

## Democracy Corps Transcripts

**Name:** Group 2  
**Location:** Cincinnati, OH  
**Group Specs:** Men, 45-64, non-college grads, household income under \$50K, undecided in Congressional vote, recruited from OH CD 1  
**Date:** September 19, 2006  
**Time:** 8:00 PM

---

MODERATOR- (INTRODUCTION).

I'm Alan. I have two kids. I coach youth sports.

I'm Bryan from West Side Cincinnati. I'm divorced. I have one daughter.

I'm Cal. I have one daughter and I'm married. I retired once but I'm working again.

I'm Don. I'm a greater Cincinnati native all of my life. I'm single and I'm a Printer.

I'm also Ed. I fix printers.

My name is Freddie. I've lived in Cincinnati all of my life. I'm married with four kids. All of them gone. I'm retired.

I'm Greg. I live on the West Side of Cincinnati. I have one daughter who just graduated from college. I'm retired.

I'm Holden from Mt. Healthy. I have two kids. I have a son that's serving in the military and one daughter that's in college. I've been here my whole life. I drive for FedEx.

MODERATOR- WE'RE GOING TO START OUT THE CONVERSATION WITH JUST A VERY GENERAL QUESTION. WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE COUNTRY, DO YOU THINK THINGS ARE GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION OR IN THE WRONG DIRECTION?

In what respect?

MODERATOR- GENERALLY. HOWEVER YOU INTERPRET IT.

Do you mean like the border, the aliens and stuff like that?

MODERATOR- IN GENERAL. OVERALL, IN THE COUNTRY. DO YOU THINK THINGS ARE GOING IN THE RIGHT OR WRONG DIRECTION?

Wrong.

Wrong.

Wrong.

Wrong direction.

Gas prices are going right.

Right now. Wait until next week.

MODERATOR- WHY WRONG? MOST OF YOU SAID, "WRONG." WHY?

It's scary.

Mostly it's Iraq. Actually, mostly it's the leadership out of the White House. That's the bottom line for me. I just don't like many of the decisions that have been made there.

I have to agree there. I think it all starts at the top and that corporate greed seems to be ruling my life. You have to fear for your job. There's no security in it anymore. You have to worry that they'd rather make a dollar than keep a guy.

I just went through a plant closing and a job change. I guess I can go with part of that but I think even the moral tone set from the top, I'm not happy with.

MODERATOR- IN WHAT SENSE WHEN YOU SAY MORAL TONE?

Things like the interrogation stuff that's all in the news now. The White House seems to believe they're above the law. I think that that sets the standard and I think that tends to permeate through the society. It's kind of the same...

I have to agree that the end seems to justify the means. It's just crazy.

I think it all started, Really if you look at it, in my opinion back in the 80's when they deregulated everything, they got these monopolies going and you have these big companies going and buying up the smaller companies. Pretty soon there's not going to be a small company left. The way it's going it's just going to be a monopoly. It's just going to be the big guys out there and that's all your going to see. The rich are going to get richer and the poor are going to get poorer.

The rich are already rich.

You can't stop them (inaudible). You'll probably look in the same direction. The rich ones just keep getting richer.

Once they deregulated everything, everything just started to catch up with us. I don't think it can really say it's happened in the last four years. It's been coming for awhile.

They ship a lot of stuff out of the United States to somewhere else to have it done, I guess cheaper. I'm not sure how that's going to help us at all.

This happened over several administrations. That's the whole thing. It's just been steadily in decline.

MODERATOR- TOM, YOU WERE GOING TO SAY SOMETHING EARLIER.

What bothers me most is the jobs being out-sourced Plus, with the illegal aliens coming in for the cheap labor and everything. They're eliminating the middle class right now. They're pushing what's known as the middle class now, either down into the poor class and the rich as you say, get richer. It's creating a huge gap, where it didn't seem like it had that big of a gap to me.

One of the things that sort of bothers me today is after 9/11, the United States and everybody was shocked and everything and it sort of faded away. But the young people today, it didn't bother them a whole lot. It seems that they never thought there'd ever be fighting or terrorism on our ground and they're not really involved in it. It's like it's never going to happen. They're not old enough to realize the history of Pearl Harbor and when it happened. We've never had a war on our soil and they take it for granted and that sort of upsets me. That's our younger culture that thinks that way.

I never thought I'd see it on our homeland either.

It happened.

That's what the shock was, I believe.

The shocks didn't last very long. People still take a look at 9/11 and think about what happened but, Especially young people. A lot of people just go on and think it's not going to happen and then you often wonder exactly what Washington is doing in Iraq. It seems like it's getting a whole lot worse and it's not really getting any better. The insurgents are really putting their foot down and just keep doing it and there's really no way to really stop them. That's scary.

Well this used to be a very patriotic country. For us older guys we can remember.

It's not that way now.

(Multiple people speaking at once).

Well, with the losing efforts and Vietnam, you're fighting wars that can't be won. It just can't be won. They wouldn't let you win Vietnam. They set the rules against you. You just can't go in with sheer power. The world looks down on you.

MODERATOR- WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY, JERRY?

I'm so totally, I'm so out of this group it's unbelievable. I'm not anywhere near what [they're] saying.

MODERATOR- WHAT ARE YOU THINKING IS GOING ON?

We're not allowed to interrogate them but we can't win the war. Let's make our minds up. Are we going to go to war? Are we going to win the war? Are we going to use the same tactics they're using? We can't stop the insurgents because they're fighting with one set of rules and we have to be worried that we're setting a bad tone for the country because we're interrogating wrong. We're trying to save lives. We're at war. It's a complete, it's a no win situation because you're putting the administration in a sense where they can't, it's all ha-ha-ha. We won in the first couple of weeks. Great. Now it's not over. Well, we're not allowed to fight with the same techniques they're using. They brutalize their own kind.

It's a different war. We won that war. We won the military war. We won it! It's done. It's over. Now it's something new. Now we're policemen. Now they're just in there as policemen and that is bologna. That's what killed us in Vietnam. That's what killed us in Korea.

Whatever! That's what you think.

You can't go in and be a policeman.

You can think what you want.

MODERATOR- YOU STARTED TO SAY EARLIER ABOUT GAS PRICES COMING DOWN.

Look at the life expectancy now; the standard of living in the United States. I'm partially, I work in real estate a lot. I look at the houses they're building. They're huge houses. All of the new subdivisions are beautiful houses. Somebody is buying them. They keep building them. The standard of living is great. The life expectancy is unbelievable compared to what it was. My parents were living longer than their parents were living. You see it all around you. The medical advances of things, people have food. I don't know why everybody thinks the world is such a bad place.

It's just being run by bad people.

MODERATOR- EARLIER JERRY MENTIONED GAS PRICES COMING DOWN. WHAT DO YOU FOLKS FEEL ABOUT GAS PRICES?

I think they could be about half of what they are.

I think they're artificially inflated.

MODERATOR- WHY? WHAT'S CAUSING THAT?

In the 70's, they said they didn't have any oil and they had to raise the prices. They raised it and they kept saying they were going to come out with alternative fuels. What do we have today?

I think it's all politics mainly. It's like when they built that pipeline in Alaska, it was supposed to take care of most of it. Look at how you go to work in the morning and it's \$2.24, then you get off work and it's \$2.55 about eight hours later. It's the same truck and you go through gas that fast. It's just like when 9/11 did happen, if you saw what the gas stations did then, some of them closed down and got in trouble because they went out and raised the price and started gauging everybody then. Then they come up with these record-breaking profits. Now all of a sudden it's going to go back down to \$2.00. That's how you get American's to accept it. It's like, "Whoa! At least we're not paying \$3.00 anymore. At least it's \$2.00. We can afford that." It's just one way that they seem to get us to accept it. It's better than \$3.00 and that's the way you look at it.

I think that you're about right on it. They wanted to get \$2.00 out of us and now we're happy to pay \$2.00.

Yes, we're thrilled to death that it's not \$3.19. They just keep raising it up \$.20 at a time until you get to the point where you get used to it. That's the way it's going to be. You have to live with it, cope with it...

And then they drop it back down and you think you're doing well.

Well you are getting a bargain if it was \$3.19, but it's not a bargain (inaudible).

I'm the odd man out here. I think it ought to be \$5.00 a gallon to make up the difference in tax. You wouldn't have vehicles that were getting twelve miles to the gallon on the road if there was a \$2.00 a gallon gasoline tax like there is in most of the rest of the world. We might even have shots still being part of the [Chioto Tree], which is down the tubes now for us. Cheap gas isn't a good idea. I feel like Jerry did. I'm the odd man out.

Tree huggers are the reason gas is so high. You can go to Butler County. It's \$.13 cheaper than it is in Hamilton County because of the pollution stuff.

You go around Westchester, Monroe, Over there it's really cheap.

I know. It's below \$2.00.

Right. It's right on the highway exits too. You don't even have to go deep to get it. You're right off the highway, right there on the highway. Right there it's so much cheaper. The EPA and...

**MODERATOR- WHAT ELSE ON THE ECONOMY? SOME FOLKS MENTIONED OURSOURCING. DO YOU THINKING OVERALL IT'S GETTING BETTER, IT'S GETTING WORSE, IT'S STAYING THE SAME? WHAT DO YOU THINK?**

Look at what's happening with Ford and General Motors. All they really kind of want to do is eliminate the union. They want them to take these buy-outs. Say there's \$1.7 billion dollars and they offer buy-outs to seven hundred people so they can break the union. They think, Nowadays these companies think that the unions are breaking them, but what people don't realize, [well some of them, I can't say all of them] but if it wasn't for the unions we wouldn't be making what some people are making today if it wasn't for

unions. I think they're totally trying to go in a different direction and they're looking, Pretty soon you'll have these major companies like General Motors already closing up some plants. Pretty soon they're going to be phased to where they're either gone or they [only employ 5,000 people]. Where are all of these other people, Where are the jobs going to be for the other people?

How come the unemployment rate isn't so high? Basically what it boils down to is that with kids nowadays if you go to school, if you're willing to study and put the time in and learn, you don't have to look for a blue collar job. You can get a job just like everybody else in all of these, In Mason or Westchester where you see all of these people. You get what you earn. No one is giving anybody anything anymore. People have all of this stuff that did nothing. They got paid to do nothing. If you did something, if you brought something from here to there and it wasn't your job, you got in trouble. The whole [capitous] thing is, if you put the effort in you earn. My kids study hard and I put the effort into their school and their things. There will be a reward at the end of it. If I want to be lazy and sit and watch TV and say it's okay if they get "D's," then they're going to have to fight the Mexican's for jobs.

I sort of disagree with you a little bit because my daughter just graduated and she had a couple of girlfriends that graduated. They went in debt and they get out of college. They're not doctors, they're in Political Science and Wildlife Management. The best jobs that they can really find are \$15 or less an hour and they want two years experience. They have to start somewhere but it's really tough for a lot of them. For kids that come out of college, it's hard to find a job.

Right off the bat I'm sure it is. But once you get your foot in the door, you can move up because you have a degree. Whereas, without one...

If you don't get a master's or a doctorate, All of the good jobs are going to be gone before the graduate is out of college and the kids that are growing up now. If you don't have places like Ford, General Motors and G.E. and places like that that are going to offer you the money to survive, all of these big houses you're talking about building, how are they going to afford to move into them?

They're filling them up. I don't know where they're coming from.

They're not putting any furniture in them!

I don't know about that.

(Multiple people speaking at once).

**MODERATOR- NO ONE HAS MENTIONED HEALTHCARE SO FAR. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON HEALTHCARE?**

Medicare and Medicaid and everything is in such a bad state right now.

It's going to hit the wall.

It's scary.

MODERATOR- IS THIS SOMETHING THAT'S EFFECTING YOU, THE HEALTHCARE?

Not yet. Not as of yet.

[It's a chunk of my paycheck].

You take a lot of people from low income, they go in the hospital and all of this other stuff. I can see them getting good healthcare. The Mexicans and foreigners come in and they don't have to tell them whether they're legal, illegal or anything just to prove that they can't afford to pay for it. They go in the hospital and get the best treatment. It doesn't cost them a thing and they walk out. He goes to the hospital and he has to pay it. Somebody is going to have to make up the difference between what they're doing...

That's true. How big the impact is. I doubt it's much.

I don't know how true it is that anybody can go into a hospital and say, "Treat me."

(Multiple people speaking at once).

They can't refuse you. They can't refuse you no matter what.

The state picks it up.

MODERATOR- WHAT ABOUT THE NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUG PROGRAM THAT'S BEING ADMINISTERED THROUGH MEDICARE? WHAT ARE YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THAT? DO YOU HAVE ANY?

No. I'm not too familiar.

I'm not involved in that.

My father is benefiting pretty close to the maximum. It took a lot of research to get the right plan. It was, There was a lot of talk about how confusing it was. I pretty much turned that over to my brother-in-law. He spent hours and hours and hours over a period of months. We got the right plan. It's working for my father. The medication he takes changes so because of plan complications the amount he's going to save is going to change but overall it's been a great thing for him.

Speaking of healthcare and going back to the point you were making about what I call the corporate greed, what used to be part of your pay was that you'd get your healthcare. It's costing me almost \$400 a month to insure my family through work. It goes up but my pay doesn't, so in essence my pay goes down every year. It's outrageous!

Yes, because it goes up every year.

And the company says, "We can't afford to pay anymore. We're already paying \$.47, \$47.00 a pay period for you." Well, I'm paying \$350. Come on. It's crazy. It's outrageous.

It used to be that when you got a job that was the first thing you looked at, not the pay but the benefits and the hospitalization. But now they're just not there.

They're cutting back on it. They're not giving it.

I often wonder what really raised healthcare out of the ceiling. It's not like buying gas. It just keeps going up. It doesn't come back down to \$2 a gallon.

It has a lot to do with what they're doing for nothing. They have to make it up from the people that are contributing. You can't just give something away and let it go at that. That doesn't happen.

MODERATOR- OTHER THAN JERRY WHO ALREADY MENTIONED THE STUFF THAT'S GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, DOES ANYBODY THINK THAT THERE'S ANYTHING RIGHT?

I got up this morning and I was breathing.

HDTV is pretty cool.

There's just too much negative out there right now.

The job market. They said there's all of these jobs out there but they're all below \$10. If you look in the paper or anything, If you look for a job there's no retirement with any of them either. It's like he was saying about the healthcare. You have to provide your own. There's no packages anymore.

They act like they're doing you a favor giving you a job.

Most of us are just dumb grunts and can't, I'm no white collar guy and I'm never going to be a white collar guy. I get my hands dirty out there.

Do we think that only the rich people are using the healthcare and living? How come the life expectancy is so much greater than it was if only the rich can afford health? We're so polluted, the world is so bad and we're so polluted. No one can afford healthcare. Why in the world is everybody living so much longer? The life expectancy is unbelievable how, I'm sure everybody knows as grandparents in the eighties and nineties, It was never the case fifty years ago. Now we have all of this bad pollution in the world, all of these cars burning oil and no one can afford healthcare. Then how come people are living? Why is everybody living longer? There has to be, I can't believe the whole world's ration is just because a few rich people can afford health insurance and they're living until ninety and therefore the stats are going out of the roof. I have to believe that the world isn't as bad as we want to think it is. We're just feeling sorry for ourselves sometimes.

That's just modern medicine. It's progressed that you can take pills. Mumps, Measles, Chicken Pox, all of this is just a shot. That's just modern medicine. It's gotten much better in my opinion. Our kids will live ten years more, maybe than us. I don't know. It's going to be progressive to a certain extent. I don't know how far it can go, but...

There's no guarantee in life though. It's just one of those things where if it's your time to go, if God says it's your time to go, you're going to go. I just lost my mother and she was seventy-three years old. That was the life expectancy (inaudible) back then. You don't ever, they caught the Cancer early, but it's one of those things that, That really enhanced with modern medicine. They can catch Cancer and all of these diseases a lot earlier than what they used to. They have a lot more medicines now and a lot more techniques. Like when they first started with open heart surgery, it used to be in there...

MODERATOR- WE'RE GOING TO MOVE ON FROM THE OPEN ENDED DISCUSSION ON WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE COUNTRY. WE'RE GOING TO DO A DIFFERENT EXERCISE NOW. I'M GOING TO SAY THE NAME OF A PERSON. AFTER I SAY THE NAME I WANT YOU TO SAY THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK OF THAT PERSON. IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S VULGAR, IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S NICE. WHATEVER IT IS, JUST COME OUT AND SAY IT. THE FIRST NAME IS MIKE DEWINE.

Experience.

He seems like a nice guy.

(Multiple people speaking at once).

I know he's a candidate but I don't know that much about Mike DeWine.

Indifferent.

MODERATOR- THE NEXT NAME IS SHERROD BROWN. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR SHERROD BROWN'S NAME?

I know even less about him.

Integrity.

I don't know much about him.

Neither do I.

I don't either.

MODERATOR- THE NEXT NAME IS KEN BLACKWELL.

Politics.

Politician.

I think he has a good chance.

I think of City Council.

I think it would be nice.

I think of the guy that tows the line even when the line shouldn't be towed.

MODERATOR- THE NEXT NAME IS TED STRICKLAND.

Don't know.

Nothing.

Sounds familiar.

The name is familiar.

MODERATOR- THE NEXT NAME IS STEVE CHABOT. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR STEVE CHABOT'S NAME?

Comb over.

Local guy.

Somebody you'd know. Local.

Experienced.

He has experience.

He's been in politics for a long time.

MODERATOR- OKAY. IS HIS EXPERIENCE GOOD EXPERIENCE, BAD EXPERIENCE? WHAT DO YOU THINK?

If you don't like the way things are going now it would have to be bad. I wish I knew more that's just it. I couldn't say bad against him or good for him. I really can't.

Most candidates like that, you hear all of the bad stuff that comes out when somebody finds that they did something wrong or they voted for something. You don't really hear all of the good stuff that they did.

That's everybody.

They always come out with the negative stuff because it's always in a ...

MODERATOR- STEVE CHABOT. WHAT'S YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF CHABOT?

My impression of Chabot, I don't have a lot of information on him. He has a lot of political experience. He seems like an okay guy. That's about it.

From what you see and what you hear, I think he does pretty good.

MODERATOR- DOES ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR STAND OUT ABOUT HIM BEING GOOD?

No, not really. Just like he said, (inaudible) the negatives. I think he's done a lot of good but then again they all do a lot of good but then there's stuff, We're not in the meetings you know? There's stuff that's kept secretly.

It's hard to keep up with the voting record and everything else, but...

MODERATOR- BUT ASIDE FROM COMB OVER, IS THERE AN IMPRESSION THAT HE LEAVES WITH YOU?

No, not really.

MODERATOR- JERRY?

No. There are some things with different candidates where you might like how they voted on one issue and not on the other issue. It's hard to get...

MODERATOR- RIGHT, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO CHABOT...

I'm kind of in the middle with him. He does some things that I thought I liked and then other things I didn't like.

MODERATOR- ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR?

Gun control. Just things that I felt one way about but I saw him do something else that I liked and where he stood on some issues. I didn't like where he stood on some other issues. He's not, I don't feel, I don't hate him but I don't love him either.

MODERATOR- LET ME THROW OUT ANOTHER NAME. THIS ONE IS JOHN CRANLEY. DOES THAT NAME MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

Not for me.

I've seen his signs.

I recognize it but not enough information.

It's still early.

MODERATOR- RON, ANYTHING ABOUT JOHN CRANLEY?

No. The name sounds familiar but I can't really remember anything about what he was for.

Not enough, Nothing I can remember that's positive.

I can't remember. I've seen some of his commercials but It's always about what the other guy did.

That kills me about all of them. It doesn't matter if it's Cranley, Chabot or whoever. Nobody ever stands up and says, "Here's what I've done, vote for me." It's always the

frowning black and white picture on TV of the other guy saying, "This guy is going to hurt you."

They kind of win it on criticism instead of on their own effort.

I want to hear somebody stand up and say, "Here's what I've done, here's what I'll do," whatever. I don't want to hear the other guy's name. I don't want to hear it. I don't want to see black and white photos on TV.

MODERATOR- JERRY ANYTHING ON JOHN CRANLEY?

No. I don't know of him. That's not a bad thing. Usually all you hear is the bad stuff.

MODERATOR- THE NEXT NAME IS THE NAME OF A THING, NOT A PERSON. CONGRESS. WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU THINK OF CONGRESS?

Money.

It's the opposite of progress.

Power.

Everything negative.

The ability to manipulate.

They have most of the power it seems like.

They take themselves way too seriously sometimes and I don't think that in general they're thinking about me. I think they're thinking about my vote. It seems to be the boy's club that just wants to stay together.

When they vote themselves a raise that's more than we make in a year that's pretty obvious that they're not thinking about us.

I always thought it was interesting how they work on a bill and it gets all of these documents and it gets changed and all of that, but what they're really working on is a bill, but then they have all of these little addendum's to it. We vote for this, we're voting for these other little things too that some people like and some people don't like and maybe they're good things or bad things. It's just not one bill, it has these little addendum's sticking on the end of it that I don't think should be part of the bill that they're talking about.

(Multiple people speaking at once).

MODERATOR- RON WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR CONGRESS?

I don't know. I keep thinking of the lawmakers that really can't get along and come out with a good decision.

I have a higher opinion of them than there generally is at the table. I just think it's an incredibly difficult job. It's a messy system and everybody wants something out of you. You have to work through all of that.

I think they work against you. A lot of it, I think a lot of the Republicans and Democrats don't get along. They try to...

The whole system is a balance of power that's really branches of government, not parties.

I'm with you. They deserve respect for what they're trying to do but I don't think in general, that lately they're doing their job.

They don't really look in a real (inaudible).

They tend to pass laws that...

To get votes.

MODERATOR- DO YOU THINK IT'S POLITICS AS USUAL OR IS THIS CONGRESS DIFFERENT THAN IN THE PAST?

The same old politics as always.

The same old politics as always.

It hasn't changed.

I don't think they can survive as a politician if they go in straightforward and totally honest. They couldn't survive. They have to play the game. I think we all know this. It is a game.

I think it's getting a little worse than it used to be. I think the [pacts] of things are getting a little more educated and a little more, They all have their hands out.

There's a lot of them floating around.

Whether you're Republican or Democrat it's like a pyramid. It's grass roots down here. The higher up you get they're just the same. They're not that much different anymore. They also have their hand out to somebody. I have no respect for them.

MODERATOR- THE NEXT PERSON WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT, WE'RE ACTUALLY GOING TO WRITE DOWN THINGS. IT'S PRESIDENT BUSH. I'M GOING TO PASS AROUND SOME SHEETS. PUT YOUR NAME ON THE FIRST PAGE. TAKE A MINUTE WITH HANDOUT NUMBER ONE AND WRITE THE GOOD THINGS THAT COME TO MIND WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT PRESIDENT BUSH. THEN WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH THAT TURN TO HANDOUT NUMBER TWO AND WRITE THE DOUBTS THAT YOU HAVE ABOUT PRESIDENT BUSH. THEN STOP. DON'T GO BEYOND THE FIRST TWO PAGES. TAKE A FEW MINUTES AND WRITE DOWN YOUR THOUGHTS AND THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT. IF YOU'RE STILL WRITING KEEP GOING. LET'S START WITH THE POSITIVE THINGS ABOUT PRESIDENT

BUSH. WHAT ARE THE GOOD THINGS THAT COME TO MIND WHEN WE THINK ABOUT GEORGE BUSH?

He's made more jobs but they're minimum wage jobs. I can't say he really made them but as far as the economy goes there is more jobs out there. They're minimum wage jobs but there are more jobs out there for people.

His initial reaction after 9/11 to invade Al-Qaeda and Afghanistan. That's a definite positive.

I'm pretty much on the same line. I just thought he is genuine on his stance on terrorism.

I disagree with that. He stands up for what he believes.

That's what I had too.

I think he does what he thinks is right. He tries to lead in that direction.

I just don't believe he believes the right things.

I think he gets some bad information too.

He sticks to it.

He's increased the military spending and brought our service number of men in the services up for the defense. Other than doing that, I'm not saying I agree with all of the moves he's made with them but he was brought the services up so that we have a better defense.

I disagree with that.

MODERATOR- RIGHT NOW LET'S STICK WITH THE POSITIVES THAT YOU HAVE ABOUT PRESIDENT BUSH. ANYTHING ELSE?

I think he really likes the country and he honestly, really feels like he's doing the right thing. Everything is bloomy.

The Medicare Drug Plan is a benefit.

I think he's honest. I think he's patriotic. I think he's well meaning in what he does. I think he's far sighted with this foreign policy. Not just being a jerk trying to cow down to, I think he's courageous. He believes in something and he stands by it.

I think what a lot of us forget is that, Like I said speaking of my son being in the military, being over there in both wars and being back over again for his third war, my son really believes in what he's doing and the military has to believe in what he's doing. He wasn't the only one that made that decision. He couldn't have made that decision by himself to go into war with Iraq. There was a lot of people that were behind him at that time that since have forgotten that.

A lot of them.

MODERATOR- TURN TO HANDOUT NUMBER TWO. TELL ME WHAT DOUBTS YOU HAVE ABOUT PRESIDENT BUSH.

I think he's a terrible speaker. I don't think he can impress people like he should. It's not like Ronald Regan sitting up there. He's just not a good speaker when I listen to him. I think he just doesn't leave that impression. Sometimes I get the feeling he just doesn't, The words don't flow out the way they should. Even if somebody else wrote them, they don't come out the way they should.

I think he has a lot of trouble convincing the Democrats to do anything. As soon as he gets up and talks all of the Democrats automatically turn against him.

Regardless of what he says.

No matter what it is.

Yes.

I believe it depends, I don't think he can separate his Presidency from his religion. I don't think he can go that way. He's too Christian.

I think sometimes when you really listen to him, I don't think he really knows where we're headed. I think he's kind of, If you kind of really listen to him he has to make you believe that he, But I believe that he's just as uncertain as we are. He doesn't know where we're headed in Iraq. He's kind of uncertain. Did we bite off more than we can take care of? It's kind of, He leaves you off at the end like he'd rather have terrorists over there than over here which is true, but in my opinion I think if he could sit down and actually talk to you, He does talk to military families if you write them or whatever. He does support that but I think if he could [look at you and give you] an honest opinion I think he would honestly say, "I don't know where we're headed over there."

MODERATOR- OTHER DOUBTS ABOUT PRESIDENT BUSH?

I just don't think he's strong, put it this way. Is he leading or being lead? That's my impression.

He's not really taking a stand as far as the Mexican's and the job issues. He just seems to be on the border there on what to do.

I don't like his whole Mexican thing and the border patrol. There's more than Mexican's coming across that border. Any Muslim, any terrorist who wants to come across that border, it sure is easy enough to come walking across there. I think sometimes he puts himself getting pushed around [in a mess] where internationally he stands up and holds his ground where sometimes he says one thing and then eventually he gets, He cows down to the pressure and falls back from where he really feels domestically. Internationally, I think he tells him that this is buff and I don't like it.

MODERATOR- LET'S TALK ABOUT THE ELECTIONS COMING UP IN LESS THAN TWO MONTHS. THERE'S GOING TO BE ELECTIONS FOR CONGRESS. FOR YOU

PERSONALLY, WHAT IS THIS ELECTION ABOUT? WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING THAT'S GOING TO DETERMINE HOW YOU VOTE OR WHO YOU CHOOSE IN THE ELECTIONS?

A lot of it is going to be how they secure our border. They're going to have to do something down there. I don't know what they're going to do or how they're going to do it, but it definitely has to be stopped.

I saw a commercial. I can't tell you what politician it was but he brought up the outsourcing of jobs. That caught my attention.

MODERATOR- IS THAT WHAT'S AT STAKE IN THIS ELECTION?

That's one thing that, If somebody had a stand one way or the other on it, it would get my attention.

Keep us safe from terrorists. That's number one.

If we could do something about our situation with medical care and health as far as retirement and medical care. Both, when you retire you've pretty much lost it this time unless you've really planned well ahead for it.

Foreign policy and domestic economy. I like what everybody else is saying, but I don't think that the Iraq policies are working out. I don't think we ought to leave. I don't have the answer but I don't think Bush does either. As far as Congress goes, I'm looking for somebody there that has a better idea.

MODERATOR- WHAT ARE YOU HEARING SO FAR IN THE ELECTION FROM THE FOLKS RUNNING FOR CONGRESS?

I'm not really paying attention.

Negativity.

It's all negative. (Inaudible) blaming Chabot for signing, letting the gas companies make billions of extra dollars. That's one of the criticism things that passed, You haven't really heard a lot. It's been the same commercial. Both of them have been on there.

Then they had another one on there where one of them was going to go for I.D. cards for aliens and make them legal. I heard some place where they were talking about actually getting them social security. I don't know how they can be here without a social security card and collect social security.

If they can find one that can chore up social security, I can guarantee you he [can] get elected. That's a thing of the past.

MODERATOR- WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THE REPUBLICANS IN THE ELECTION, WHAT REASONS ARE THERE TO VOTE FOR A REPUBLICAN FOR CONGRESS?

Because there's nobody running against them.

I'll be honest with them, I don't really look at parties being Republican or Democrat. Who is going to give me what I want done and what fits my interest or the interest of the community, If the Democrat is going to give me something then I'll vote for the Democrat. If it's going to be the other way, he's Republican. They've been in office, They have a track records already that I can look at.

MODERATOR- WE ALSO KNOW THAT THE WAY IT GETS PLAYED OUT IN THE CAMPAIGNS AND THE ELECTIONS GET VERY ASSOCIATED WITH THE PARTIES. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS DISCUSSION, JUST THINK ABOUT IT. WHAT ARE THE REASONS TO VOTE FOR A REPUBLICAN?

Generally, they stand more for, in my mind, more for national defense. Whereas, a lot of the Democrats come across as the Michael Moore Hollywood group where they want to tell me that because they're actors or they sing a song, they're going to tell me, All of a sudden they're experts on international diplomacy. That's where I think it gets very negative. That's where I think of the Democrats. This is assuming I know nothing. All I know is the "R" and the "D" and I don't really know anything. I'd make my own decision based on my experience regardless of that, but here I am with all things being equal I'll vote "R" just because they're not Michael Moore. They're not, They're going to try to protect my country and not blow it up.

If I go to the poll and I really haven't heard, or I really don't recognize the name or really don't know that much about them, nine times out of ten I'll vote Republican.

MODERATOR- WHAT'S THE REASON TO VOTE FOR A REPUBLICAN?

The reason why I really vote Republican is because it had the influence of a job years ago. I was told you had the (inaudible) of the vote you had to vote Republican. That was a plain old fact that Hamilton County told me. They said if you want to get onto Hamilton County, you have to register to vote and you have to register to vote Republican.

MODERATOR- NOW THE FLIP SIDE OF THAT QUESTION. WHAT WOULD HOLD YOU BACK FROM VOTING FOR A REPUBLICAN?

They're the guys that are there now and I don't like the way it's going. I think that I am, My dollar buys less today than it did seven years ago, six years ago. Things were going real well until George Bush got voted in.

MODERATOR- WHAT'S THE REASON? WHAT HOLDS YOU BACK FROM VOTING FOR A REPUBLICAN?

I think I'd probably vote Republican if I was really totally undecided between either one.

MODERATOR- OKAY BUT WHEN YOU MAKE THAT DECISION, WHAT WOULD HOLD YOU BACK?

If I don't have enough information to go in either pro or con, I think instead of just going down the middle I'd probably vote Republican. I've always been basically Republican. A lot of the things you see, If you get a good candidate and you know enough about him and then you hear something negative about him, if he doesn't come out and rebut it,

automatically have to start thinking maybe it's true. That'll make you kind of back off and go the other way.

MODERATOR- WERE YOU GOING TO SAY SOMETHING, DENNIS?

You sort of take a look at the Republicans and Democrats. Democrats sort of have a reputation of being more of a conservative type party where Republicans weren't. When I was young, I never really looked at parties. I wasn't really interested in that, but my wife, before we got married, she used to work at the courthouse in Hamilton County. She'll vote Republican 99.9% of the time. They can just put the "R" there by it, they don't need the name.

MODERATOR- BUT FOR NOW, WHAT WOULD HOLD..?

She had a lot of influence. I can go on-line and she could tell me all of the reasons why I should vote Republican. Now I don't do everything she says...

MODERATOR- THEN WHAT WOULD HOLD YOU BACK FROM VOTING FOR THE REPUBLICAN?

If the candidate had something better to offer me. I really don't get into parties, but if somebody, Just like when they were advertising Chabot. He let the gas people he saved let them get that one [fill] of profits and billions of dollars. That really happened. That wasn't right because we paid them billions of dollars out of our back pocket.

It's a continuation of poorly designed foreign policy, (inaudible) tax policy. It's a continuation of the problems we've been discussing.

I think a lot of it has to do with who's going to reduce taxes or at least hold taxes where they are. It wouldn't make any difference if it was a Republican or Democrat. Whoever is going to try to help out the little guy. That's what I'm looking for.

MODERATOR- LET'S TALK ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS FOR A SECOND. WHAT WOULD BE A REASON TO VOTE FOR A DEMOCRAT?

Their record.

Yes, their record.

MODERATOR- AGAIN, I WANT TO GET AWAY FROM THE INDIVIDUAL AND THINK ABOUT THE...

You're just looking at the parties. You're not really looking at the individuals.

What's the track record of what a party is? Is that what you're asking?

MODERATOR- I'M ASKING TO LOOK AT IT AS THE DEBATES TAKE PLACE THE DEMOCRATS USUALLY TAKE A POSITION ON ONE SIDE AND THE REPUBLICANS ON THE OTHER. YOU'RE HEARING THE DIFFERENT STUFF...

There's no more [centrous] Democrats anymore. They're all so far left wing that you can't vote for them.

MODERATOR- BUT WHAT REASON WOULD YOU HAVE TO VOTE FOR A DEMOCRAT?

Change.

I'm ready for a change even if it's wrong.

They seem to, The Democratic party seems to care more about Ron and Jerry and Tommy, than the Republican party in my opinion. It seems to me like the Republican party is looking out for Tommy's boss and Ron's boss and Dennis's boss. The Democrats just seem to be a little more grass roots.

I'm not saying they're wrong but just for example when Bush introduced his new social security fix, and I voted for Bush, I thought he was nuts. I didn't like it at all. The money was going to come out of people's wages and people weren't going to be able to make those kind of wages in the future. What were we going to do with it? The Democrats just butt it right up against it and I'm really glad they did because I didn't like that idea. It just sort of fell out and went away for right now. It needs to be fixed but I didn't want to see it fixed that way.

MODERATOR- ON THE FLIP SIDE NOW, WHAT WOULD HOLD YOU BACK FROM VOTING FOR A DEMOCRAT?

A fuzzy foreign policy or even worse, rapid retreat out of Iraq. I don't think the Republican plan is all that great. I'm afraid of a Hillary Clinton plan.

I agree with him. We're committed. To go run out and flee these people at the mercy of the other, I just can't see that. It seems like that's the way most of the Democrats are leaning. Just jump out and leave.

What's still there to accomplish in Iraq?

Nothing. We're just trying to keep with what we have.

I think we have a moral obligation. It's what Colin Powell said. It's the Pottery Barn policy. You broke it, you buy it, you fix it.

MODERATOR- TOM, YOU SAID CHANGE WAS A REASON TO VOTE FOR THEM. WHAT WOULD HOLD YOU BACK FROM VOTING FOR THEM?

If it was a drastic change. I just want to see some change in some of these things. There are so many negative things that we have talked about here. The border, the war. I want somebody that has an idea of how to fix these things. Not just put a Band-Aid on it.

MODERATOR- WHAT, IF ANYTHING, WILL CHANGE IF THE DEMOCRATS TAKE CONTROL OF THE CONGRESS?

I think if the Democrats take over Congress there will be a lot of change if they could hold the weight.

(Multiple people speaking at once).

We probably won't have much of anything.

If you still have the Republicans at the top and the Democrats at the House or the Senate or whatever, then that could be a good thing. You're getting a stalemate there.

MODERATOR- YOU SAID DENNIS, THAT A LOT COULD CHANGE.

I'm just saying that they could push their weight and get their votes in there. I think that they'd act on a lot of things just because they've been fighting so hard against the Republicans for the last eight years, that's been in there. I think they take, I don't know if they'd do anything about social security, but I think they'd do something about the borders. I think they might make the wrong mistake and pull out of Iraq. I think that may happen. I don't think that's right to do that. I think there's a couple of things that could change.

What would they do with the border?

The Mexican border.

What would they do there? Have a sign that says, "Welcome?"

You sit there and you look at politicians and they have a problem. You think it would be a pretty easy fix. I know they sent the National Guard down there and I haven't stayed up with it completely. The border needs to be secured not only just from the Mexicans, but from any aliens.

Right, absolutely.

We don't have really any patrol on the north against Canada.

They say Canada is your next Mexican.

Yes.

There's not going to be an overnight fix that's for sure, no matter who takes over.

No, but I think that when the Democrats do get in, that there's just going to be a shift of attitude. The money needs to come down quicker. It's staying up top and it needs to come down.

I think the Democrats would probably do something. Maybe not all of the right things but I think they'd make some changes because they've had such a hard time in the last eight years. They feel like they're really down low. They were having a really hard time competing with the Republicans to get into office.

MODERATOR- WE'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING MUCH DIFFERENT NOW. A LOT OF YOU MENTIONED TELEVISION ADS. I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE TELEVISION ADS BUT WE'RE GOING TO WATCH TELEVISION ADS AND GET YOUR REACTIONS TO DIFFERENT THINGS THAT ARE ON THE AIR HERE IN THE CINNCINNATI AREA AND ALSO IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. IF YOU CAN FLIP TO HANDOUT NUMBER THREE. I'M GOING TO PLAY A SERIES OF ADS. WE'LL LOOK AT THEM ONE AT A TIME. AFTER YOU SEE THE FIRST AD, I WANT YOU TO CIRCLE ON THIS SCALE HOW THIS AD WOULD MAKE YOU VOTE. REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU THINK GOING IN I WANT YOU TO REACT TO THE AD ONLY AND SAY WOULD THIS MAKE YOU MUCH MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR CRANLEY, IT WOULD BE A FIVE ON THE LEFT END OF THE SCALE UNDERNEATH THE WORD CRANLEY. IF IT'S NO DIFFERENCE YOU'D PUT IT AS ZERO. ANYTHING IN BETWEEN WOULD GO IN BETWEEN THERE. SIMILARLY IF IT'S MUCH MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR CHABOT, YOU'D CIRCLE THE FIVE ON THE FAR RIGHT OR SOMEWHERE IN BETWEEN BASED ON WHERE YOU ARE ON THE SCALE. (PLAYS AD). RATE THAT AD. AFTERWARDS WRITE UNDERNEATH SOME OF THE WORDS OR PHRASES THAT YOU TOOK AWAY FROM THAT AD THAT CAUSED YOU TO PUT IT ON THE SCALE. I'M GOING TO GO AROUND QUICKLY AND JUST ASK EACH OF YOU FOR YOUR SCORES SO I CAN WRITE IT DOWN AND THEN AFTER WE HAVE EVERYONE'S SCORE WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT. JERRY WHAT DID YOU GIVE IT?

I gave it a four for Chabot.

MODERATOR- RICK?

Cranley for four.

MODERATOR- TOM?

Four for Cranley.

Cranley three.

Cranley two.

Cranely three.

Cranley three.

No difference.

MODERATOR- LET'S START WITH THE PEOPLE WHO GAVE IT A POSITIVE FOR CRANLEY, IT MADE YOU MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR CRANLEY. WHAT DID YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THIS THAT MADE YOU DO THAT?

I like what he said about the fuel prices but I didn't like the mudslinging on behalf of Chabot.

MODERATOR- WHAT HE SAID ABOUT CHABOT, WHAT HE DID WITH THE OIL COMPANIES, IS THAT CREDIBLE TO YOU?

Well, we don't know the facts there. Tell me what you're going to do. Don't...

I have that he's just saying that there's no paybacks for gauging. That's what he's trying to say, whether he can prove it or not, or if he can change it...

I like the way it's saying long term energy policies.

The alternative fuels.

Yes. The alternative fuels and the need for change now. That's the more positive things, but again, I don't like that bad black and white photo at the beginning. I think it's just bad.

MODERATOR- WHAT DOES THE AD SAY ABOUT CRANLEY OVERALL? WHAT DO YOU TAKE AWAY WHEN YOU THINK OF HIM?

Like they all do. [They promise nothing]. The speech said he might have voted for it, but he didn't do it [alone] in my opinion.

Yes. That's true.

He's promising change. Whether he can do it or not, that's another story.

It's a big problem and he's trying to take it on.

He can't do it by himself.

MODERATOR- IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE FROM THE AD THAT REALLY STUCK OUT FOR YOU?

(end of side)

This lion is saying anything you have to say to sucker people into voting for them. That's what I think. He's going to find all of these alternatives, I've been around, You guys are all as old as I am. I remember wind was going to do it. Solar was going to do it. Now they're going to make enough, It takes more energy with ethanol and corn to turn it into the gas. What are the alternate things he's going to make us do? He's going to make us do it by taxing us through the sky?

MODERATOR- WHAT HE SAID ABOUT CHABOT TAKING THE MONEY FROM THE OIL COMPANIES. DOES THAT, DO YOU THINK THE OIL COMPANIES ARE THE REASON THAT THE PRICES ARE SO HIGH? WHAT'S THE REASON CONGRESS ISN'T DOING ANYTHING ABOUT THE OIL PRICES?

Because they probably have a whole bunch of stock in oil.

(Multiple people speaking at once).

How much of a gallon of gas isn't taxed?

A bunch.

\$.43 I think in Hamilton County.

That's for Hamilton County.

Oh, there's a lot more tax than that.

I know, but that's not talking about the fed, the state and everything else.

No, no, no, no. \$.43 on the gallon in Hamilton County is tax.

MODERATOR- SO YOU BELIEVE THAT THE OIL PRICES ARE HIGH IN LARGE PART BECAUSE OF BIG OIL.

Absolutely.

MODERATOR- AND CONGRESS, AND THE...

And corporate greed.

MODERATOR- DO YOU THINK CHABOT IS PART OF THAT PROBLEM?

I don't think he's part of the problem.

No, I don't.

I basically think it's the oil companies. They start out and they keep going up. Nobody seems to do anything about it so they keep going as far as they can go.

But per John Cranley, Steve Chabot is certainly playing with the oil companies.

MODERATOR- SO YOU'RE UNCONVINCED. ARE YOU CONVINCED BY CRANLEY'S ARGUMENT THAT HE'S MAKING HERE ABOUT CHABOT GETTING MONEY FROM THE OIL COMPANIES AND THAT'S THE REASON WHY HE'S NOT DOING ANYTHING?

Convinced? No.

Oil prices are high because (multiple people speaking at once) the economy is growing double digits.

He's making me think twice now because...

There's five hundred other things around the globe.

I know he couldn't do it by himself, but is he wanting to help us or is he wanting to line his pockets?

He didn't do it by himself.

That's what I said. He didn't do it by himself.

I don't think you can believe a word any (multiple people speaking at once).

Cranley can't fix it by himself.

It's just the attitude they have that they're trying to impress upon us.

MODERATOR- WE'RE GOING TO GO TO ANOTHER AD. TURN TO HANDOUT NUMBER FOUR. USE THE SAME SCALE. (PLAYS AD). RATE THAT AND UNDERNEATH WRITE WHY YOU GAVE IT THAT SCORE.

You want us to rate this just on the power of that commercial alone?

MODERATOR- YES. IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT THEN YOU DON'T BELIEVE IT. WHEN YOU WATCH THAT COMMERCIAL, HOW DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL ABOUT THE TWO CANDIDATES AND WHERE YOU WOULD VOTE? JERRY?

I gave it one for Chabot.

MODERATOR- RICK?

Two for Chabot.

Zero.

Two for Chabot.

Three Chabot.

One Chabot.

Two Chabot.

MODERATOR- MOST OF YOU WERE A LITTLE BIT FOR CHABOT ON THIS. IF YOU GAVE IT A ONE, TWO OR THREE FOR CHABOT, WHY?

They wanted you to perceive that he was a real honest man doing what was right looking at the citizens that he represents. That's what that told me.

I think he really is for the law and the military instead of people.

The ad would have you believe that he portrays a family person and that he is for the working class guy so to speak. They're not going to protect us from wasteful spending.

He is not going with the right side of the, He'll go his own way and vote where he believes and what's good for us.

If you believe that about Chabot than he's...

MODERATOR- THAT HE'S A MAVERICK, THAT HE'S INDEPENDENT.

They said he's not afraid to buck the system. If he thinks it's right and it's right for the people (inaudible).

MODERATOR- IT'S CONVINCING?

Yes.

MODERATOR- JERRY.

I liked that it was a positive ad. I gave him a one just because...

MODERATOR- WHAT DID YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THE AD OVERALL, BEYOND IT JUST BEING POSITIVE?

I just liked the whole idea that someone feels confident in themselves enough to say, "Vote for me because I'm me." As opposed to, "Vote for me because I'm not that ugly creature there." I just like that. That appeals to me. That shows confidence.

MODERATOR- IN THIS NEXT AD I WANT TO JUST ASK YOU TO USE YOUR IMAGINATION A LITTLE BIT. THIS IS GOING TO BE AN AD BY SHERROD BROWN BUT FOR THE PURPOSES OF OUR SCALE, I WANT YOU TO KEEP GRADING IT ON THE CRANLEY VERSUS CHABOT SCALE. IT'S AN AD BY SHERROD BROWN. BROWN AND CRANLEY ARE BOTH DEMOCRATS. IF YOU LIKE WHAT HE SAYS, ON THE SCALE YOU'LL VOTE MORE TOWARDS CRANLEY. IF YOU DON'T, IF IT'S GOING TO TURN YOU OFF AND MAKE YOU GO TOWARDS THE OPPONENT, YOU'LL VOTE MORE TOWARDS CHABOT. GO TO HANDOUT NUMBER FIVE. BROWN EQUALS CRANLEY. (PLAYS AD). JERRY WHAT DID YOU GIVE IT?

Four for Chabot.

MODERATOR- RICK?

Three for Cranley.

Four for Cranley.

Two Cranley.

Two Cranley.

Two Cranley.

One Cranley.

Four Cranley.

MODERATOR- LET'S START WITH THE THREES AND FOURS FOR CRANLEY. WHY SUCH A STRONG FEELING?

I think for what he's saying about medical costs and stuff like that, I think that's basically what it is. Everybody is concerned about that.

What he said about that health. I think that's one of the most important things now. Like I said and we talked about before, it just keeps going up and up and up. It takes away your raise.

He took a stand against the insurance companies and on healthcare and some of the big topics that I'm interested in. That's why I was for him.

MODERATOR- SO IT'S BASICALLY THE ISSUE THAT HE TOOK ON HIMSELF.

Yes.

He wants to do something about it that's my impression that I got.

MODERATOR- OKAY. IS IT BELIEVABLE THAT HE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT?

It was enough that he wanted to. One person is not going to do any of these promises by himself.

MODERATOR- WHY DO YOU THINK THINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED IN HEALTHCARE? HE SAYS HERE THAT HIS OPPONENT TOOK ALL OF THIS MONEY FROM...

For monopolies, insurance companies. The biggest racket going right now.

I'd say from this discussion, I want to raise my two to a four.

MODERATOR- THAT'S WHY I ASKED YOU TO WRITE IT DOWN BEFORE WE HAD THE DISCUSSION. WHY DID YOU PUT IT A TWO?

I took away some for the negative part at the end but also the theory that you really can't do that much. As we're talking about it, it kind of comes down to the working class versus the big business. That's the way I'm seeing it now.

MODERATOR- OVERALL WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT CRANLEY OR BROWN?

He's trying to help the working class guy out. He's trying to straighten the mess that's been put in front of him out. He's for us. It's not saying he's going to do it, but it's saying he's going to try to straighten it out.

(Inaudible) what ever happened to the doctors (inaudible) that they used to have like he said back when he was, Well, back in his day, When they treated Bob over there when Bob was sick and didn't have any money at all because that was your [hypocratic], Oh, because you were a doctor you were going to heal him. Nowadays you actually get turned away by doctors or urgent care if you don't have any insurance. They'll tell you that you have to go somewhere else. That's what touched me, when it was the old days. The doctors made house calls but now the [hypocratic] (inaudible). It's gone away. It's

like somebody has to bring it back because then where is my money going to come from before I (multiple people speaking at once).

MODERATOR- ON THIS NEXT AD I'M GOING TO ASK YOU TO USE EVEN MORE IMAGINATION ON THE CANDIDATES HERE. THIS IS AN AD THAT'S RUNNING IN CONNECTICUT. YOU'RE GOING TO SEE TWO PEOPLE MENTIONED IN THIS AD. ONE IS SOMEONE NAMED CHRIS MURPHY. HE'S THE DEMOCRAT AND THE OTHER PERSON IS NANCY JOHNSON. SHE'S THE REPUBLICAN. FOR THE PURPOSES OF OUR SCALE AND HOW WE'RE RATING THIS, MURPHY EQUALS CRANLEY AND JOHNSON EQUALS CHABOT. (PLAYS AD). EVERYONE RATED IT AND WROTE WHY UNDERNEATH?

Five for Johnson.

Three for Johnson.

Zero.

Five for Murphy.

Murphy four.

Johnson three.

Johnson three.

Zero.

MODERATOR- LET'S START WITH THE MUCH MORE LIKELY FOR THE JOHNSON/CHABOT SIDE. WHY?

If we're dead it doesn't matter what gas costs, it doesn't matter what social security we have and it doesn't matter about healthcare because we're dead. Everybody is worried about intercepting and losing our rights there. We lost our rights when they took away the imminent domain. We lost our rights with these drunken driving stops where they, You can't transfer \$10,000 anymore. That's where we lost all of our rights. You're intercepting stuff that goes out of the country, I find it ludicrous that there's any kind of issue with why they wouldn't want to save our lives.

MODERATOR- THOSE OF YOU THAT WERE A THREE FOR JOHNSON/CHABOT. WHY?

Well, like he was saying, if we're dead it's not going to do any good anyway. The only reason I gave it a three is because of what's going on up in Washington town about the laws going back and forth. Otherwise I would have said to go all the way with it.

MODERATOR- WHAT DO YOU MEAN ABOUT THAT? WHAT'S GOING ON? HOW DOES THAT EFFECT YOU? WHAT ARE YOU HEARING ON TV?

Bush is being criticized for what he's doing as far as being in violation of rights. I don't necessarily agree with that because she just summed it up right there. If they intercept

this call something is going down. I think they better do something and not wait for a war.

I gave it a three. I feel basically the same way. It's not a big thing. I'm not worried about that. I'd rather see them intercept the call and live my rights. [It's like a bank robbing your pocketbook.

MODERATOR- A LOT OF FOLKS WERE SAYING THAT THEY'RE SEEING TOO MANY NEGATIVE ADS. EVERYTHING IS TOO NEGATIVE. THIS AD WAS A TOUGH AD BUT WHY DOES THAT NOT STRIKE YOU THAT WAY? WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS AD THAN THE OTHER NEGATIVE ADS THAT YOU SEE?

It's straight forward.

It's more life and death than it is (inaudible) taken a ride which is kind of, This is more life and death to me.

She'll take a stand. She's not afraid to buck government, I guess is what this is saying.

MODERATOR- NO DIFFERENCE? A FEW PEOPLE SAID NO DIFFERENCE OR EVEN WENT TOWARDS CRANLEY.

I think it's unbelievable. It's just an unbelievable ad. How could she say that?

There's nothing that won't prevent intercepting the call and then taking action and then within forty-eight hours (inaudible).

You don't need prior approval for that and that's why I gave Murphy a five on that, or Cranley a five. It's just an out and out distortion.

That to me, says more about the person running the ad than it says of what they think about the elected, That they can be played like a fiddle.

I also went strong toward Murphy on that one before just because it's walking down that slippery slope. If you can abuse your powers and whatever to intercept calls there then you can intercept calls between you and he.

I guess you don't have any problems with the drunk driving stops, those are unnecessary searches.

They absolutely are. It should be illegal.

But no one is screaming over that.

Well you're not listening to me!

MODERATOR- LET'S GO TO THE NEXT HANDOUT. I'M SORRY. DID ANYONE HAVE MORE TO SAY ABOUT THAT AD? IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE THAT YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT? ON THIS NEXT HANDOUT YOU'LL SEE A GUY NAMED HAROLD FORD SPEAKING TO US IN THE AD. FORD IS ALSO A DEMOCRAT RUNNING IN ANOTHER STATE. SUBSTITUTE FORD FOR CRANLEY AS YOU

THINK ABOUT RATING THIS, OKAY? (PLAYS AD). RATE THAT ONE, WRITE WHY AND WE'LL DISCUSS IT.

Five for Ford.

I gave him a one for Ford.

Three for Ford.

Four for Ford.

I went two the other way, towards Chabot.

Four Ford.

Four Ford.

Two Ford.

MODERATOR- FOURS AND FIVES FOR CRANLEY/FORD. WHY?

I think it's factual, it's proactive, it's a concrete plan. It says what he wants to do.

MODERATOR- WHAT WAS THE PLAN? I MUST HAVE MISSED IT.

He filed the 9/11 commission report. The [inept] new recommendations.

MODERATOR- WHERE YOU HEAR THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT, WHAT DOES THAT MEAN TO YOU?

It's a bipartisan report about what went wrong and how to fix it. Well, not how to fix it but how to deal with it in the future.

MODERATOR- IS THAT AN IMPORTANT PIECE?

It is.

MODERATOR- WHAT ELSE? FOR THOSE WHO GAVE IT A FOUR OR FIVE, WHY?

The same thing. The same reason I gave a five to the lady before. I don't care about those who (inaudible). As long as they can fight terrorism and do...

I think he was honest and you know it's true. We've heard enough about it. The security hasn't been enacted like it was supposed to have been with 9/11. He's going to step up to the plate and get it done.

MODERATOR- OTHERS WHO GAVE IT A POSTIVE SCORE TOWARDS CRANLEY?

I put he had good intentions, but really what are they? We can get on the sore subjects that what we'd like to see something done about, but I really didn't come away with what he was, I think Bob here is the only one that understood what his plan was.

MODERATOR- DOES THE 9/11 COMMISSION MEAN ANYTHING TO YOU?

I don't know what it is, no. I really don't understand it. That's why I say, he came across with good intentions but I don't know what they were.

MODERATOR- HOW ABOUT OTHERS? DOES THE 9/11 COMMISSION MEAN MUCH TO YOU?

I know what it is, but that's about it.

I haven't read the report.

I don't believe in it.

(Inaudible) reports. We have a lot of stuff coming in off of containers, being brought in import. Our ports aren't really that secure. They can bring anything they want in, like they're already over here again. They're just planning their next hit.

MODERATOR- WHAT ABOUT THIS IDEA THAT RON RAISED ABOUT THE PORTS? DID THAT STAND OUT TO ANYBODY?

It did to me. I went the other way just because it's, The guy is trying to make me afraid to live life for crying out loud.

I think you're better off.

MODERATOR- WHAT PART OF HIS MESSAGE SAID THAT TO YOU?

"They're bombing us. We have to stop them." I hear it every day that there might be a nuclear weapon in a container somewhere. You know what? I don't buy it. I just don't buy into all of the fear mongering.

MODERATOR- WHAT DOES THIS AD SAY ABOUT FORD OVERALL? WHAT IS YOUR IMPRESSION WHEN YOU SEE HIM TALKING?

I think he's trying to make me afraid.

I like the way he was forceful. I thought he was (multiple people speaking at once).

Where is he from, what country?

He came across strong. I thought it was a good ad.

He was just saying what everybody else wants to.

Like I say, right or wrong, he definitely has an opinion.

He has a point, but again what's one person to follow up on it.

He seemed like he believed what he was saying.

MODERATOR- THIS NEXT AD IS GOING TO BE AN AD THAT ATTACKS SOMEBODY NAMED JOHN [HOSTETTLER] WHO IS RUNNING IN INDIANA. HE IS A REPUBLICAN. FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE SCALE, EQUATE HIM WITH STEVE CHABOT. [HOSTETTLER] EQUALS CHABOT. (PLAYS AD). RATE IT AND THEN WRITE WHY.

Four for Hostettler, the Democratic candidate, for Cranley.

MODERATOR- RICK?

Three to Cranley.

One for Hostettler.

MODERATOR- THAT AD MADE YOU MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR HOSTETTLER OR CHABOT.

I was confused actually on who was putting up the ad there.

MODERATOR- THE AD WAS BY A DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE. HOSTETTLER IS THE REPUBLICAN. SO IT'S A CRITICISM OF HOSTETTLER WHO IS EQUATED WITH CHABOT, THE REPUBLICAN. IF THAT RAISED DOUBTS ABOUT HIM YOU'D GO TOWARDS CRANLEY. IF IT DIDN'T YOU'D GO TOWARDS CHABOT.

One for Chabot.

Two to Cranley.

Zero.

Three for Cranley.

Three Cranley.

MODERATOR- LET'S START WITH THE TWOS, THREES AND FOURS TOWARD CRANLEY. WHY?

What the ad presented to us was that they didn't want to spend any money for the \$1500 for the troops abroad fighting the war, which we all feel hits right at home. If you don't have somebody in your family, you have somebody that you probably know that's over there that you wish wasn't. They're out there risking their lives every day for our freedom. He didn't want to give them money but he can turn around and give himself money, which he probably doesn't need.

Those guys are getting pennies over there compared to him.

I usually don't like negative ads, but that was a very good ad.

MODERATOR- WHY WAS THIS ONE DIFFERENT?

It was visual. It caught with me. It didn't have the ugly black and white negative thing with the kind of subliminal in it. It's a straightforward kind of a, No raise for them, no raise for me.

MODERATOR- RICK WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY EARLIER?

Just that all of the guys in the field in Iraq and wherever are putting their lives on the line and it doesn't mean anything to him. He's willing to take a raise and not lose a wink of sleep over it. It drove me away from him.

It seemed like obviously he didn't have anybody in the military that knew anybody in the military, so it seemed obvious that he could care less about what they were doing, With all of that money for himself.

Jim, on these ads when they make these statements that these people did this, is there any law that says that they have to be telling the truth? There's no laws that any of these (inaudible) advertising at all. He could have voted the exact opposite had he wanted to.

MODERATOR- AFTER THE DISCUSSION I'LL TELL YOU WHAT THE LAWS ARE AND EVERYTHING. BUT FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS, I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU FOUND THESE THINGS (INAUDIBLE).

Yes, absolutely.

MODERATOR- IF YOU LOOK, I DON'T KNOW IF IT'S BECAUSE THE SCREEN IS SMALLER, BUT THEY PUT UNDER THERE CITATIONS AS TO WHERE THEY GOT THE INFORMATION TOO.

There's facts that you might be talking about and then there's the truth. That's why I put a zero on this, because I figure there's a 99% chance that that \$1500 was a rider stuck onto some massive bill and he voted not really about the \$1500 but about the other bill.

Right, which could be true. Which probably is true.

(Multiple people speaking at once). I didn't think about that.

It was visual.

MODERATOR- AS A MEMBER OR CONGRESS, LET'S ASSUME THAT CHABOT VOTED ON THE PAY RAISE ISSUE. HE VOTED FOR THE PAY RAISE. WHAT DOES THAT SAY TO YOU? IS THAT POLITICS AS USUAL? IS THAT SOMETHING THAT CAN NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED? WHAT'S YOUR FEELING ABOUT THE PAY RAISE FOR CONGRESS?

I don't have a problem with it. I honestly don't know what they make so I can't sit here and say they make too much.

You can't say whether they need a raise or not. I think they really work hard. They put in a lot of effort but I think it's a big, confused mess. A lot of times they come up with

something good and sometimes they don't. It's not like hearing an oral exec just out \$400 million.

Sometimes I think the people ought to have something to say about it as far as his performance. They're voting us in whether they're doing a good job or bad. We have no control.

They're not going to vote against it anyway.

Yes, but [standard] performance might be good for you and bad for me. How do you..?

That's what I'm saying. There should be a vote on it or something, where people control something.

There is a vote.

It's their vote though.

We voted for him.

MODERATOR- FLIP TO HANDOUT NUMBER NINE. YOU NO LONGER NEED TO USE YOUR IMAGINATION. WE'RE BACK TO CHABOT AND CRANLEY. THIS SHOULD BE PRETTY STRAIGHTFORWARD. (PLAYS AD). RATE THAT, WRITE WHY AND THEN WE'LL DISCUSS. JERRY?

One for Chabot.

Three for Chabot.

Two for Cranley.

One Cranley.

Two Cranley.

Four Chabot.

Three Chabot.

Two Cranley.

MODERATOR- HALF ARE ON EACH SIDE ON THIS ONE. IF YOU GAVE IT A POSITIVE FOR CHABOT, WHY?

I like the theme of it but I hate the negative ad. I thought it was a terrible ad. I liked what they were saying. (Inaudible) horribly negative and I really didn't like the ad at all.

I just don't believe that they should have it. I don't think that they should have any I.D. for our country unless they're legal immigrants. I don't believe in illegals having anything like that.

I just didn't believe the whole ad that's why I went with Cranley. It was just unbelievable. The girl I just didn't believe. The airports are a lot more strickter now. Trying to get on an airplane is just a [nightmare]. To me the ad was unbelievable.

I took a look at it for what the ad was presenting and I gave Chabot a three because fake I.D.'s are [good] but it's kind of hard for me to really believe that a person like Cranley in a position would say, "Okay. Fake I.D.'s are great." I can't believe that somebody in that position could say something like that. (Inaudible) wouldn't let anybody, We have enough problem with the fake driver's licenses and kids getting alcohol and things like that. Why would a politician say it was okay? It sort of makes it unbelievable that somebody can do that on the other hand.

MODERATOR- RICKY YOU WENT POSITIVE FOR CHABOT RIGHT?

Yes.

MODERATOR- DID YOU FIND THIS BELIEVEABLE? WERE YOU CONVINCED BY IT?

It's questionable at best, but yet the mudslinging is what was the downfall as far as bringing up that whole thing that makes it so questionable. What his stance, His stance is great. But like Dennis just said, bringing up the fact that somebody would say, "Great, fake I.D.'s." That's kind of unbelievable. That's questionable at best.

MODERATOR- ANYBODY ELSE ON THAT AD?

I just thought it was more than likely misleading. Cranley voted to use I.D. cards in Cincinnati, but use them for what? They don't say.

It sounds like Chabot was taking advantage of Cranley attempting to do something about something. He made a mistake.

It sounds like Nazism to me. "Show me your papers or you can't walk down the street."

That completely turned me off.

MODERATOR- WE HAVE ONE MORE AD. (PLAYS AD). JERRY?

Chabot a three.

Cranely a one.

Cranley four.

Zero.

Cranley two.

Chabot two.

Zero.

Cranley two.

MODERATOR- LET'S START WITH THE ONES THAT WERE FOR CRANLEY. WHY DID YOU GIVE IT A, WHY DID THIS MAKE YOU MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR CRANLEY?

The facts were questionable. Was this a rider on a bill or something? It's not clear where all of this came from.

Still it's a fact you vote one way then all of a sudden down the road you vote the other way. You have to be held accountable for that, which I believe he does. It's just my personal opinion.

Even though it wasn't a negative ad, it's still stressing change. Get the guy out of there who is [padding] (inaudible).

MODERATOR- IS IT CREDIBLE THAT THIS IDEA, THAT CHABOT'S CHANGED SINCE HE'S BEEN IN WASHINGTON?

I believe in time you can be changed.

Of course.

I believe that because he's spent so many years there (multiple people speaking at once).

Once they get in there, they become a member of the Boy's Club.

That won't happen to Cranley though, will it?

No, not in the first time. It might take ten years.

MODERATOR- TONIGHT A LOT OF PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT CHANGE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF CHANGE. THIS WAS REALLY DIRECTED AT CHANGE, BUT MOST OF YOU GAVE IT A NO DIFFERENCE, OR HALF OF YOU GAVE IT A NO DIFFERENCE OR MORE LIKELY TOWARD CHABOT. SO WHY?

I gave it a no difference. I didn't go plus Chabot but it's a negative for Cranley because I think what he did was he took a vote on tax policies and tried to make it personal like with this [graft] and corruption and I don't buy that.

He hasn't said one good thing about himself. Does he have nothing good to say about himself?

I just put a zero. Maybe if Chabot was in there and gave all of these tax breaks to oil companies because the oil companies were stuffing his back pocket like the rest of Congress has all of this stock in oil. That's the impression that worries me.

MODERATOR- RON ANYTHING?

I don't know. It really doesn't tell the whole story. He may have voted for this one. But it took a whole lot of other people to vote and get it passed.

He didn't do it by himself.

MODERATOR- TURN TO HANDOUT TO ELEVEN. I PROMISE. NO MORE ADS, BUT A LOT OF THOSE ADS THAT WE DID SEE WERE REPUBLICAN ADS ON NATIONAL SECURITY. WE'VE TALKED ABOUT NATIONAL SECURITY TONIGHT. I WANT TO READ ANOTHER STATEMENT BY A DEMOCRAT ON NATIONAL SECURITY. AT THE BOTTOM THERE'S A SCALE AGAIN SO YOU'LL RANK IT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WRITE WHY THIS TIME. I'LL READ IT OUT LOUD THIS TIME. IF THERE'S SOMETHING THAT STICKS OUT TO YOU, GO AHEAD AND UNDERLINE IT AND THEN WHEN WE'RE DONE WE'LL RATE IT. THE DEMOCRAT 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 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 BIG CONTRACTS FOR [HALBERG]. BEYOND IRAQ WE MUST DO A BETTER JOB WAGING THE WAR ON TERROR. THIS MEANS INVESTING TO MAKE AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENT, IMPLEMENTING A 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. JERRY HOW DID YOU RANK THAT?

Five for Chabot.

MODERATOR- RICK?

You're saying that this is [directed towards Cranley]?

MODERATOR- THIS IS AS IF CRANLEY, THIS IS CRANLEY'S STATEMENT.

I go with three for Cranley.

Zero.

Cranley four.

Cranley three.

Chabot two.

Cranley three.

Chabot three.

MODERATOR- OKAY. ANOTHER SPLIT ON THIS ONE. LET'S START WITH THOSE WHO LIKE THIS STATEMENT AND MADE YOU MORE TOWARDS CRANLEY. THE REASON FOR THIS? WHAT DID YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THIS?

We're bogged down in Iraq, it's mismanaged, we haven't implemented the 9/11 commission. I go along with what he says here.

MODERATOR- WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT HIM OVERALL AND HIS VIEWS?

That he's looked at the situation and decided these things about it. He's decided his course of action. One of the parts of the action is the 9/11 report and the need to rebuild alliances. Actually, I thought that was an important part of this that our standing in the world has suffered. The war against terrorism has suffered because of that.

What he said there is true. Those are things that need to be addressed and we need to do something about it and that's why I gave him a three.

MODERATOR- IS THERE ANYTHING IN PARTICULAR IN THERE THAT STANDS OUT TO YOU?

No, not really. They're just all things that, The whole package. All of those things need to be addressed and maybe one out of them will be. Those are all concerns that should be addressed.

I was somewhat pretty strong to the Democrat on that one because we do need a new direction in Iraq. We're spending way too much money in there. We need to do something about it. Energy independent, I'm all for it. As Bob was saying, rebuild our alliances with NATO and other people so we don't need to depend so much on the whole rest of the world. Pull it in a little bit.

MODERATOR- OKAY. DOES ANYBODY ELSE HAVE A COMMENT ON THAT ONE?

I just didn't get anything out of it that he says he was going to [detain]. He quoted all of the problems that I've known about, we've known about. But I just didn't come away with anything positive out of it.

MODERATOR- THE THINGS THAT HE SAYS AT THE END DON'T MOVE YOU?

Of course, but...

It seems like he's been able to take all of the problems and hit on the high points of everything we really need to address.

He's pointing at all of the sore points that are happening right now. I guess I was looking for some cure all.

MODERATOR- OKAY. GO TO HANDOUT TWELVE. THIS IS ANOTHER STATEMENT BY A DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE. THE SAME THING. IF SOMETHING JUMPS OUT AT YOU WHILE I'M READING IT, UNDERLINE IT. THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS: WE NEED TO CHART A NEW COURSE IN IRAQ. OUR MILITARY HAS DONE ITS JOB IN IRAQ AND IT IS NOW TIME FOR IRAQI'S TO TAKE

CONTROL OF THEIR OWN FUTURE. MY OPPONENT AND PRESIDENT AND BUSH OFFER NO STRATEGY TO END THE WAR AND ARE SENDING EVEN MORE TROOPS TO ENTER INTO THE WAR ZONE IN BAGHDAD. WITH OVER 2,500 AMERICANS DEAD AND \$3 BILLION 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 RESPONSIBILITY TO THAT WE CAN BEGIN A PHASED WITHDRAWAL THROUGH THE U.S. FORCES. JERRY WHAT DID YOU RATE THAT?

Three for Chabot.

MODERATOR- RICK?

Two for Cranley.

Changed it from a four to a five for Cranley.

One Cranley.

Three Cranley.

Two Chabot.

One Cranley.

Five Chabot.

MODERATOR- OKAY. WE'LL START WITH THE ONES THAT WERE MORE FOR CRANLEY. WHY DID YOU MOVE IT TO A FIVE FOR CRANLEY?

That's what I was looking for on the other statement.

MODERATOR- WHAT STANDS OUT TO YOU?

It says he is actually going to do something in a short period. It tells some of the changes that he will attempt to make whether it's believable or not, that's okay, but at least I've got something to say, "Hey, you said you'd do this."

MODERATOR- OKAY. OTHERS WHO WERE MORE LIKELY TO VOTE FOR CRANLEY.

I'm thinking about, If I give Cranley a one I'd probably go to a zero on reflection because I don't think there's really anything in here that the Bush administration isn't also talking about.

But there is.

Well I mean there's some stuff about timetable. I don't really think a timetable is a good idea. He's talking about Iraqi's giving us a timetable. I don't think there's a lot here.

I mentioned this before. We already fought one war there and now we're fighting a whole different war. We have done our job and now it's time for them to take over.

I agree with your statement but...

(Multiple people speaking at once) all of this money is being spent. It's time for those guys to step up.

MODERATOR- DENNIS WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY?

I agree with your statement but I just don't think it's practical at this point because there's so much stuff still going on. If we pull out and the insurgents take over the whole city completely which they're there, then we're going to be right back there. Yes, that war might be over but this is a war and we haven't finished it.

People don't seem to understand the way the Iraqi civilization is. They have three different groups that all hate each others guts for centuries and centuries and centuries.

It's all religious motivated.

We can't, They're trying to get them all to vote and be cooperative. They're not dragging their feet. My God! This is insulting, quite frankly. They have no concept. It's just something they're trying...

It's a whole completely different culture than what we've ever lived in.

It is. Absolutely!

MODERATOR- RICK.

Well, I agree with the statement overall but expecting a timetable right now is ridiculous. That draws from it because it's just apples and oranges so to speak. I do agree that we do need to bring it to a head eventually and bring them home.

[It's a little more center] than the last one.

MODERATOR- OKAY. TURN TO HANDOUT NUMBER THIRTEEN. THIS NEXT STATEMENT IS IN RESPONSE, DO YOU REMEMBER THAT AD THAT MOST OF YOU RATED VERY STRONGLY, THE NANCY JOHNSON AND CHRIS MURPHY ON THE WIRE-TAPPING? THIS IS A RESPONSE BY A DEMOCRAT WHO HER ARGUMENT HAS BEEN MADE AGAINST. THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS: WE MUST USE EVERY RESOURCE 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 POLITICAN PURPOSES AT AN ISSUE WHERE AMERICA IS UNITED.

I WANT TO USE EVERY TOOL WE CAN TO DEAL WITH THE TERRORISTS BUT PRESIDENT BUSH'S PROGRAM OF WIRE-TAPPING WITHOUT WARRANTS LACKS ANY OVERSIGHT OR ACCOUNTABILITY AND THAT IS A BIG PART OF HOW WE GOT OFF ON THE WRONG TRACK IN IRAQ. I WILL WORK IN A BIPARTISAN WAY TO GET TOUGHER MEASURES THAT ENABLE US TO IMMEDIATELY TAP TERRORIST PHONE CALLS AND THEN GET TRADITIONAL APPROVAL AFTERWARDS.

Agreeing with this would be to Chabot?

MODERATOR- NO, TOWARDS CRANLEY. JERRY?

Five for Chabot.

MODERATOR- RICK.

No difference on this one.

One Cranley.

Two Cranley.

Three Cranely.

Two Chabot.

Zero.

Zero.

MODERATOR- LET'S START WITH THE THREE TOWARDS CRANLEY. WHY?

It's the slippery slope theory with the oversight and accountability.

That's what I underlined right there.

MODERATOR- SO FOR THIS, FOR YOU, IT'S ABOUT OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ON GOVERNMENT OR ON THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION.

On government in general.

Particularly the Bush administration in this scenario. You can just keep eroding the rights and the liberties that we have.

Well that's, I was still on the first one, the question way back. That's what hung me up. I still don't know where I stand on that. I like the Privacy Act as they per say, the wire-tapping. How far can they go with it? Can they come right in my house? Where is it going to stop?

That's why they put a cable in there.

MODERATOR- MOST OF YOU SAID NO DIFFERENCE OR MORE LIKELY TOWARDS CHABOT. WHY?

Because I don't believe they're using them. It says here he wants to use every tool we can. Then he changes his mind in the next sentence [right after a comment. I think they can say whatever they can say].

How about every "legal" tool?

This is a war. It's not against citizens.

(Inaudible).

It's a war against the citizens.

There's a lot of people that I think that's all they think the military does is just sit there and tap into these frequencies overseas and know what the Iraqi's are saying, interpret it and put it in English and say, "There's a lot. There's just so much going on." There's high security clearance and that stuff. That's what people get paid, That's one thing that high security clearance is for. They sit there and monitor what all of these telephone waves are saying, communications and they interpret it in our language and say, "here's what they're," The whole fact (inaudible). Congress forgets that, Now they want to change their mind, but they voted for this war. Now we have to see it through.

That's one of the reasons that I wasn't stronger for Cranley. That's why I gave it a two because of the last sentence where it says, "I'd work in a bipartisan way to get tougher measures to enable us to immediately tap terrorist phone calls." My understanding is that that possibility already exists. You can do that and get judicial approval afterwards and that's already the law.

When I looked at it, if you're going to support new laws, To hunt down terrorists before they get us, Well I don't know about laws but I think we're probably doing everything that we can possibly do as far as security to find out all of that information right now. Maybe there is something new that we can do, but my feeling is that when it got down to that last line, to tap terrorist phone calls and "let's just put in for a hundred (inaudible) for every day next week because," I would assume they'd tap a whole lot of lines. How are they going to know which terrorists they're getting? They might get Mable one day and then a terrorist the next. What are they going to do about the ones that don't mean anything?

I think it's kind of fruitless. If it didn't say terrorist phone calls, if it said tap anybody's phone calls that would...

Well how do you know that you're getting anybody's or terrorists?

(Multiple people speaking at once).

That's morally wrong. They're profiling you.

MODERATOR- DOES ANYBODY ELSE HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT THIS STATEMENT ON WIRE-TAPPING? AFTER HEARING EVERYTHING YOU'VE HEARD

TONIGHT, YOU SAW NATIONAL SECURITY ADS, YOU SAW ADS AGAINST THE REPUBLICANS ON CATERING TO BIG OIL AND THINGS LIKE THAT AND GETTING PAY RAISES. WHAT DO YOU TAKE AWAY FROM THIS IN TERMS OF, DO YOU THINK DEMOCRATS, ARE YOU GOING TO HOLD BACK FROM VOTING FOR A DEMOCRAT BECAUSE OF NATIONAL SECURITY?

No.

MODERATOR- WHY?

Am I going to hold back?

MODERATOR- YES. WOULD NATIONAL SECURITY BE A REASON FOR YOU TO HOLD BACK FROM VOTING FOR A DEMOCRAT?

No. I believe they have the same priority there.

I believe they take it just as seriously as the Republicans do.

Yes. I haven't heard anything drastic that would scare me off. Put it that way.

I think until they're put in that position, they don't know what they'd do.

I'm afraid the Democrats would succumb to the U.N. and give all of our [solid] rights to join the U.N. That's a very bad thing for our country.

I think we're already in the U.N. thing. I think we're already part of that.

We're sure not getting much out of them.

I don't think Democrats are (multiple people speaking at once).

MODERATOR- WE'RE ALMOST DONE BUT I STILL HAVE TO GET ONE AT A TIME SO I CAN GET THE REPORT IN. THE LAST EXERCISE IS HANDOUT FOURTEEN BUT BEFORE WE GO THERE, I JUST WANT TO THANK YOU FOR COMING TONIGHT. ON THE WAY OUT BE SURE TO STOP AT THE FRONT DESK TO GET YOUR COMPENSATION FOR THE EVENING. ON THE LAST PAGE, IF YOU CAN CIRCLE WHO YOU WOULD VOTE FOR AND THEN WRITE WHY UNDERNEATH. IF YOU ARE UNDECIDED BETWEEN CHABOT AND CRANLEY, YOU STILL HAVE TO SAY WHO YOU WOULD LEAN TOWARD AND VOTE FOR IF THE ELECTION WERE TODAY. THEN WRITE AS MUCH AS YOU WANT UNDERNEATH AS TO WHY. WHEN YOU'RE DONE YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR PENCIL AND PAPER HERE AND I'LL COLLECT THEM.

(end of session)