)

We are all talking about successful people. A lot of people are telling me, and I know a few, that are moving out of Florida and going up to Tennessee and different places. And it showed in the paper, it's much less to live there. The homes are less, the food is less, the gas is less. I think that's something we are beginning to see.

MODERATOR—ARE YOU FEELING PRESSURE BECAUSE OF PRICES?

Yeah.

Certainly, I'm retired and have been for about ten years. I have a pension and Social Security. And specifically....somebody once said, all politics are local. And I believe that. It goes right on up. And the big thing, after the hurricanes, insurance. I'm by no means headed to the poor house in the last ten years since I've been retired, however, in the last two years I feel a squeeze. I happen to live east of US 1, I-95, on a canal, so I'm close to the water. I'm west of the intercoastal, however. But the point being, my taxes, I cannot complain about my taxes because we have the homestead exemption and of course, the 3% caps save our homes. But my insurance, I'm waiting for the shoe to drop again. It's literally tripled in the last two years. And between the cost of insurance and the taxes to a much lesser degree, and then when you get your increase in Social Security and 80% of it goes to Medicare, the squeeze is on. And you see it in the stores when you go to Publix or Winn Dixie. It's tough. And that's a direct result of the economy.

I think one of the problems we have in this country is we have major credit card debt. I mean, they were saying that the average debt, the average couple what their average credit card debt is, it's astronomical what they owe on their credit card. And I think they are making it too easy for people to get credit cards. I mean these kids are getting out of high school and they are being offered all these credit cards. And everything is rack it up on the credit card and that affects our economy. When I charge something, I don't care what, I pay it off every month. But it's thousands of dollars the average couple owes on their credit cards. So I think that and the way it affects our economy is a lot of credit card debt out there.

Do you think that's because parents never said no to their children?

Today, yeah right.

(many talking at once)

A lot of kids today, they give them a car, a nice car.

You are getting by because you were brought up that way. You are making the sacrifice. If you didn't have the money, you did without.

That's right.

Today it's instant gratification. We need it now. We need it right away.

(many talking at once)

And things are only made to last so long. You buy a blender, it's only supposed to last three years. If it's four years old, well then throw it away.

MODERATOR—WHAT ABOUT THE NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT THAT'S BEING ADMINISTERED THROUGH MEDICARE PART D? WHAT ARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THIS PROGRAM?

I'm not involved with it. I have Humana and they have, I think, a very good plan. I pay a co-pay, but it's wonderful compared to what I hear people paying hundreds of dollars.

I have a friend that's on private supplemental. She has Medicare and then she pays \$200 a month. She's with AARP and their carrier is United. And she actually is paying more and she has a plan where she doesn't have the one that has prescription coverage. And she actually gets hers from Canada. And the medicine is not always from Canada. It could be coming from Argentina. I think the only countries they don't deal with are Africa and Mexico.

Is she over 65?

Yeah. But she is paying more for her medicine than basically I would.

Why doesn't she go to an HMO?

She thinks being on private insurance is a better way to go and it does have its plusses. You know that. You can pick your doctor.

A PPO or whatever it is.

She has Medicare and she can go anywhere she wants. But the thing is that she's paying more for her prescriptions than some of us are now with this new prescription plan.

I don't use it.

I don't know anybody that does.

(many talking at once)

I only have two prescriptions I need and one is free.

(many talking at once)

Being that I only have two and one is \$15 and one is nothing, so I don't know...I'm 72 and by the time I'm 75, I don't know if I'm going to need something else. I'll be shortsighted maybe in not joining the Medicare drug group, but right now I'm staying with what I have and I'm satisfied.

MODERATOR—JERRY YOU SAID YOU HAVE IT.

No, I don't.

MODERATOR—YOU ARE NOT WITH THE NEW PLAN?

No. I talked to my doctor and my doctor gave me all generic. And based upon the cost of generic, it's solving the same purpose and it's awfully cheap, generic drugs.

If you need a drug that's not generic available, there are some...

Just generally, I think it was a mistake because the program is in trouble anyway, the Medicare program. Until we get to the point where we can finance this thing properly, it's going further and further into debt and I think the expenses are outweighing the income. And I don't think we should have piled this on at that point. I think it was a mistake to do it. And I know a lot of people are in big trouble because of the medication that's gone right through the roof and there has to be a way to pay for it. But I don't think the government getting further into debt is the answer. I think there has to be some more creative thinking on this.

I have one of those programs and some of these sophisticated medicines are not covered by them, a generic. A lot of sophisticated medicines aren't.

Or if they are, it's at a very high cost. Like a co-pay because I had something at one time and it was like....

There is no easy answer.

I think it was a great break for the pharmaceutical companies because the biggest mistake I think the government made was not being able to bargain prices down. And that's a huge thing you can do. I know I worked for the health department and I saw many, many poor people or many people who are not very well off. The state with Medicaid, they bargained those prices down to nothing so we could get a drug that costs \$60 for like \$3 to give to our clinic patients. And that's what the government could have done, but they didn't. They are paying top prices to the pharmaceutical companies, which doesn't make any sense.

That's because they are some of the biggest supporters to our politicians and they want that money coming in.

The program is in trouble anyway.

Five years from now, it will surface that we are overpaying and we are going to be hurting.

I have Medicare and supplemental. My supplemental is under the microscope. I retired out of the aviation industry and look at the shape they are in. We just got over a hurdle on pension and now they are looking at the medical benefits. So I pay very close attention to the prescription drug plan. I think the plan....my opinion, it's better than nothing for a lot of people, no question. But the donut hole, that doesn't get it. Elizabeth makes an excellent point, I think we are one of the few countries in the world that does not negotiate prescription drugs. That's just absurd.

We should, that's the only way you can get the money.

Yeah.

The standard answer you always hear from the government or the pharmaceutical companies is, well if we did that we wouldn't be able to do research and development, which I don't know how everybody else does it.

MODERATOR—ONE OTHER QUESTION. DID ANYONE SEE ANYTHING THAT'S GOING RIGHT IN THE COUNTRY TODAY?

I think the trend towards lower taxes.

I saved \$200 on my car insurance.

Geico.

I think the Internet and all of that is just absolutely fantastic, what you can do and learn and experience. And they are always coming out with something new and great and wonderful.

I think education is getting better in Florida. I really do. I see it in my grandchildren. The thing that's hard is, if they are in school now and they want to be on a team, like my granddaughter loves Color Guard, it costs me almost \$3,000 a year for her to be a Color Guard because the school pays for nothing. So anything you do, if you are on a sports team or if you want to be in the choir, you have to just about...come up with the money in order for them to do that. And I remember when I was in school and pretty much you got everything. I don't remember my parents buying \$100 worth of supplies for kids.

Is this a public school you are talking about?

Public schools. But I think the school is getting better.

The transparency nowadays.

I agree that the transparency is really a step in the right direction. I think we need as much more of that as we can get, especially with our politicians. But you are right, it's hard to hide now. It really is. And you are always on camera. And if you are in the public eye, somebody is going to find out what you are doing hopefully. Although we still have these earmarks and things like that that are happening in congress. But, yeah, I don't think it's anything with politicians though. I think it's what our capitalistic society has...

I have a profile at the airports, security. I'll take that extra twenty minutes, get there earlier. And if you can stop a bad guy from doing something, it's worth it to me.

MODERATOR—WE ARE GOING TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT NOW. I'M GOING TO THROW OUT THE NAME OF A PERSON AND I WANT YOU TO SAY THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND. FIRST ONE IS BILL NELSON.

Politician.

Republican.

Politician.

Don't know much about him.

He's against Katherine Harris.

He's not well known.

Undecided.

Me too, undecided.

MODERATOR—KATHERINE HARRIS?

Dip shitty.

Scary.

Incompetent.

Manipulative.

Self centered.

Scary is a very good word.

Don't know.

MODERATOR—CHARLIE CHRIST?

Politician.

Governor.

All American guy.

He's the George Hamilton of politics. I've seen him at the airport. He has to be in a tanning salon. He's got that different color tan. But he is the George Hamilton of politics. He stands out. He has a head of white hair and tan, tan, tan. Always tanned because he would fly in and I'm like....a tanning salon gives you a different color tan and he's got it.

He looks like a winner.

I think he's an attorney.

He knows how to play the game.

He does.

MODERATOR—JIM DAVIS?

Know nothing about him?

Is that the California guy?

No.

The more I read about him, the more I like him. I went on the web and he answers all these questions on all different topics. I kind of liked his answers.

He's democratic and he's in the Sunset Home Today newspaper. I read articles on him.

One thing about Jim Davis, the thing that I'm curious about Jim Davis is, I still don't understand why he had to apologize. He apologized for something he said ten years ago or something like that.

Sixteen years ago.

It was a vote that he cast against compensating these two black guys.

(many talking at once)

And if he wasn't running for election, would he apologize?

Why did it take him sixteen years to apologize?

I think the apology was all politics.

Oh absolutely.

MODERATOR—ANOTHER NAME, CLAY SHAW.

Clay Shaw to me represents the good old boy network. As I said I've been in Florida for thirty-six years and I've followed politics, he is a member of the good old boys establishment of south Florida that has been changing. The people who live in Florida now are not the same type of people that lived here in the Clay Shaw era.

I don't mean this as a compliment, professional politician. And certainly in recent years, aligned himself almost 100% with the administration lock, step, vote, right down the line.

All the runways at Fort Lauderdale airport were bought up from the Clay Shaw family. He owned all the land along Fort Lauderdale Airport.

I remember him too because I've been down here fifty years. And he is a southern...well known....he's like Bob Butterworth who used to be one of our sheriffs and he's up in Tallahassee now and they are from like the good old school.

MODERATOR—IS THAT A GOOD THING, BAD THING?

It could be good, it has its pros and its cons, like anything else will have its pros and cons.

I like Clay Shaw. I think he has been around forever, but sometimes that's good because he's worked his way to the head of some committees where he can get some things done. But the last time I went to DC we went to his office, it was his office that took us on a tour through the Capitol. Anyone can do it, but it was his office that we contacted first. I think he aligns himself very closely with Bush, which I don't like either. I think sometimes it's good to have people in there that know how the system works and know how to work the system. That's what is happening.

I don't want to talk out of both sides of my mouth here, but I think if you look at somebody like Clay Shaw on a local basis and what he's done for his constituents for a local thing, whether it be build a bridge or fix the road or get the money, he's done a hell of a job in a positive sense.

I really just agree with everybody. I agree with Jerry, good old boy.

MODERATOR—AND IS THAT GOOD OR BAD?

It's not the greatest compliment. He has done a lot of positive things, but a lot has been for personal gain.

Is it different than any other politician? No.

I just think of him as a....I'm not really as up-to-date as I should be on Florida politics because I've only been here relatively a short time. But all the friends I've made who are old-time Floridians down here, they swear by him. Clay Shaw is our guy.

MODERATOR—HOW ABOUT RON KLINE?

Unknown.

I got a call just before I left to vote for him.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM?

Nothing.

(many talking at once)

I heard somebody say that this guy is very tight with the sugar lobbyists.

I don't know much about him.

Other than it's become a very dirty campaign and they are spending an awful lot of money, Kline is accusing him of his ties with Bush....they are saying he's involved with big sugar...I don't know which is worse, tied to Bush or big sugar. And the national ...if you want to run free elections as a democrat against a republican, you attack Bush. But my personal feeling is, I like change. And I think with Clay Shaw, I know what I've got and I'm not happy with it. He's also getting older. He's also sick. He's had sicknesses.

He's had cancer.

And he's been there a long time. And when you are there a long time, you become very fat and happy and wealthy. I would like someone new.

That is hungry and skinny.

I don't know which is worse, tied to sugar or Bush.

MODERATOR—OKAY, ANOTHER NAME, CONGRESS. WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF CONGRESS?

The benefits. They give to themselves first and then won't help other people that really need help. They are number one on their list, I think.

All they are worried about are their jobs.

This is the first time that I can remember where nothing gets done because they cannot get along. And you just think back to happier days when Johnson was in there. He could get people to work together and work something done. But you just feel like this congress has done nothing because they can't get a bill passed. They can't agree.

MODERATOR—WHO DO YOU THINK IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT...

I really think it comes from the top. I think Bush has aligned himself with people that don't like to particularly reach out. And I think once the republicans got in power, it was a long time. And they took advantage of it. But you just feel like voting them all out and voting all new people in and see if they can get along.

I think you have different types of republicans. You have conservative republicans and you have moderate republicans who have their own agendas versus democrats who can't get together with no leader in the democratic party. And that is the major problem. If there was a true leader of the democratic party and Hillary Clinton is not a leader of the democratic party, to say hey boys, we have a good chance in 2006, 2008. But they are fumbling.

I think congress should be on the same Social Security benefits that their constituents are.

And the same healthcare.

Yeah, the same healthcare. I think we'd see better results. They'd say, wow, how can you live like this?

Or do you remember the first year President Clinton was in office and Hillary was going to come up with the wonderful health plan for us? She never did a thing.

MODERATOR—IS THIS CONGRESS, IS THIS POLITICS AS USUAL, SAME AS ALWAYS, OR IS THIS CONGRESS WORSE THAN IN THE PAST?

I think it's the same as it's mostly always been.

I don't see a difference.

It seems to me worse. Usually especially in foreign affairs, they are usually...I don't remember and maybe I missed it, but I just don't remember them going after Bush on everything. I mean there is no....any democratic no matter what Bush ever does, it's terrible. No matter what. And the same thing goes for....I've never seenall the democrats think everything they do is right, everything they do is terrible and wrong. And the republicans are the same way. The republicans say everything democratic stinks. Until we get...and particularly, they used to say that partisanship stops at the water's edge, not anymore. Everything is just get you, got you, get you.

All the TV ads and the political ads.

They are always just willing to put somebody else down.

(many talking at once)

They should just be happy about living in the United States.

Yes, yes.

And I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

MODERATOR—(HANDOUTS PASSED OUT) ON THE FIRST PAGE, WRITE DOWN THE GOOD THINGS THAT COME TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT PRESIDENT BUSH. THEN TURN TO THE SECOND PAGE AND WRITE DOWN WHAT DOUBTS YOU HAVE ABOUT PRESIDENT BUSH. WHAT GOOD THINGS DID YOU WRITE DOWN?

I think he's an honest man. He's always stood by the courage of his convictions.

Good husband and family man. I think he's very loyal to his friends. And I think deep down he really wants to do what is right for the country.

Same thing, courage of his convictions, right or wrong, whether you agree or don't agree. He does stand up for what he believes in. And he does project, in my opinion a strong morality. Good morals.

He appears to be honest and truly caring. He's had to deal with the terrorists and the war and he hasn't got the support of other nations to back him.

I think he tries very hard to be a good president. And he's gotten to be a little better speaker. He used to really be a little confusing sometimes. And he's dressing better.

MODERATOR—WHAT DOUBTS DO YOU HAVE?

He's not too bright.

That's not true.

I think he's not too bright. He surrounds himself with mediocre people like Cheney, like Rumsfeld. And he doesn't take criticism well.

That's a good point.

That's true.

But the mediocrity, the good people that he had initially have left. And what's left is the cream of the crap.

I doubt whether he has a plan for the post war in Iraq or Afghanistan about trying to get out of there. We are sitting in a corner with that one.

The other thing, he's a very poor communicator.

I think he's dogmatic, rigid, inflexible. He's got a macho mentality that I find annoying. And I think he's stiff on camera and a president should not be. I'm not a Clinton fan, but boy that's the guy who should...

He's not a scholar. He doesn't read papers or watch TV, if he can help it.

I think he's got a little bit of the...and women like it...that bad boy, that wise guy way about him. He grew up riding horses and he was a heavy duty drinker. He picked the right woman to marry. She's tough, Laura. He picked a very good woman, I think. I think she really changed him a lot. I think he's got a little bit of that wise guy way.

(many talking at once)

But I also said once he makes a decision, right or wrong, he is not going to back down. And I think we all said that he's not flexible.

He did change his mind recently.

A word or two.

Do you find that not backing down good or bad?

In some respects, good. I like a person of their convictions.

Ronald Reagan backed down.

On the weapons of mass destruction, he backed down on that. And finally they convinced him that they didn't have any. And that was two or three years that it took him to do that. But he finally did back down.

(many talking at once)

He's wrong and he finally admitted it. He wouldn't admit it over two or three years.

His being married to Laura, because she really is interested in education and children. She brings a lot to the office.

MODERATOR-LET'S TALK ABOUT SOMETHING DIFFERENT NOW. IN LESS THEN TWO MONTHS THERE IS GOING TO BE AN ELECTION FOR CONGRESS. FOR YOU PERSONALLY, WHAT IS THIS UPCOMING ELECTION ABOUT?

Terrorism, how we are going to deal with it.

In Florida, for these candidates?

MODERATOR—YEAH, WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THIS ELECTION FOR YOU?

(many talking at once)

MODERATOR—YOUR VOTE FOR THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS, WHAT IS THIS ABOUT FOR YOU?

It's about a backlash against Bush. And I will voteas it stands now, I will vote for a change.

I would like to look for some change too in the people that are running the country. It's hard to pick the ones that could do it. I would love to see the war, which I think is just draining all of our resources, and I think that's the major thing....it makes us look so bad to the rest of the world. We used to have a few friends. I just think that's the main thing. We have got to come to some kind of reconciliation or something about that war.

It's like a quagmire. We are just trying to grab and we just can't get our head above it.

Bush has brought down Tony Blair. He's not going to come up again. He's bringing down people with his attitude towards the war. And that's why I just want to...other than Katherine...I do not want a change to Katherine Harris, but I would change for...

The war, number one, his stand on the war and how they feel about it. What the direction they feel it needs to go in. And then, again I get back to the local issues, I need to see the Social Security, the Medicare and those things to be worked on and improved. Homeland security, certainly, is a big issue, as to what we are doing there is effective enough.

With all the generals, you'd think that congress would bring...we had Schwarzkopf who was a hero in 1993 in Desert Storm. And with all of these great generals and military minds that we have, they could come up with a solution. And we are kicking around do this, do that. It's really sad.

(many talking at once)

Does the Congress bring our Pentagon people in and say, come on, let's get a solution to this mess.

You'd have to talk to retired ones because the ones that are still on the job....

But some speak out.

MODERATOR—WHAT ARE YOU HEARING FROM CANDIDATES THAT ARE RUNNING FOR CONGRESS?

Not too many of them talk about the conflict with Iraq.

MODERATOR-WHAT ARE YOU HEARING?

You mostly hear them complaining about what the other person is doing. That's what I object to. I don't hear too many people spending a lot of time saying what they are going to do. Everybody has a solution, but you never hear what the solution is.

Everybody has got a plan.

Nixon had a plan, but he couldn't talk about it.

(many talking at once)

MODERATOR-WHAT NEGATIVE THINGS ARE YOU HEARING THEM SAY?

Well about what the other person has done, what their record is, what they haven't done, what they should have done, what they could have done.

They don't seem to speak about the healthcare or the war.

Right.

They go in different directions, but what certainly interests all of us, whether it be gasoline prices or healthcare.

One of the things that stands out in my mind that I keep going back to, and again it's more local, is the insurance thing. I'm going to do something about the insurance, which always kind of made me smile when I heard Gallagher say it because he was running the insurance.

He was in charge of the insurance department.

He's the guy we want.

MODERATOR—ARE YOU HEARING ANYBODY TALK ABOUT IT, THE PEOPLE RUNNING FOR CONGRESS?

Yes.

MODERATOR—WHAT ARE THEY SAYING?

They are saying that they are going to fix it. But there is never any specifics.

They are either blasting the other guy or they are coming up with platitudes like everybody is entitled to healthcare. Well what the hell does that mean? You just don't

do anything specific from a positive standpoint. They are just platitudes except when you are criticizing the other guy. And I don't listen to anybody anymore when they do nothing but blast the other party.

Right.

And with the insurance, I've heard them talk positively about trying to get one huge disaster type of insurance countrywide, so that no one section carries the burden. And I think there are a few of the people running that have spoken out positively about that. And I kind of see that that may be a way out of this whole thing.

It's catastrophic insurance.

MODERATOR—WHERE DO YOU HEAR THEM TALKING ABOUT THIS?

I've heard Shaw talk about it. And if you go on his blog...you know they all list their things, what their response is to these...but I've heard a few talk about it.

MODERATOR—LET'S TALK ABOUT THE REPUBLICANS IN THE ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER. YOU MENTIONED SHAW. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR VOTE, WHAT ARE THE REASONS TO VOTE FOR A REPUBLICAN?

Lower taxes.

Less giveaway.

Seniority.

Complacency. Shaw has been there so long and you get comfortable with a guy like that.

Political clout.

If I vote for Shaw, it would be because I think he could really do more for Florida than Kline could being so new and not having any DC experience.

MODERATOR—WHAT ARE THE REASONS THAT WOULD HOLD YOU BACK FROM VOTING FOR A REPUBLICAN?

Maybe too much complacency. Maybe it's time for something new.

Change of attitude in Congress and it's one less republican seat that would win.

If he was a dogmatic republican that just went straight down the party line on every issue, I wouldn't vote for him. That's not the kind of person I want in there. As I said a couple of times, nobody is right or wrong all the time. I want to vote for the man and I want to know what he thinks about all these things.

I can't think of any reasons to vote for a republican. The sad situation is, if you just looked at it the other way and say well, we need a change, the democrats certainly

haven't put anything out either. So I think it underlines the sad shape of affairs that we are in.

MODERATOR—LET'S TALK ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS. WHAT REASONS ARE THERE TO VOTE FOR THEM?

In my opinion, there aren't any. Not until they put something on the table that you can feel and try to understand.

It was the opportunity for them right now the way republicans are floundering, for the democrats to take a foothold and nobody came up to the plate. That leaves us like this. You are in the middle of the road.

Another reason would be if the republican is in office and you can't stand him, then that's a good reason to vote for the democrat. Other than that....

Like Joe Lieberman who went independent.

I like Joe Lieberman.

I do too.

(many talking at once)

I think we've had a minimum of ten to twelve years of republican control of congress. And in those ten or twelve years, I think the country has gotten worse. So if you want to pin the blame on anyone, you could blame them. We've also had almost six years of a republican president and eight years of a democratic president, and I don't think Clinton in his second term had control of the congress, and so nothing gets done. It becomes a stalemate. And what you are having now is you are having a lot of, I think, older congressmen who have made their

(end of side)

MODERATOR—LET'S STICK TO WHAT'S GOING ON RIGHT NOW WITH A REASON TO VOTE FOR A DEMOCRAT.

Then it would even up the congress a little bit more so it's not so lopsided where they have the Senate, the House and the White House. It's very hard for them to come out this time when we are closing in on the election and all. Don't you think somebody that wants to win is going to come out with some of these issues that we are talking about?

I hope so.

I can't believe it's all negative. They haven't said anything constructive, either side, at all. And I think that's one of the reasons people didn't go out to the primaries.

MODERATOR—ARE THERE OTHER THINGS THAT WOULD HOLD YOU BACK FROM VOTING FOR A DEMOCRAT?

Yeah, it depends on the candidate.

If he said he was going to try and eliminate the tax cuts. Or if he wanted to tax dividends or was for the gas tax and all that stuff. Either that or just way over to the left on social issues I don't think I could support him.

I don't know at this point. It depends on the candidate. I don't vote straight ticket. I vote for the man. So I don't know who I'm going to vote for. I need to know more about what they stand for, what they are going to say they are going to do and ultimately they don't do. But I would just have to know more about the candidate.

MODERATOR—LET ME THROW OUT A HYPOTHETICAL. IF THE DEMOCRATS TOOK CONTROL OF CONGRESS, DO YOU THINK THERE WILL BE CHANGE?

Only if the republicans cooperate. It seems like everybody is just in their party line and very rarely do they cross over because it's a good idea. Cross over, do what they are suggesting, not because the democrats are saying it, not because the republicans are saying it.

I think if the democrats took control of congress, it would send a message to our leaders in Washington that the American citizen was pissed off.

I think that's true. I think it would send a strong message that you have to solve some of these problems. I know Hillary Clinton did come up with a health plan and I read it and I thought it was fairly good. But she didn't have a chance. Our health system is so messed up in this country and bureaucracy is part of that. But I think it would send a message. We have real problems here and all of our energy is going there to Iraq. And we better start paying attention here. I remember when I was younger and voting, I used to vote for a woman every time there was a woman to vote for, every time. I didn't know her, I would vote for her. I just felt there had to be more women in there.

Martha Stewart you voted for?

Poor Martha took the brunt of all the good old boys who did it for years.

(many talking at once)

I'd vote for Hillary Clinton.

MODERATOR—SOME OF YOU MENTIONED SOME OF THE ADS THAT YOU'VE BEEN SEEING AND I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE THEM VERY MUCH, BUT I'M SORRY THAT I MIGHT HAVE TO SUBJECT YOU TO SOME MORE TELEVISION ADS. FOR EACH AD, WE ARE GOING TO RATE IT. TURN TO HANDOUT #3. ON THE LEFT OF THE SCALE IT SAYS, MORE LIKELY KLINE WITH A #5 UNDER IT; IN THE MIDDLE IT SAYS NO DIFFERENCE WITH A ZERO UNDER IT; AND ON THE RIGHT IT SAYS MORE LIKELY SHAW WITH A #5 UNDER IT. AFTER YOU SEE THE AD, I WANT YOU TO CIRCLE THE NUMBER THAT CAPTURES WHETHER THAT AD MADE YOU MORE LIKELY TO MOVE TOWARDS KLINE OR TOWARDS SHAW. THEN AFTER THAT, JUST WRITE A COUPLE THINGS THAT YOU TOOK AWAY FROM THE AD THAT MADE YOU GIVE IT THAT SCORE. (FIRST AD RUN) I'M GOING TO GET YOUR SCORES AND THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT.

I gave it a #4 for Shaw.

#1 towards Shaw.

#4 towards Shaw.

#2 towards Shaw.

#3 towards Kline.

#3 towards Shaw.

#4 towards Shaw.

#3 towards Shaw.

MODERATOR—LET'S START WITH #3'S AND #4S, WHAT DID YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THIS AD?

I said preserve the nature places is important.

There's a conflict of interest and he'll be open. He won't be bought by any big business contribution. And then he's against the environment.

It was deceptive in a way. Assuming the accusations are accurate, I wouldn't want to vote for someone beholding a special interest.

I went #4 towards Shaw only because of the contamination with the sugar, which that has been an issue, not just with this election but in the past. And I want to see the Everglades be saved and preserved.

MODERATOR—AND YOU FOUND IT BELIEVABLE, THE CRITIQUE AGAINST KLINE?

Objectively speaking, yes.

MODERATOR—ANYBODY ELSE ON WHY IT MOVED THEM TOWARDS SHAW?

I think everybody gets money from somewhere. I think the Everglades (inaudible) a couple of the bills for clean-up for years. But sugar plays a big role in the economy also. And I think that has to be balanced a little bit, so I gave it a #1 towards Shaw. I do believe that the ad is true.

He took \$16,500 from sugar.

It's just way too negative. Why should I believe it? Why should I believe what he's saying and we are not hearing the other side.

He said to be subjective. I'm not saying that I like Shaw. From what I saw in this, isn't that what he is telling us, to be objective?

It's a totally negative ad about the other guy.

But you'll see something else.

That's my reaction to that kind of an ad generally.

MODERATOR—LET'S FLIP TO THE NEXT HANDOUT, HANDOUT #4. WE'LL WATCH THE NEXT AD. SAME SCALE, SAME SHAW AND KLINE. (NEXT AD RUN) WHAT DID YOU RATE THAT ONE?

I gave it a #2 towards Kline.

#2 towards Kline.

#4 towards Kline.

#3 towards Kline.

Zero.

#4 towards Shaw.

#3 towards Kline.

Zero.

MODERATOR—FIVE OF YOU GAVE IT A POSITIVE TOWARDS KLINE, WHY?

Objectively speaking now, that's my personal feelings, just watching that that he was being influenced by Washington politicians, including the president. And that I didn't like.

I think it is true that Shaw is a long-time republican and he votes party lines. I think that part is true and I think you can point that out.

There's a big difference between \$16,500 and over a million dollars. And the other thing is, a lot of congressmen came out and supported the war in Iraq. Shaw has kept his mouth shut since the initial vote and that would be a negative issue.

The line that was used, time for change. I'm like Howard there, any one of the ads we've seen and probably will see, I'm a cynic, so it's hard. Just because he says it and we are rating it....

MODERATOR—WHAT DID YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THE AD?

Time for a change.

Yeah, but comparing the two ads, if I might. In this particular election, those are the only two issues they are having. Kline is harping on time for a change and Bush. And Shaw is hopping on the sugar. Obviously Kline does not have the voting record that he could lay his hat on, but this is the only two issues....that's the sad part of this election. There

is nothing else to judge. You are judging a man in a negative way against another man. Kline is being judged because of the negativity towards Bush.

MODERATOR—WHO GAVE IT NO DIFFERENCE?

It's like a bully. You did this, oh yeah, I'm going to do that. You took \$16,500, you took the sugar. If you watch them after one another, it's like a little kid bully fighting.

MODERATOR—DID ANYTHING STAND OUT IN THERE?

Nothing constructive.

The deception.

I really am too cynical for this kind of thing. I just automatically turn off when I see somebody blasting the other guy without saying a darn thing about what he's going to be doing. I just don't listen to it.

MODERATOR—WE KNOW THAT EVERYONE HATES NEGATIVE ADS. BUT WE ALSO KNOW THAT THIS IS WHAT'S ON TV. SO WHEN YOU WATCH THE NEGATIVE ADS, I WANT YOU TO ALSO FOCUS ON HOW DOES IT MAKE YOU FEEL, WHAT DO YOU TAKE AWAY FROM IT THAT CAUSES YOU TO JUDGE ONE WAY OR THE OTHER ABOUT THE CANDIDATE?

I think we'd like to believe that what we see is gospel, that's it the truth, and they are not fictitious making these things up, but we know better.

We know better.

MODERATOR—TURN TO HANDOUT #5. (ANOTHER AD RUN) WHAT DID YOU RATE THIS ONE?

#4 for Shaw.

#4 for Shaw.

#3 for Kline.

#2 for Shaw.

#3 for Kline.

#4 for Shaw.

#2 for Shaw.

#4 for Shaw.

MODERATOR—OKAY. A LOT OF POSITIVES FOR SHAW ON THAT ONE. TELL US WHY.

Very upbeat. It addresses seniors.

I thought it was a positive ad. It mentioned Florida, which is where I live. And he did differ from Bush on this one thing that it said.

I had almost the same things that Elizabeth said. There were constructive ideas. He actually came up with a plan. The fact that he was not in Bush's pocket and that he is for Florida people.

I think it was a very effective ad targeting senior citizens.

MODERATOR—WE ARE TALKING ABOUT YOU RIGHT NOW. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE AD?

Very effective ad targeting a specific group who votes. And you are hitting a button for them to vote without taking into account your record with regard to how is it going to affect the rest of his constituency.

MODERATOR—IT DIDN'T HIT YOUR BUTTON?

No. But I did thinkI gave it #2 towards Shaw, it hit my button because I'm in that group that he was looking to hit.

Didn't you say Kline and not Shaw?

No, Shaw. #2 for Shaw.

He made a point of saying he disagreed from the president and he represented the people of Florida. I'm just critiquing the ad, what I got out of it.

MODERATOR—TWO PEOPLE GAVE IT A #3 TOWARDS KLINE, TELL ME WHY.

Because again, objectively not with me personally, what I interpreted was he was focusing on Social Security and seniors, and from my understanding Social Security was not established for us to depend on for our retirement. That was just something that was like a gap. He was focusing on the seniors and Social Security and it shouldn't change and go up and down and that's what I got from it. Is that what you got?

No, I got it entirely different from you. What it said to me was that he's not going to do anything about Social Security. He's not going to do anything. He's not going to acknowledge the mess that it's in and it's going to be. And he's just going to go along, he's not going to come up with any changes.

MODERATOR—TURN TO HANDOUT #6. (NEXT AD RUN) WHAT DID YOU RATE IT?

I gave it a zero.

#2 for Kline.

#3 for Kline.

#1 for Kline.

#3 for Kline.

Zero.

#1 for Kline.

#3 for Kline.

MODERATOR—SO SIX OF YOU GAVE IT A POSITIVE TOWARDS KLINE, TELL US WHY.

I saw a little bit more of Kline in this and he does have sort of an energy, I think. And he kind of speaks well. I thought that was good. But I didn't like that he brought in that negative component again.

I just thought it was at least...even though it's like a sound bite kind of thing, but there was some acknowledgement about some of the things that he would like to be positive about and work on. Then he came in with the negative at the end, so I didn't....but I thought at least it was a step in the right direction, a positive campaign.

I like the ad, but I just question whether he'll have the seniority....he won't have the seniority or the power or the influence to do everything he says he wants to do. What he wants to do and what he can do is a big difference.

I thought he focused on the insurance, insurance coverage. Showing houses that need roofs and everything. That's a big important issue right now with a lot of us so that's why I leaned towards him, just based on the commercial.

MODERATOR—AND DO YOU THINK A CONGRESSMAN'S JOB IS TO...THAT INSURANCE COMES UNDER A CONGRESSMAN'S RESPONSIBILITIES?

You know, I don't know. Insurance companies are unto themselves I think.

Insurance in Florida is under the control of the Florida Insurance Commission. Him being in congress, how is he going to do that?

And if he's been in the congress in Florida, what has he done?

Did I understand correctly that he said he introduced bills to increase insurance? Did I understand that correctly?

MODERATOR—I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU TOOK AWAY FROM THE AD.

Well, that's what I questioned. If he introduced these bills, how come rates are going up and how come people are being cancelled?

MODERATOR—LET ME ASK ABOUT THIS BACK AND FORTH NOW, WHERE KLINE HAS SAID THAT SHAW IS TOO TIED TO BUSH AND SHAW HAS SAID THAT HE'S

INDEPENDENT OF BUSH. WHERE DO YOU COME DOWN ON THIS? DO YOU THINK SHAW IS INDEPENDENT OR TOO TIED TO BUSH?

I only know what I read and see and voting records. He is tied to Bush in my opinion, as a republican. I don't mean that in a terribly negative sense. He votes party line.

MODERATOR—THE COMMENTS HE MADE ON SOCIAL SECURITY, DID THAT DO ANYTHING TO CONVINCING YOU THAT HE IS?

In that instance, yes. In the Social Security issue, that one ad, taking it at face value, I would say, okay, that's good. But overall, no.

Where does Congressional District #22 run?

MODERATOR—LET'S STICK TO THE DISCUSSION HERE. YOU ARE ALL IN IT.

I think he's been in power long enough that he has some power on his own. That he could probably break away from Bush on some things without being in trouble. He's been there forever. And also, I've read what he says about Iraq and he wants a timetable and he wants to get out. I know that from what he's written.

MODERATOR—OVERALL, AFTER SEEING THIS, DO YOU THINK HE'S INDEPENDENT ENOUGH OR TOO TIED TO BUSH?

I think he's independent enough just because of longevity, being there and knowing the way things go. And being able to form separate groups.

I think he's a party animal. I think he's more republican than Bush, if that's....if there was another president....I think he's just an old-time republican workhorse.

A typical political jargon – like they said about Shaw, he doesn't come out and say what he's going to do about the insurance or the Social Security, they just mention it. Sure, Social Security, you just see it and you think, oh maybe he knows something about it. But it's a typical politician.

That's what they are counting on.

Yeah.

I think it was a good commercial for him. He focused on Social Security and Florida has the most retirees of any state. I think Arizona and Nevada are catching up. So what better subject for him to focus on and get votes, is Social Security?

Absolutely.

MODERATOR—WHAT ABOUT THE ATTACK ON KLINE FOR BEING TIED TO SUGAR? HE DEFENDED HIMSELF SAYING THAT HE WAS GOING TO TAKE ON SPECIAL INTERESTS. WHERE DO YOU COME DOWN ON THAT? DO YOU THINK KLINE IS TOO TIED TO SPECIAL INTERESTS OR DO YOU THINK HE'S GOING TO STAND UP TO SPECIAL INTERESTS?

I think they all are.

They all are tied to it.

From that ad, it convinced me that he is tied to it, whether he is or not tied to it completely. The emphasis of the ad, the way it was said, the way it was spoken.

The special interest tag just doesn't do it for me because everybody is involved with groups that they agree with or they don't agree with and they get campaign....they are all....we are a special interest, over 65. We are a special interest, so if he's for over 65 does that mean he's...so that just doesn't ring my bell when somebody accuses somebody else of being tied to a special interest.

I agree with that only because in order to run a campaign you are tied to special interests, whether AARP contributed money to Kline, that's a special interest. Everything is. If you make a donation to a political campaign, that's a special interest. I guarantee if you gave money to E. Clay Shaw and you went to Washington, and you gave him enough money, he'd roll out the red carpet.

(many talking at once)

MODERATOR—TURN TO HANDOUT #7. WE ARE GOING TO SHOW AN AD THAT DOESN'T MENTION CLAY SHAW OR RON KLINE, BUT THE SCALE IS THE SAME. I WANT YOU TO SUBSTITUTETHE PERSON SPEAKING, HIS NAME IS JIM TALENT. HE'S RUNNING IN ANOTHER STATE, BUT HE'S GOT A MESSAGE THAT APPLIES HERE IN FLORIDA. SUBSTITUTE JIM TALENT FOR CLAY SHAW. (NEXT AD RUN) WHAT DID YOU RATE THIS ONE?

#2 for Kline.

#1 for Kline.

#4 for Shaw.

#2 for Shaw.

#5 for Shaw.

#5 for Shaw.

#5 for Shaw.

Zero.

MODERATOR—LET'S START WITH THE #4'S AND #5'S FOR SHAW, WHY?

Security is our most important. And he seemed like he was all for it and going ahead with it.

I said similar. There are important issues that must be addressed, security and terrorists and we have to do something.

I thought it was a strong message on terrorism, but what I really liked about it is it mirrors my feelings. I got a sense that he was not for coddling terror suspects. He was going after them and doing what you have to do.

Basically the same thing. He discussed probably one of the most important issues in our country today. And I agree with everything he said in the ad.

MODERATOR—SO WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE HIM A #5?

Um....he could have gotten a #5.

I thought it was a good advertisement. I thought because he gets the point across on terrorism, however I would like it more than that. I think it was the shortest commercial we've seen.

Is that a fifteen?

MODERATOR—THE TRUTH IS, THAT WAS ACTUALLY THE SAME LENGTH AS THE OTHERS.

Is that so?

Twenty seconds?

MODERATOR—THIRTY SECONDS.

It seemed shorter.

Isn't that funny?

Because you were really interested in hearing what he said, you were listening to it.

MODERATOR—WHAT DID YOU THINK ABOUT HIM SPEAKING DIRECTLY TO YOU? DID THAT HAVE ANY IMPACT?

Maybe that's what did it.

I thought he spoke too quickly, rather rapidly.

I think it was because of the subject.

What state is he running in?

MODERATOR—MISSOURI.

The pictures were hard to follow.

He grabbed us.

MODERATOR—IS THAT TRUE FOR ANYBODY ELSE, THE PICTURES?

(many talking at once)

I would have liked it a little slower.

MODERATOR—AND WHY DID YOU GO #2 THE OTHER WAY?

I guess as in any ad, you are influenced by what you feel. And first of all, obviously, I support homeland security, blah, blah, blah. We've been tracking their finances or we should have been for a long, long time, so I don't think that's anything new. And I think this business of just throwing out phone taps is too broad. And I guess just in a general sense, we've got people running the show here, you are doing a heck of a job brownie. When I see the ad, I have my feelings about what's been done. I don't think they have the expertise to do what they are claiming to do. I don't want to give them broad-based powers.

I like the nice job brownie.

MODERATOR—TURN TO HANDOUT #8 NOW. AGAIN, USE SOME CREATIVITY.

Was he a republican?

MODERATOR—YEAH. AGAIN WE ARE USING DIFFERENT PEOPLE. FOR THIS ONE, THERE'S GOING TO BE SOMEBODY CALLED JOHN HOSTETLER AND HE IS SHAW. AND SOMEONE NAMED BRAD ELLSWORTH AND HE IS KLINE. (NEXT AD RUN) IS THERE CONFUSION OVER WHO IS WHO? DO YOU WANT TO WATCH IT AGAIN?

Yeah.

Yeah.

Let's watch it again.

MODERATOR—THIS IS A CRITIQUE OF SOMEONE NAMED BRAD ELLSWORTH WHO IS A DEMOCRAT.

He's Kline on our sheet.

MODERATOR—EXACTLY. (AD RUN AGAIN) WHAT DID YOU RATE THIS ONE?

#2 for Kline.

No difference.

#4 for Shaw.

No difference.

#1 for Shaw.

#5 for Shaw.

#4 for Kline.

Zero.

MODERATOR—YOU GUYS WERE VERY MIXED ON THIS ONE. FOR THOSE WHO SAID IT MOVED THEM TOWARDS SHAW, WHY?

If I see Hillary Clinton and Ted Kennedy in the same ad, it turns me off completely because he should be in jail.

Chappaquiddick.

MODERATOR—DO YOU BELIEVE THAT A DEMOCRAT IS GOING TO FOLLOW THE HILLARY CLINTON AND TED KENNEDY PATH?

It wasn't necessarily predicated on that, it was just because of the two of them together on the same screen I just can't handle.

MODERATOR—WHO ELSE HAD MORE POSITIVE FOR SHAW?

Well I saw Ted Kennedy too, but I didn't base it on that. I based it on the subject matter. I don't have a problem with tapping phones if it's going to involve terrorists. I don't have a problem with profiling. That's basically what their agenda was. I'm not crazy about him either, but I was looking at the ad only.

I agree with her in the sense that the images on the screen meant nothing. I don't care whose picture was up there, but I thought that it did touch my button on some specific issues that I think are important.

MODERATOR—SO THE CONCERNS THEY RAISED IN THE AD ABOUT DEMOCRATS...

Yeah.

So that wouldI would think about it some more. But that if those people were...if democrats were voting or were inclined in that direction, it would push me towards Shaw.

And those are important issues for me.

Yeah.

I do agree with what they said. He looks better, not so roly poly.

This was a succinct issue kind of ad for me.

Yeah.

I should have said that too.

MODERATOR—THOSE OF YOU WHO SAID NO DIFFERENCE, WHY?

The ad didn't move me at all. We used to talk about democrat's big spending, but the republicans have been in and look at the debt we are in. How does that equal out? It just had a feeling about it that I didn't like, that ad.

And I put down zero also. It was a scary ad. It was like the frying pan into the fire. That's the way I looked at it. That's what it showed me.

I thought the ad was too negative. It was very negative. And for some reason while I was watching that ad and I saw it twice, in the back of my mind it was subliminal mention to me of pro life in that ad. That was my reaction.

Where did you get it?

Interesting.

Yeah.

There was something in there that just triggered in my mind pro life.

MODERATOR—YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WAS?

No.

Hillary.

MODERATOR—AND WHY DID YOU GO TOWARDS KLINE?

Almost a mirror image of the previous ad. It's the wiretap thing again, too broad. I think from Hillary Clinton's picture in here, that pushes a button for most people in a negative sense. To me, it had a tone of something I have a problem with and that's if you don't agree, if you want to back off a little bit, we'll see some checks and balances put in there, i.e. you are less patriotic or you are soft on the war or soft on terrorism and nothing can be further from the truth for a lot of people.

I felt the same way.

MODERATOR—TURN TO HANDOUT #9. WE ARE GOING TO DO JOHN HOSTETLER AND HE'S GOING TO EQUAL CLAY SHAW. (NEXT AD RUN) WHAT DID YOU RATE THIS ONE?

I rated it #1 towards Kline.

Two for Kline.

Four for Shaw.

Three for Kline.

Zero.

Four for Kline.

Five for Kline.

Zero.

Wait a minute. I have a four for Shaw.

Hostetler is Shaw.

MODERATOR—THE ONE THEY SAID GAVE THE PAY RAISE.

It was Shaw speaking who was going to do all this.

MODERATOR—WHO DID IT. THE PERSON WHO THEY ARE ATTACKING WAS SHAW. THE PERSON WHO SAID THAT HE GAVE HIMSELF A PAY RAISE AND DENIED

Okay, I have to....four for Kline.

What state was he in?

MODERATOR—WE'LL GET TO THAT. SIX OF YOU GAVE IT A POSITIVE FOR KLINE. LET'S START WITH THE PEOPLE MOST POSITIVE TOWARDS KLINE, WHY?

Because I think certainly the service men....it hits home to me that they should have been treated better. The fact that he gave himself a raise, which I didn't like that. If you are going to equate one with the other....soldiers are more deserving.

It was a very good ad and it hit a subject that is reallyyou can't put negative comment on. These men are putting out their lives. And it just showed that here's a man that follows fully the party line.

I gave it a zero because to me it looked like one of those ads where you do not get the other side of the story. It was too quick and too pat and I'm very suspect to that one liner about....what else happened?

I look at it as negative, but I thought the message about the bonus for troops was powerful. Or I should have...I mean I should have maybe looked at it the other way that ...about his raise. I thought it was a good one liner.

I gave it a four because I feel strongly about...not just men, but the women fighting over there. And I think they should have gotten....we should do everything for them that we can, support them in every way.

Of course the best thing we can do is get them the heck out of there. I don't like the use of troops, showing soldiers in this. I really think that that's a turn-off for me, the use of

that war that way. They don't show the caskets. They don't show them all mangled. They show them all brave and strong, which ...

I put down a zero. It's negative for sure, but is it true? I would want to research it and look that up because it's terrible to neglect our boys, not only with the bullet proof vests and not paying them enough and so forth. You have to look stuff up like that and see how true it is. See if it is true.

MODERATOR—THIS IS THE LAST AD WE'LL WATCH. THIS IS HANDOUT #10. FOR THIS ONE, IT'S GOING TO BE ABOUT A GUY NAMED CHRIS MURPHY. MURPHY AND KLINE ARE THE SAME PERSON. (AD RUN) WHAT DID YOU RATE THIS ONE?

Three for Kline.

Three for Kline.

Am I getting screwed up here or not because I'm leaning towards Shaw, but it was....four for Shaw.

Three for Shaw.

Two for Shaw.

Four for Shaw.

Two for Shaw.

Five for Shaw.

MODERATOR—OKAY, IT MOVED A LOT OF YOU TOWARDS SHAW.

It was a stupid ad.

No, it wasn't.

It was action packed and I thought it was a good ad compared to what he said. It showed what happened to New York and it's going on as we know about it, we read about it in the paper, the cells, the bad guys are calling Pakistan. And so I gave it a negative on it. I think it's fire in the bud.

MODERATOR—DO YOU THINK IT'S BELIEVABLE THAT KLINE OR MURPHY WOULD BE AGAINST THIS POLICY?

No, it's not believable, but if he's saying it, we are going to believe that that ad is true, yes. But it's....we are pro American, we don't want to believe that. But I gave him a five for saying it or believing it.

MODERATOR—OTHERS WHO GAVE IT STRONG RATINGS FOR SHAW?

I did. I said it was a powerful ad if it's true. I certainly want them to act. If you are investigating a call, so what if it's going to help? It's like being at the airport and being checked. So what if it's a little inconvenient? If the outcome is good, then that's fine.

I thought it was a good single issue ad. I could grab the whole thing at least in thirty seconds. I could concentrate on one particular thing. And although I'm cynical about the negative part of it because I'd want to look at that, if it was true it would be a powerful transfer for Shaw. But I am still cynical about the negative part.

Strong advertisement, easy to visualize, well done.

MODERATOR—WHAT PIECE OF IT THOUGH?

I liked the way they used the arrows, the graph.

The call.

The call, see they all remember it.

MODERATOR—WE SAW A LOT OF ADS THAT WERE ATTACKING DEMOCRATS ON THE SECURITY ISSUE. DOES A DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS CONCERN YOU ABOUT SECURITY? ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT AMERICA'S SECURITY?

I'm not. It's an issue that is so powerful in this country that I don't feel that they would go out of their way to hold back against things like this on the basis of civil liberties. In seeing these ads, I get the impression that the negative ads are coming from the incumbent. Now, and I don't know the market they are targeting to with these ads and this is critical.

MODERATOR—I WANT TO TALK SPECIFICALLY ABOUT WHETHER YOU ARE CONCERNED BASED ON ALL THE STUFF WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT, WOULD THAT HOLD YOU BACK FROM THE DEMOCRATS?

No.

No.

Me either.

It concerns me because I think the democrats for some part have a tendency to be very liberal in their thinking and the way they approach things.

I just don't think they'd be tough enough. And I think their motives are great and I'm notbut I just don't think that they are....you just need an iron fist.

I really think there is such a thing as checks and balances. And I think there are certain things such as people's rights. And I know that our young men are being killed so it's very hard to say anything against it. But in truth, you give a little bit of right here, a little bit of right there, then what was this country founded on? Are they looking at your library card? I mean, it just....are you going to give this kind of power to this president and the next and the next? I think there has to be checks and balances on it.

MODERATOR—NO MORE ADS. WE ARE RUNNING A LITTLE BEHIND. FLIP TO HANDOUT #11. WE ARE GOING TO READ A STATEMENT BY DEMOCRATS ON NATIONAL SECURITY. THIS IS BY A DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE. THEN WE'LL RATE IT.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS, FIVE YEARS AFTER 9/11, THE THREAT OF TERRORISM IS AS GREAT AS EVER. PRESIDENT BUSH HAS WEAKENED OUR SECURITY BY GETTING AMERICA BOGGED DOWN IN AN IRAQI CIVIL WAR AS WE SPEND BILLIONS AND BILLIONS OF DOLLARS AND LOSE THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN LIVES. WE NEED A NEW DIRECTION IN IRAQ AND CONGRESS MUST START HOLDING THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTABLE FOR ITS MISMANAGEMENT OF THE IRAQ WAR, INCLUDING AN END TO OVERSPENDING AND NO-BID CONTRACTS FOR HALLIBURTON. BEYOND IRAQ, WE MUST DO A BETTER JOB WAGING THE WAR ON TERROR. THIS MEANS INVESTING TO MAKE AMERICA ENERGY INDEPENDENT, IMPLEMENTING 100% OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS, AND REBUILDING OUR ALLIANCES WITH NATO AND OTHER ALLIES WHOSE COOPERATION IS REQUIRED TO DEFEAT TERRORISM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

KLINE IS THE DEMOCRAT AND SHAW IS THE REPUBLICAN. ON THE SCALE BELOW, JUST CIRCLE THE NUMBER OF HOW LIKELY THAT IS TO MAKE YOU VOTE FOR ONE CANDIDATE OVER THE OTHER.

Three, Kline.

Five for Kline.

Five for Kline.

Four for Kline.

Zero.

Zero.

Five for Kline.

Four for Kline.

MODERATOR—THOSE WHO WERE POSITIVE, THE FOURS AND FIVES FOR KLINE, WHY?

Because everything that I read here was what I'm concerned about.

MODERATOR—WHAT IN HERE REALLY STRUCK YOU?

That five years after 9/11, the threat of terrorism is as great as ever. It is. Let's not forget that it was the English that caught these other terrorists that were over there. It's like, where were we? I feel we need to....I've worked at the airport for six years and I

see security over there. We need to improve a lot and that's just our airport. So, that's my main concern, terrorism.

Like her, I really believe that most of these statements being made....that we are fighting terror in a country....we are breeding terrorists rather than fighting them. And we know billions of dollars have been misspent over there. And I think to fight terror we need to take a different tack. I agree with that.

I just feel that this statement says that we need a change in congress. And the current congressional candidate has gone along with this and tied into Bush, completely tied into Bush. You push the other way and

Can I just add one more thing that's important? You know, we don't have too many other countries that like us any more. We are down to who? England and probably Israel.

China.

And New Jersey.

(many talking at once)

We spend a lot of money in China.

I know we do.

My son was just there for two weeks.

We need to rebuild our allies. We are getting down to where no one is...we need help. That's why we need to rebuild with NATO and get some other countries that are going to support us again. I was on a cruise about four years ago....we were in Italy and we were on a bus and I never saw this except in the movies and I was young then. They have graffiti on a wall in Italy that said, Americans go home. And that was something that they did in WWII and I'm like that was really sort of...I was shocked when I saw that.

Is that at the tourist stops when they wanted your dollar?

No, no, no.

That was New Jersey.

(many talking at once)

MODERATOR—FLIP TO HANDOUT #12. SAME THING HERE. ANOTHER STATEMENT BY DEMOCRATS ON NATIONAL SECURITY.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS WE NEED TO CHART A NEW COURSE IN IRAQ. OUR MILITARY HAS DONE ITS JOB IN IRAQ AND IT'S NOW TIME FOR IRAQIS TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR OWN FUTURE. BUT MY OPPONENT AND PRESIDENT BUSH OFFER NO STRATEGY TO END THE WAR AND ARE SENDING EVEN MORE TROOPS TO AN URBAN WAR ZONE IN BAGHDAD. WITH OVER 2,500

AMERICANS DEAD AND THREE BILLION DOLLARS A WEEK GOING TO A WAR THAT HAS NO END IN SIGHT, WE NEED A CHANGE IN POLICY. AMERICA MUST GET THE IRAQI POLITICIANS TO STOP DRAGGING THEIR FEET AND GIVE US A TIMETABLE FOR WHEN THEY WILL BE READY TO GOVERN THEMSELVES SO WE CAN BRING OUR TROOPS HOME. WE WON'T WITHDRAW PRECIPITOUSLY OR ALLOW TERRORIST ELEMENTS TO SEIZE CONTROL, BUT I WILL DEMAND THAT IRAQ LIVES UP TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES SO WE CAN BEGIN A PHASED WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES.

Is that Kline talking?

MODERATOR—THAT'S KLINE. WHAT DID YOU RATE THIS ONE?

Four, Kline.

Five, Kline.

Five, Kline.

Five, Kline.

One, Kline.

Four, Kline.

Four, Kline.

Four, Kline.

MODERATOR—OF EVERYTHING WE'VE SEEN TODAY, THAT WAS THE ONE THAT GAVE THE STRONGEST VOTE. THE FOURS AND FIVES, TELL ME WHAT IN HERE REALLY STANDS OUT TO YOU.

I think we all want to hear that. We need to chart a new course, which is from Bush. He's always charting a course, but everything he says in here is what the American people are praying for.

I agree. Everything.

It's the first statement that at least has some specific ideas on what we should be doing rather than just blaming everybody.

A lot of the stuff that he's talking about is probably being done anyway.

MODERATOR—WHAT ABOUT THIS LINE, AMERICA MUST GET THE IRAQI POLITICIANS TO STOP DRAGGING THEIR

(end of side)

It's a good statement. It would be very interesting if you add another line, what if the Iraqi politicians don't? What do you plan to do then?

Well maybe the republicans are going to ask him that.

That's on the next page.

MODERATOR—OKAY. ANYONE ELSE WANT TO SAY SOMETHING?

I think there is a feeling that as long as we stay there the Iraqis are not going to do anything. They are not going to spend their money, they are not going to really get strong. We have to let them know that there's an end to this. And you have to get it together. And I think that sort of reads that way with that.

MODERATOR—LAST EXERCISE HERE. WE'VE HEARD A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE ISSUE OF THE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION HAS. IN THE ADS YOU SAW THE REPUBLICANS CRITICIZING THE DEMOCRATS FOR OPPOSING IT. THE NEXT STATEMENT IS A STATEMENT BY A DEMOCRAT AND THEIR POSITION ON IT.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS, WE MUST USE EVERY TOOL AT OUR DISPOSAL TO PREVENT TERRORIST ATTACKS AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. I SUPPORT NEW LAWS THAT HELP US MONITOR, HUNT DOWN AND GET THE TERRORISTS BEFORE THEY GET US. THESE FALSE REPUBLICAN ATTACKS DO NOTHING BUT TRY TO DIVIDE OUR COUNTRY FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES ON AN ISSUE WHERE AMERICA IS UNITED. INSTEAD OF GOING BEYOND OUR CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND WIRETAPPING WITHOUT WARRANTS, PRESIDENT BUSH AND VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY SHOULD TURN TO CONGRESS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES TO EXISTING LAWS SO WE CAN PROTECT OUR OWN CITIZENS IN THE WAR ON TERROR, AND HOLD GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABLE AS THE FOUNDING FATHERS INTENDED.

This is being said by a democrat?

MODERATOR—THIS IS KLINE. WHAT DID YOU RATE THIS ONE?

Four, Kline.

Five, Kline.

Three, Kline.

Four, Kline.

Two, Kline.

Four, Kline.

Four, Kline.

Zero.

MODERATOR—MY FOURS AND FIVES, WHY?

It's a strong statement.

I'd like to see it done. Hopefully we can have the laws changed so there won't be that delay, so that it can happen. We know what the laws are and they can follow through when they want to surveillance.

What does this sentence mean...these false republican attacks do nothing but try to divide our country for political purposes?

MODERATOR—THEY ARE RESPONDING TO THOSE ADS THAT YOU SAW SAYING....

Oh, oh.

You are not for your soldiers if you don't allow this to happen.

I don't agree with everything in the statement, but I think it's a positive statement about what should be done.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO YOU AGREE WITH AND WHAT DON'T YOU AGREE WITH?

I don't agree that Bush has gone beyond the constitutional authority. I don't think they have.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO YOU AGREE WITH?

I agree that congress should make the necessary changes to existing laws to protect our citizens in war and hold them accountable. That's a good strong position to have. And I hope they do it.

MODERATOR—WHAT IS THE ROLE THAT YOU SEE CONGRESS PLAYING IN THIS WHOLE...

Referee to keep everybody together.

Hopefully.

Debating on the constitutionality. There is a great debate going on now. There are two different views on whether he has all this devilish authority or has not. And I think it's their job to bring that into focus and determine did he or didn't he?

MODERATOR—DO YOU THINK WE HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN DOING IT LEGAL AND PROTECTING AMERICA? IS THAT A REAL CHOICE THAT WE HAVE TO MAKE?

Right.

We have to do both.

Yeah.

Both.

You have to do it. We can't be breaking the law, but we have to adjust our laws to the situation.

That's why I put a zero. You could put a republican candidate because the whole text of it is for America. It could be bipartisan.

MODERATOR—GREAT. TURN TO THE LAST HANDOUT. IF THE ELECTION WERE TODAY AND YOU HAD TO VOTE, SAY WHO YOU WOULD VOTE FOR. AND THEN WRITE WHY IN AS MUCH DETAIL AS YOU'D LIKE. THANKS FOR COMING...

(end of session)