

DCORP Transcripts

Name: Group 1-Orange, CA
Company: --
Group Specs: Hispanic (non-Cuban) Mixed Gender, 65-84 year olds, weak partisan or independents, half Bush and half Kerry 04 voters, high school education or higher
Date: 4/27/06
Time: 3:00 p.m

(MODERATOR OVERVIEW)

(PARTICIPANTS' INTRODUCTIONS)

I'm Alberto, live in Yorba Linda, raised 7 children there, 15 grandchildren and one great grandchild. Been retired for 11 year.

I'm Bernardo, live in Orange, 4 children, been at the same address since 1956. I'm a native of Orange now. I was born in San Antonio. Been in the service and then I stayed.

I'm Clarissa, live in Yorba Linda, 5 children, 8 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, been in Orange County for 50 years. Born and raised in Los Angeles. Enjoy the senior center.

My name is Daniela, live in Irvine, native of California, born in Orange County. I have 3 children, married 43 years, 2 grandchildren.

My name is Elena, retired from Rockwell, worked there 35 years, no children, I'm a caregiver for my mother. She just turned 97.

I'm Flor, live in Anaheim, originally from Arizona, retired after 30 years with the (inaudible) school district. Have 5 children, 7 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. I love gardening and like to be outside.

I'm Gloria, live in Westminster. Born in Lima, Peru, lived here for 25 years. Have 5 children, 3 grandchildren, and work for a Christian organization as a bi-lingual secretary.

My name is Humberto, retired, 10 grandchildren, born in Texas, moved here when I was 9. My wife is into antiques, so I'm going to help her out.

I'm Isa, retired nurse, grew up in Los Angeles. Born here, we raised 6 children here, too. We have 16 grandchildren. My husband and I are both retired, so we keep busy with our grandchildren and our church and our volunteer work. I do enjoy being outdoors. I'm not

a gardener, but I like seeing gardens, so whenever I plant anything it has to be something that will grow by itself.

My name is (Name?), lived in Los Angeles all my life. Retired from Boeing after 36 years. I started with Douglas. I'm married, and I run down the Santa Ana river every day.

MODERATOR -- THINKING GENERALLY ABOUT THE COUNTRY, ARE THINGS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION OR WRONG DIRECTION?

It's hard to say. But based on all the arguments with the political parties, that things are not going the right way. As far as Bush is concerned, everybody seems to dislike him, but I think that we forget that Truman wasn't liked. He was hated towards the end and now he's a hero. When things go wrong, it's not really right to blame any one individual. I'm not a Bush man. But I also don't think it's fair to blame him for all the things that are going wrong.

I am not happy about the war. It just started for the wrong reasons. I never thought we should have gone in the first place. The idea of all our young men dying over there for things that we didn't really expect the reasons we meant. I have a brother who was a Marine and who went to Vietnam. I realize how our family reacted when he was there. When he came back, and how it changed his life. I think that every single one of those young men that die over there has a family of their own. I'm just not happy about that. I don't think that they handled that right.

I think our country is doing okay considering the rest of the world. A lot of people want to come and live over here. There must be a good reason why they're doing that. I was drafted in the 60's and now it's volunteer. The guys that are there volunteered to do it. Like any other war, there's going to be casualties.

I feel that we, as far as taking care of our own, we just hide it under the rug because we tend to always be the nice guy that helps everybody else and there are so many problems that are still here that need to be taken care of, especially our senior citizens, our homeless, our veterans from Vietnam that were just treated like dirt. Just so many things. And yet our government always seems to come up with money to take care of other nations, send billions of dollars to help other people and yet we still have our own healthcare issues that we don't give medical care to the people that need it.

I feel like the war is (inaudible) fighting something that we don't know (inaudible) people (inaudible). But the culture is (inaudible). We had a nephew that went there. it was terrible. My sister-in-law didn't hear from him for a long time. And jobs have been (inaudible).

MODERATOR – YOU MEAN JOBS LEAVING TO OVERSEAS?

Yes.

MODERATOR – STICKING A LITTLE BIT MORE WITH IRAQ. WHAT ARE OUR OPTIONS NOW? WHAT CAN WE DO?

It's too bad that we have to go to war. The price of freedom comes at a cost. Every war has its casualties. I think having gone and gotten to this point, it's been handled well.

There are lots of things that are coming up. The gas, the immigrants, all these other problems. It's not just one person that you can blame. The hurricanes. Things are a mess. I have to agree in that respect. I feel better about being in this situation with Bush in command than if Kerry would have been there because we would have been in worse, worse condition, I think.

MODERATOR – WHY DO YOU THINK THAT WE WOULD HAVE BEEN IN WORSE CONDITION?

Because he doesn't have a solid basis. They don't believe in war.

MODERATOR – YOU MEAN THE DEMOCRATS?

And I'm a good and generous and kind person. But believe me, we can only do so much. Like someone else mentioned, we help other countries but we don't have enough to go around here.

I don't agree with the war. I don't agree with the reasons for going into the war. I think that the way that they're attacking the war is not correct. I think with a bigger show of force, more people there will get the thing over quicker. I think allowing the Iraqis to govern themselves and forcing democracy on them the way we did may or may not be good for us. I'm not sure it's changing the whole Middle East. I think that we created a lot of enemies in Europe and in the Middle East. So I think if they would be serious about doing something to win that or they should be getting out, it should be one or the other.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT WE SHOULD ACCOMPLISH BEFORE WE GET OUT?

We should, at least, give the people back the life that they had before the war. Their utilities and gas and oil and all of this is still in shambles from the war. I think that the quality-of-life is not as good as it was.

We can't do that. I don't feel that we can take care of them back the way it was because it never will be the same. Too many people have been killed. If we stay there and bring more soldiers in, more gas for our families here and there, it's money more that's going to have to be put out to them to help build. I think one last big attack and then let them be, let them see what they can do for themselves. For one thing, I think that our government tries to force down their throats, not only them, but other countries, to live and do as we live which is not right, because these people have their own culture, their own way of living for years and years. Right now, we're not even taking care of our own people.

I believe that your question was where do we go from here.

MODERATOR – EXACTLY, YES.

From my perspective, we concentrate on educating the people. Form a structure of government which we're trying to do. Training the military which we're trying to do. Now if we didn't have those two scopes, I think we should send people that are specialists and who can really work with the people to accelerate those two areas. And work with the people to form societal structures.

MODERATOR – FLOR MENTIONED THE COST OF LIVES THERE. HAVE YOU HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT THE PROPORTION OF HISPANICS GOING TO THE WAR? DO YOU HAVE ANY OPTIONS ABOUT THAT?

I don't know anything about that.

First of all, I think that the military comes into the schools and makes a really big push to recruit the Latino community. A lot of times we see that or our young men see that as a way out, as a way to better themselves, as a way to maybe get an education down the road. So then they go. So I think that there is a higher percentage of Latinos that get killed there, minorities, than Caucasian military people.

It's lower income people.

And they go and deliberately target that community because they know that these people don't have a high hope to better their life through education or higher skills.

MODERATOR – SO WHAT OTHER THINGS ARE GOING WRONG IN THIS COUNTRY ASIDE FROM IRAQ?

The gas.

The price of gas.

Gas, yes.

The immigration issue, it's a big thing now. Undocumented people.

It's a big thing. It's not an easy answer to that.

No, there isn't.

MODERATOR – WHAT HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT IMMIGRATION LATELY?

Especially here in Orange Country. They're all up in arms about it. Get them out.

It's all over the news.

There are vigilantes.

Yeah, get them out. they're breaking the law. They're illegal.

It's a very tough issue.

There's no clear answer.

There's more of an influx of people coming through from Canada. We get, from what I hear, that there are a lot of the people that are associated with the terrorists that come through there.

MODERATOR – WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT IMMIGRATION LATER. YOU MENTIONED GAS PRICES. WHAT ARE THE OTHER THINGS ABOUT THE ECONOMY THAT ARE NOT GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?

When I raised my family, I did it with one job. My wife didn't have to work. I don't think that that's possible anymore. It takes 2 people earning a living and many people still can't afford a home. So that part of the economy is going wrong. The rich are getting richer and the poor, poorer. So, in general, I think that economy reflects a worsening of quality-of-life than it did 20 years ago.

I suspect that with the gas, that they don't have to charge us that much. I think that somebody's pockets are getting pretty bulging.

MODERATOR – WHOSE POCKETS?

Exxon.

Exxon.

Exxon.

Exxon and the gas company.

\$9 billion.

Record earnings that they have right now.

All the years of the SUV's has caught up with us.

There are people, senior citizens, that can't afford the prices. It's a crime.

I think that the government is the one that's really getting the profit because they get at least 35-40% tax out of every gallon that we put in. So the one that's getting wealthy is the government.

And they still can't make it.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE NEW DRUG PRESCRIPTION PROGRAM, MEDICARE PART D?

I'm so confused by it.

It cost me more.

Me, too.

I pay less actually.

Mine stayed the same.

I have great prescription coverage until that program came out. Now I pay a little bit more for it. I haven't joined that plan because mine is still better.

MODERATOR – HOW MANY PAY MORE? THREE.

I don't understand it.

MODERATOR – IT'S TOO COMPLEX.

I don't understand it either, but I'm paying more for my prescriptions.

They make it so confusing to us that only they know how much to tell us and how much not. It's so confusing that we may really choose the wrong thing.

It's not right.

MODERATOR – DO YOU THINK THAT YOU'RE BETTER OFF OR WORSE OFF SINCE THE PLAN?

I'm better off personally. There are so many groups out there that are trying to get you to join them. My wife and I belonged to Kaiser for 36 years. Just starting April 1st, we joined a group called [Airborne]. Doctors, hospitals, specialists are zero and they give you \$20 back each month.

That's good.

MODERATOR – SO HUMBERTO IS BETTER OFF. BUT MANY OF YOU MENTIONED THAT YOU'RE WORSE OFF.

I'm with Kaiser and last year, I went to Members' Services and asked them what is this. They said, that you have to stay with Kaiser, because if you sign up with somebody else, you're going to get dropped. So I stayed because I've been with them about 20 years.

I think that the reason for the plan was for those that didn't have coverage was able to afford drugs. I'm not sure that that's happened yet. If it does happen that way, I'm glad to pay a little bit more because I think that people were not getting medical care or the prescriptions that they needed.

MODERATOR – BUT YOU DON'T THINK THAT THAT'S HAPPENING YET?

I don't know. I haven't seen the statistics about it.

MODERATOR – SO, IN GENERAL, REGARDLESS OF YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, WHO THINKS THAT THE PLAN IS WORKING OVERALL?

No.

I don't know.

I think that the seniors have to be educated more.

MODERATOR – SO IT'S TOO COMPLEX.

Even the pharmacists are confused. I was listening to this radio program and the pharmacist was saying, the people are calling me. I tried to call the number that they said. They don't know. It's very confusing, it's time-consuming. So I don't think it's a well-thought out program. I don't think that it's doing what it was meant to do.

MODERATOR – SO WHO DO YOU THINK IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILURES OF THIS PROGRAM?

The bureaucrats in Washington.

I do, too.

Right.

Yeah, they give it to a bunch of MBA guys.

Yeah, they don't really study it, have focus groups to see if it's a good idea.

MODERATOR – WHO ELSE IS RESPONSIBLE?

The corporations that make the medicines because they pay money to the politicians to set up the law, because it brings more money to them one way or another.

I want the same program that the senators and the Congressmen have because they certainly don't have the same plan we have.

MODERATOR – I'M GOING TO DO SOME NAME ASSOCIATIONS NOW. SAY THE FIRST THING THAT COMES TO YOUR MIND. FIRST NAME, ALBERTO GONZALEZ.

He's the attorney general.

MODERATOR – ANY OPINIONS?

He's Hispanic.

Yeah, I like that.

I don't know anything about him.

He's one of George Bush's buddies in Texas.

Figurehead.

MODERATOR -- ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER.

Governor.

Terminator.

Inexperienced.

I didn't vote for him.

I think he thought that he was going to go in there and everything was just going to fall into place and he was going to be the savior of the world. I think he had a very rude awakening.

They just wanted to get Gray Davis out and that's why he's in.

He's gaining my respect.

MODERATOR – WHY?

Because of the programs that he's putting in. The way that he's approaching the school and taxation problems. He's more effective than other people I've seen.

The school people are claiming that (inaudible) the millions of dollars that they loaned him and never paid back. All I know is what I hear.

You probably heard that from the teachers' unions bad-mouthing him.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT HILLARY CLINTON?

(Inaudible).

(Many speaking at once).

She's Senator for the State, first of all. I don't think she knows anything about government. I don't value her, maybe she did the right choices as wife while he was in office and just looked the other way. But I don't think she has the backbone for office or the brains.

I think she would be more effective if she toned down. She seems to have a lot of rage underneath. It comes out in her voice. If she just toned it down and was a little more charismatic like Bill. . .

MODERATOR – ANTONIO VILLAGAIROSA.

(Inaudible).

Mayor of Los Angeles.

I personally shook his hand and he looked at me, like who are you, just 2 or 3 months ago.

He appears to be a phony to me. he's got the smile for the camera and I just feel that when the camera's not on, it's a completely different face.

He's using mayor as a stepping stone to governor.

Exactly.

Right.

This guy's always in front of the camera.

I think he's taken the wrong approach as far as the immigrant thing and all them being out there on the steps. You know what they are calling him now? Antonio Viva-larosa.

MODERATOR – WHAT APPROACH DID HE TAKE?

Telling them that they're doing the right thing, you're doing okay. That is stupid. Stupid.

Yeah, to me, that's was political suicide.

It's called illegal immigration for a reason.

That's true. It's not right.

It's not fair to the people that have been waiting and waiting 8-10 years to be here legally.

MODERATOR – OKAY. NEXT ONE. PETE WILSON.

Republican.

Pete who?

Used to be governor.

Nah. I don't know who he is.

Ex-governor.

He didn't do that good.

No charisma.

A crook.

Unmemorable.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

I'm Catholic. I support it.

Mahoney comes to mind. He's making a lot of bad decisions with what he's doing.

To me, the way I look at it is you cannot condemn the leader of a group because of the actions of some members. As far as I can see, the Catholic Church stands for sound

reasons. Now if some of the priests are not sound, it's shouldn't be reflected on Catholicism.

But when the leader of the Church moves a pedophile somewhere else and doesn't deal with it, that's where it's really wrong.

That's a poor leader.

Then, again, even if they're priests and they're leaders, they're still not the Church and they're not the core of what the Church stands for. These are people that are normally the backbones that make the decisions. Whether they're bishops, even the Pope can't do that. They're still not the core of what the Church stands for.

I agree with you that the Church itself, it's the people that are surrounding and that are doing the wrong things. But I feel, too, that as time goes by, the Church has changed quite a bit to, I feel that they have bent the rules in a lot of ways to try to keep membership in the Church. What was so wrong with the rules and the way that it was a long time ago that it has to be changed as the people want it?

MODERATOR – WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND POLICY ISSUES?

I don't like them.

I think that they have a right to say what they believe. Whether you want to go along with it or not is your decision. But I think that they have a right to say how they see things and how they think.

Sure, why shouldn't they?

But what I'm saying it the Church is one thing and the government is another and they should not mix.

MODERATOR – LAST ONE. DUKE CUNNINGHAM.

Radical racist.

He's a racist.

I think he's a racist politician.

I don't know him.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THE CONGRESS?

We need to move them out.

Ineffective.

They need to unite. Whether they're right or wrong, they vote for their side. It's not about left or right, it's about the country.

They put their party ahead of the country.

Exactly. I agree.

(Many speaking at once).

They're all corrupt.

Or money. There's lobbyists all over the place.

That's why they never get anything done.

I think that they're self-serving.

MODERATOR – IS THE CURRENT CONGRESS WORSE THAN IN TIMES PAST OR IS THIS JUST POLITICS AS USUAL?

Worse.

Worse.

MODERATOR -- WHY DO YOU THINK IT'S WORSE?

I think that they go with good intentions, but then when they go there, they get caught up in all the muck and mire.

MODERATOR – FLOR?

When the politicians do something wrong, now, now. Don't do that again. And somebody else goes to jail.

MODERATOR – DO YOU SEE ONE PARTY AS MORE OR LESS CORRUPT?

No.

No.

No.

No.

MODERATOR -- HOW DOES THIS CORRUPTION IN CONGRESS IMPACT YOU?

I think that all they want to do is get into office. Once they get into office, they have a certain period of time to do it and get as much richness as they can because when they get out, they want to get everything free. And once they get in, they do everything for their own purpose.

MODERATOR – DANIELA?

I was trying to think how it impacts my life. I have a good life.

MODERATOR – ANYONE HAVE ANY OTHER GOOD THOUGHTS ABOUT THAT?

These are people that we elected. So do we have some responsibility in why we're not getting what we're not getting? If we're that unhappy with what's going on, then we need to do something about it.

There should be term limits. That way you get fresh ideas coming in.

MODERATOR – LAST NAME I WANT TO TALK ABOUT IS GEORGE W. BUSH. WE'RE GOING TO WRITE IT DOWN BEFORE WE TALK ABOUT IT. ON THE FIRST PAGE, WRITE DOWN WHAT GOOD THINGS COME TO MIND ABOUT BUSH AND ON THE SECOND PAGE, WHAT ARE THE NEGATIVE THINGS THAT COME TO MIND? SO WHAT POSITIVE THINGS DID YOU WRITE DOWN?

He's a good man.

I think he means well.

I think exactly after 9-11 he [united] the country after what happened.

I like the fact that he's against abortion and that he's a Christian.

He delegates (inaudible).

He puts his trust in God to make the right decision.

(Inaudible) and his best for our country.

He's a good man. He has been hiring a lot of Chicanos into his (inaudible). I've never seen any other President do that.

MODERATOR – ANYTHING ELSE?

I can't think of anything at the moment except that he has Hispanics in his family. Don't like how our status is at the moment in other countries.

I thought that he had great parents. I couldn't think of anything else.

Yeah, where did they go wrong?

MODERATOR -- WHAT DOUBTS DO YOU HAVE? WHAT WORRIES YOU ABOUT HIM?

I don't see him as a great leader or a strong leader. I think he's probably strong in terms of sticking to his belief system. Considering all the problems that we're having in our country, I don't see him as a strong leader.

He comes through to me as a bully and I fear what he might do to our country regarding the war.

I don't like his plans on the war in Iraq.

He's a Christian man. I think he hears the voice of God and he does what he hears, he'll be ahead of the game.

MODERATOR – OKAY. ANY OTHER DOUBTS?

He needs to get more assertive about the illegal problems that we have and the gas situation.

I think he's not very intelligent. That he's dumb.

I have that one, too.

I think he doesn't tell the truth.

I agree with him.

I don't agree with his choice of advisors or cabinet. I think he's out there to help big business.

He's a terrible speaker. Terrible.

MODERATOR – SO DO YOU THINK HE'S WEAKER OR STRONGER THAN WHEN HE WAS ELECTED NOW?

Weaker now.

Weaker.

Weaker.

Weaker.

MODERATOR – WHY DO YOU THINK HE'S WEAKER?

I think it's his advisors that are doing it. He needs a new crew.

He isn't selling himself. That's the thing. He gets up there and say stuff but he doesn't sell it. He doesn't come across. . .

He's not a good salesman.

No.

He doesn't have the Reaganism.

No.

Yeah, there you go.

(Many speaking at once).

MODERATOR -- NOW I'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT AN ISSUE THAT SOME OF YOU MENTIONED AND HAS BEEN IN THE NEWS A LOT LATELY – ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE CURRENT DEBATE ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION?

It's complex.

I agree. I don't think that there's an easy answer. Obviously all of us came at some point in our history from another country. I don't think it's fair to say, well, we have ours. And you guys stay out and close the doors because we don't need you here. But I don't know what the answer is either. It's not right to just let them all in either.

I would like to see them pay taxes.

And they do, they pay taxes, when they buy things.

I don't think so. I don't think that they're paying their way. They're taking a lot of the welfare money that is in the different states away from people that are paying for them.

MODERATOR – ELENA?

Paying taxes just because you buy groceries and you're taxed on that, doesn't mean that you pay taxes. They don't file like we do.

Income tax.

Our benefits are being all sucked up. I'm sorry but that's the way it is. And education, medical, welfare, who here can go and get welfare stamps? If you earn X amount of money. But, jeez, they find out how to get it right away. I don't like that.

They all have.

When you say illegals, who are you talking about? the people from Mexico or the people from Taiwan?

From wherever.

The majority of them are from Mexico.

MODERATOR – WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE TALKING ABOUT WHEN WE SAY ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS?

I think it's focused on the people from Mexico.

Aren't they the majority of those?

And the fact that the boat people and all these other people that have come in. They have certainly used our money for welfare and grants for the homes and medical

expenses. Our government still does not seem to see the fact that it's not only the Mexican people that are coming in. It's all these other people that they are bringing in. A lot of these people that are using the benefits that we have here already had money because a lot of those people that came over had money. So they were able to come over and now they're starting their businesses, and that's what the government wants. Business people. And then people that come here and have children here becomes a problem because how can we leave the children here and send the parents back? It's very confusing.

I think that they just have to control the borders. Right now, whoever is here, we'll deal with them now. We'll make the citizens. We'll make them pay their fair share. The kids will be in school. Everyone will be educated. But no more. Where does it stop?

Exactly.

MODERATOR – ANYONE ELSE HAVE AN OPINION?

(Inaudible). They get government loans and they don't pay interest.

MODERATOR – WHAT IS CONGRESS TRYING TO DO? WHOSE VOICES ARE YOU HEARING? WHO IS SAYING WHAT?

They're saying send them all back. Close the borders. They're sucking up our system. They're trying to pass a law that make it a felony if you're here illegally. I don't think that anybody has the answers. These people are coming here out of necessity. One of the things that the people look at is that the reason that they come here is that the Mexican system is corrupt. You see a lot of people here angry at the American government, but they should be angry at the Mexican government because of all the corruption there.

Excuse me. But why should we be the solution?

I know that. I'm not saying that we should be the solution.

We're not going to assist everybody.

(Many speaking at once).

. . .there is a problem. There is no clear-cut solution.

MODERATOR – DANIELA?

I heard that in Mexico, Fox has his people on the border of Guatemala and when anyone comes into the country from down south trying to get into Mexico, they are captured or held and then they are flown back to the country of origin. But I've heard that the United States pays for that flight because they don't get all the way up here and we don't have to deal with them. So we pay to fly them all the way back.

MODERATOR – WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES, WHO ELSE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS IMMIGRATION PROBLEMS?

The government. They let it snowball when it should have been handled probably in the 70's when everything started.

I don't think that they track temporary Visas well enough to make sure that people go back in time.

Didn't they have the [Prospero] program for awhile, too?

It was back in the 40's.

Oh, I'm going way back.

MODERATOR -- WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE DEMONSTRATIONS TAKING PLACE ACROSS THE COUNTRY?

I think that the one that they're going to have on May 1 is going to backlash.

Flying the Mexican flag was a big mistake. . . .**(END OF SIDE A/BEGINNING OF SIDE B)**. . . the Mexican flag just turned everybody off. It was a slap in the face.

Yeah, exactly.

MODERATOR – DID IT TURN ANY OF YOU OFF?

They want the privileges and yet they're waiting (inaudible). This is America. This is America, not Mexico.

It was stupid.

They wouldn't our flag in (inaudible).

MODERATOR -- AS YOU KNOW, CONGRESS IS DISCUSSING PROPOSALS TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION. BELOW ARE SOME PROPOSALS UNDER CONSIDERATION. READ THROUGH THE LIST AND PUT A STAR NEXT TO THE TWO PROPOSALS THAT YOU LIKE THE MOST, AND PUT AN X NEXT TO THE TWO PROPOSALS THAT CONCERN YOU THE MOST.

- a. PROVIDE MORE FUNDING FOR STATE AND LOCAL BORDER CONTROL, INCLUDING 10,000 NEW PATROL AGENTS ON OUR BORDERS
- b. BUILD A 700-MILE LONG FENCE ALONG THE U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER
- c. REQUIRE IMMIGRANTS TO LEARN ENGLISH AND BASICS ABOUT AMERICAN CULTURE AND GOVERNMENT BEFORE BECOMING U.S. CITIZENS
- d. ESTABLISH A GUEST WORKER PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS IMMIGRANTS TO WORK IN THE U.S. AND OFFERS THEM AN OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR CITIZENSHIP IF THEY PAY FINES AND BACK TAXES
- e. ESTABLISH A GUEST WORKER PROGRAM THAT ALLOWS IMMIGRANTS TO WORK IN THE U.S. FOR A SET PERIOD OF TIME AND THEN REQUIRES THEM TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY
- f. IMPOSE MAJOR FINANCIAL PENALTIES ON EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

- g. DEPORT ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND ALLOW THEM TO RETURN AS GUEST WORKERS
- h. MAKE IT A CRIME FOR SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS, REFUGEE AGENCIES, CHURCHES, AND LEGAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS
- i. REFUSE DRIVER'S LICENSES TO ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

MODERATOR – OKAY. ARE YOU READY? HOW MANY STARS FOR:

A – 5
B – 0
C – 8
D – 4
E – 1
F – 4
G – 0
H – 2
I – 0

HOW MANY X'S?

A – 1
B – 3
C – 1
D – 2
E – 1
F – 1
G – 3
H – 4
I – 2

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE ONES THAT YOU LIKE THE MOST. YOU HAVE 8 STARS NEXT TO, REQUIRE IMMIGRANTS TO LEARN ENGLISH AND BASICS ABOUT AMERICAN CULTURE AND GOVERNMENT BEFORE BECOMING U.S. CITIZENS. WHY DID YOU GUYS LIKE THAT ONE?

Because it might work.

MODERATOR – IT MIGHT WORK. IT'S PRACTICAL.

I think it would be beneficial to both sides. I think it would be beneficial to the country and beneficial to the immigrants.

But they already sort of have to know.

No.

No.

Not a lot of them want to learn it.

Part of the problem with the Mexican culture is that in their country, they don't have a mandated education. So, therefore, they're kind of lax about learning. So coming to a country where they're told that they need to learn the language and the customs, it would help them. And it could inspire them to get a better job. They see themselves as the mentality of laborers because that's how they're treated in their own country. So when they come here, they have the mentality that they're much better than where they were.

Those are the ones that come from poor families because that's the way that the government is over there. They keep the poor people down because the poor people cannot afford education because they need to eat.

The majority of them that comes here, assuming that they get a job, they're happy. They don't want to learn more about it. They're paid for work. As long as they're here working, they don't care if they have papers or not.

Exactly.

That's sad.

And they don't stress education for the children either. They just seem happy to bring the child into what they're doing, too, rather than wanting to better themselves.

The children are going to do what the fathers do. If the fathers are hard-working people, honest and everything, the children are going to be that way. But if the fathers don't care, or if they only care for the meal today or tomorrow or we'll see about it, that's how the kids are going to grow. They steal today to eat tomorrow and so on.

MODERATOR – SO THE 2ND ONE YOU LIKED THE MOST IS, PROVIDE MORE FUNDING FOR STATE AND LOCAL BORDER CONTROL, INCLUDING 10,000 NEW PATROL AGENTS ON OUR BORDERS. WHY IS THAT?

That's what we need to do. Stop it there. Stop the bleeding at the borders.

I believe it's the one to impose fines on the people who hire them. Because if they don't get hired, they won't stay.

MODERATOR – SO GOING BACK TO BORDER PATROL. . .

It relates.

MODERATOR – ALBERTO?

I think that they did increase the funding for border patrols and that kind of thing like 300% and the reduction of illegals entering the country is like 3-4%. So it's how much are you going to put into it to make it cost effective?

Exactly.

By doing that, putting more patrols, then we can get rid of that other group, the Minute Men.

Why do you want to get rid of them? Hire them. They're doing the job.

Okay, then why don't we go and hire our own, number one?

Put the national guard on the border, for that matter.

It's not happening.

But these other guys that are patrolling there, we don't know if they're there legally or not. They're just working for themselves. They just want to stop something else. Not knowing if they themselves are legal or not.

They're [gavachos].

Not only [gavachos]. I've seen black people talking on TV that they're part of them.

Really?

Yes.

Yes, there's one that's been very strong on that issue.

They don't do anything. They don't carry guns. They have walkie talkies and they report.

But see those kind of people that are working there, they get someone that don't want to obey, they kill them and get them out of the way.

Then we're back to square one. Run a top secret check on the person, give them a badge. In other words, we're up a creek.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT, IMPOSING MAJOR FINANCIAL PENALTIES ON EMPLOYERS WHO HIRE ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS?

Yes.

That has to be a crime. That's got to stop or it will never happen.

No.

No.

MODERATOR – WHY?

They're going to get fake ID's and fix a credit cards.

And businesses don't want to worry about it.

Businesses want that low income people.

MODERATOR – BECAUSE THEY WANT THE LABOR?

Yes.

And we Americans won't do that labor. We're told that over and over and over again. That we have to have the Mexicans come and do it because we won't do it.

If somebody shows me an ID, I have no way of knowing that it's for real or not.

MODERATOR – SO LET'S TALK ABOUT THE ONES THAT CONCERNED YOU THE MOST. #1 WAS, MAKE IT A CRIME FOR SOCIAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS, REFUGEE AGENCIES, CHURCHES, AND LEGAL SERVICES TO PROVIDE SERVICES FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. WHAT DOES THAT CONCERN YOU?

I think it's just awful because if a person comes to the church and knocks on the door and asks the priest for help, the priest is going to have to say, I'm sorry, I can't help you because it's against the law. You can't require a priest, a nun, or a social service worker to do that. that's against what their whole existence is about. I think that's just awful.

MODERATOR – ANY OTHERS?

I think that they should not be responsible for, why should they start getting fined for something that's not their call to begin with?

That's what draws a lot of illegals here in the first place because they're going to get all this freebie stuff, including a hospital emergency. They take their kids to the ER for kids' minor symptoms because they know it's free.

The Church is there to give sanctuary to everybody not just legal citizens. You can't change that because a person is illegal. That's a totally different thing. Our country was based on that.

That's just the church, but look at all these other agencies.

MODERATOR – SO THE OTHER ONE THAT CONCERNED YOU WAS, BUILD A 700-MILE LONG FENCE ALONG THE U.S.-MEXICAN BORDER.

That will never happen.

No.

They'll find a way.

They'll dig holes under that. It will take an extra day to dig a hole, that's all.

Right.

(Inaudible).

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT, DEPORT ALL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND ALLOW THEM TO RETURN AS GUEST WORKERS?

No, that's ridiculous.

How do you go about that?

We do that all the time. We do that monthly for some of those guys.

MODERATOR – SO THE ONES YOU DON'T LIKE ARE THE ONES YOU DON'T THINK ARE GOING TO WORK?

Yeah.

Right.

They won't work, never happen.

MODERATOR – OKAY. WHICH POLITICAL PARTY DO YOU THINK DOES A BETTER JOB HANDLING THE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ISSUE?

I think Republicans handle it pretty well because they're stricter about their laws. Democrats are more wishy-washy and they're more for poor people. Give them more welfare, that's the Democrats generally speaking.

Keep them down, too. Big Brother will keep them down.

MODERATOR – EVERYONE AGREE?

The Democrats go with the flow.

I don't think either one because if they did, then we wouldn't have the big problems that we have now. I don't think either one is really doing it right.

Reagan tried to do amnesty back in the 70's and then the illegals kept coming in, so it just (inaudible).

I think we've reached the point in history when it pertains to government when our system of government is becoming obsolete so, therefore, the people have to step in. We have to understand that, all the leaders via Church. . .

MODERATOR – BUT ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, WHICH ONE DOES THE BETTER JOB?

Well, I'm getting to that.

MODERATOR – OKAY, I'M SORRY.

All the leaders come from the (inaudible) society that we create. So you're talking about one better than the other. No, they're all screwed up because we're screwed. Society is coming to a point where do we have to form a better system of government? We've evolved to a point where it's chaotic now. We have to take the chaos and mold it into something positive. I think that's what is happening now.

MODERATOR – SO TOM MENTIONED THAT THE REPUBLICANS DO A BETTER JOB. ANYONE AGREE?

I think so because in the past, I think that the Republicans have, but now everybody is swaying in the wind. It's like the Republicans saying that the Mexicans are going to be voting and we need that vote.

I think that the Democrats are not saying too much because they want that vote.

Yes.

Yeah.

And the majority of the Mexicans that come over here are Democrat.

But the Republicans and the Democrats aren't doing anything. They're butting heads. You've got to put your foot down and present some solutions and go with it.

MODERATOR – HAS ANYBODY HEARD ABOUT THE SAN BERNARDINO BALLOT MEASURE?

No.

What is it?

All city business has to be conducted in English. There were like 3 things. What were the other things?

MODERATOR – BASICALLY THOSE WHO RUN DAY LABOR CENTERS WOULD HAVE TO CHECK THE STATUS OF THE DAY LABORERS THAT THEY HIRE TO MAKE SURE. . .

Oh, and landlords have to check the citizenship status of the tenants before they rent to them.

MODERATOR – BUT NOBODY HAS REALLY HEARD A LOT ABOUT IT, HUH?

No.

I saw the paper yesterday or the day before. The LA Times.

I haven't heard of it either.

MODERATOR -- NOW LET'S TALK IN GREATER DETAIL ABOUT THE TWO PARTIES, THE REPUBLICANS AND THE DEMOCRATS. FIRST, WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS. WHEN THINKING POSITIVELY ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS, WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS?

I think, in general, they're more open-minded, they're not as rigid as the Republicans.

The Democrats have always been for the poor people, from way back when we first started. That's why Latinos lean over towards Democrats.

All minorities. African-Americans, too. They've always had them in their pocket because they're the ones that came in with the WPA.

That's your Dad's Democrats. They're not like that any more.

MODERATOR – NO? WHY NOT?

That's the truth. I think that they're very similar, the Republicans and the Democrats. They're very similar. It's very difficult to tell the difference.

People who have money tend to become Republicans. And then they go back to the Democrats.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO THE DEMOCRATS GET WRONG?

Taxation. They want to get money out.

Welfare programs. Tax you so that they can get more welfare programs.

Too liberal for me.

MODERATOR – IN WHAT SENSE?

They support all these causes that are against the government. They see all (inaudible) issues. You can't salute the flag or say the Pledge of Allegiance under God, that kind of stuff. They lean that way. I'm not saying that they're all against it. they do it more than Republicans do.

Like Bernardo stated, our parents were Democrats and we were always a Democratic house. However, they've gone way left. They're too liberal now. They don't stand for, they're un-American. I'm a registered Democrat, but I vote Republican mostly because I don't like what they represent now. I don't like what they stand for. To look at Kennedy, what a disgrace to the Kennedy family. To look at some of the other senators. . .

Hillary?

MODERATOR – WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE DEMOCRATS ON SECURITY AND DEFENSE ISSUES?

Bad.

Yeah, I don't think that they, it's not like West Wing, you know.

They're too weak.

They come to a military war, they're more doves and the Republicans are the hawks. The Republicans stand up for the country.

I don't see a big difference.

I think each party will act on what's beneficial to their side. They can switch at a given moment. It doesn't matter. I go along with him.

MODERATOR -- WHEN THINKING POSITIVELY ABOUT THE REPUBLICANS, WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE REPUBLICANS?

I think our country is safer on account of Republicans being in office right now. I feel confident that, in spite of the way things are going, I don't see any more bombings. I don't see the bombings that occurred, 3 of them before, when Clinton was in office and nobody did anything about it.

I think that they're better organized. At least you know most of the stands that they take.

I think that they're better for business. Without business, people wouldn't have their jobs. They're more business oriented.

MODERATOR -- WHAT DO YOU THINK THE REPUBLICANS GET WRONG? WHAT HOLDS YOU BACK FROM SUPPORTING THE REPUBLICANS?

Ties to big business.

Yeah, I agree. They're too concerned about big business.

MODERATOR -- HOW DOES THAT AFFECT YOU PERSONALLY?

I think that prevents them from passing the laws that we need for the country to move forward and be more secure economically. They're so concerned what the big corporations are going to do.

MODERATOR -- ANY OTHER THOUGHTS? OKAY. SO DO YOU SEE ANY OF THE PARTIES CLOSER TO YOU? ARE ANY OF THE PARTIES ON YOUR SIDE?

No.

I would think that the Republicans are more on my side than the Democrats are.

I don't see either one.

I don't either. Are Republicans trying to bring down our gas prices right now?

It's all supply and demand. I'm retired now and it doesn't bother me.

Like he said, it takes 2 in most families to make ends meet. And you need gas for the car, definitely. They're kind of like, yeah, we're concerned about it. But what are they actually doing? Neither party is doing anything. otherwise it would have been taken care of a long time before we got up to the price that it is now. And then it comes down when things are not hyped. But come the holiday weekend, whew! They know that they're going to get all that money.

MODERATOR -- I KNOW IT'S A LONG WAY OFF, BUT THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS FOR CONGRESS IN NOVEMBER THIS YEAR. WHEN YOU EVALUATE THE CANDIDATES IN YOUR DISTRICT AND DECIDE HOW TO CAST YOUR VOTE, WILL YOU BE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO WILL BASICALLY TAKE THE COUNTRY AND THE CONGRESS IN THE SAME DIRECTION WE ARE CURRENTLY HEADING, OR WILL YOU BE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO REPRESENTS A CHANGE FROM THE CURRENT DIRECTION?

Change.

Change.

Well. . .

The state candidate that I've heard is going to fix the schools, do this, fix the roads, do this. . .

They always say that.

And I'm saying, okay, where are you going to get the money?

MODERATOR – WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? ARE YOU LOOKING FOR CHANGE OR THE SAME DIRECTION?

Change.

Change.

I'm looking for somebody that sticks to what he says, not say this to draw the vote in and then of a sudden, for some reason or another, we're going in another direction.

There's never been one that's done that. . .

They all say that.

. . .neither Republican or Democrat. It is always money.

Personally I want to change.

MODERATOR – OKAY, WHY DO YOU WANT TO CHANGE?

I think that the war is not conducted right. I think that we should win it and I don't think that we should just get out. I think we have to win it and we have to put the country back into order.

But it also takes time. And money.

And lives.

And lives. You can't bring back the lives.

MODERATOR – WHAT KIND OF CHANGE ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? IF YOU ARE GOING TO VOTE FOR CHANGE, WHAT SPECIFICALLY ARE YOU VOTING FOR?

We need a new leader.

Yeah, I was starting to say that. What I look for in a candidate is I have to feel that he's honest, that he has integrity, and that he's not just trying to blow out hot air. So it's my judgment that I believe what he says. As far as change is concerned, I'm not looking for change, but I think that somebody who is a strong leader or who has integrity will automatically make the correct changes that we need. No matter who we get up there, there's going to be changes because that's the way it's going to go. There's got to be changed.

But you're talking about 2006, the governor race, not the Presidential race.

Right.

MODERATOR – 2006, RIGHT. CONGRESS AND THE STATE.

How are we going to get that candidate that you're talking about? How do we know that Joe Blow is one of those guys that's going to do what he says? How are we going to get to the point when the election comes that we're going to vote of this guy? How are we going to find out?

That's the \$64,000 question. We don't know.

Yes, we do. They have a record.

Yes, we do. You and I, as a citizen of the United States, we start looking now at Joe Blow and if that guy was in office, and we look at his record, we need to start now, writing down, you know Joe Blow is good in the positions that we like.

But how are you going to find all that out? They have theses commercials on TV and they're all promising you the world. It's picking the lesser of two evils.

The computers are here today. You can find that information on the computer.

MODERATOR -- FOR YOU PERSONALLY, WHAT IS THIS UPCOMING ELECTION ABOUT? WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR THAT WILL DETERMINE HOW YOU VOTE FOR CONGRESS?

Education. education is where I think that we have lots of problems and that's starting at the bottom. If you don't have the right education for your children, we're in big trouble. And I think that we're in big trouble and we need to fix that. we need to have leaders who are willing to make the choices that they need to make to fix it.

MODERATOR – OTHER THINGS?

If they have been in Congress, their past voting record.

One that we don't have a choice is Boxer. Nobody's running against her. We're stuck with her.

MODERATOR – ANY OTHER ISSUES?

I'm worried about who's going to run for governor. I haven't made an opinion if I'm going to stick with Arnie.

I would look to decide what are they going to do about Social Security. I would vote for the guy that came up with the one I liked. I also think that the economy is in real trouble. I think that our healthcare is terrible. It seems to be a little start on prescription drugs. Those are some issues and some moral issues. Abortion is one.

MODERATOR – FOLLOWING UP ON WHAT ALBERTO WAS SAYING, NOW I'D LIKE TO TALK IN MORE DETAIL ABOUT SOME OF THE MAJOR ISSUES FACING THE COUNTRY THAT WILL BE TALKED ABOUT IN THIS ELECTION. WE'LL READ A BRIEF STATEMENT FROM TWO CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES, ONE DEMOCRAT AND ONE REPUBLICAN, ON EACH ISSUE. REGARDLESS OF HOW YOU PLAN TO VOTE, PLEASE TELL ME WHICH STATEMENT COMES CLOSER TO YOUR OPINION.

THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE SAYS, WE PASSED A PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT FOR SENIORS THAT IS REDUCING THEIR COSTS AND COVERING 95 PERCENT OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS FOR LOW INCOME SENIORS, WHO ARE RECEIVING COVERAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME. NEARLY 30 MILLION SENIORS HAVE SIGNED UP FOR THE NEW PROGRAM WHICH GIVES THEM AFFORDABLE CHOICES AND SAVES THE AVERAGE SENIOR \$1,100 A YEAR.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS, THE NEW PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT IS A GIVEAWAY TO DRUG AND INSURANCE COMPANIES WHILE DOING NOTHING TO REDUCE THE COST OF DRUGS. THE NEW LAW PROHIBITS MEDICARE FROM NEGOTIATING WITH DRUG COMPANIES FOR LOWER PRICED DRUGS AND PENALIZES SENIORS WHO MUST PAY A ONE PERCENT PENALTY PER MONTH IF THEY DON'T SIGN UP BY THE MAY 15TH DEADLINE.

WHO'S FOR THE REPUBLICAN STATEMENT? THREE. FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE? SEVEN. LET'S START WITH THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE. WHY ARE YOU FOR THAT ONE? DANIELA?

Because that's where I fall into place. It hasn't helped me any. I'm paying a monthly fee now where I wasn't paying before and I pay more for the prescriptions.

It sounds all factual and all the numbers are here. The other guy is just going on [witch hunt].

MODERATOR – WHICH IS THE OTHER GUY?

The Democrat.

MODERATOR – SO YOU THINK THAT THE REPUBLICAN HAD THE STATISTICS?

They published numbers, yeah.

Well, I think that the Democrats says that the new law prohibits negotiating with the drug companies. That's deadly wrong. They should be allowed to negotiate. Maybe they can get a better deal.

But they should put some numbers there.

MODERATOR – OKAY, ANY ANOTHER THOUGHTS?

Numbers can be played with no matter what.

MODERATOR – SO WHO ELSE? WHY DID YOU LIKE THE DEMOCRATIC STATEMENT?

That was more in my thoughts when I mentioned about the drug companies before because they're the ones that benefit from this, not the people that are having to get the program.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THOSE WHO LIKED THE REPUBLICAN STATEMENT? HOW COME YOU LIKED THAT ONE? BECAUSE IT HAS NUMBERS.

Because they did something finically. Talk's cheap and that's all I hear out of the Democratic statement. I haven't seen a plan that's going to make the drug companies lower the cost. So I think that at least we have a start. Something's happened.

As far as my own household, with the Boeing thing, I didn't have to get anything. They have a great prescription plan. I pay \$7 for my prescriptions and I still pay the same. In my mother's case, she was a Medicare/Medical recipient. I signed her up for Secure Horizons. She pays \$1 or \$2 for prescriptions. That's not going to break here. I don't think that the Democrats have a leg to stand on. They're not doing any better for us.

MODERATOR – SHOULD WE IMPLEMENT NEW PLAN AND SHOW HOW IT WORKS OR SHOULD WE CHANGE IT TO BE SIMPLER AND REDUCE THE COST OF DRUGS?

Definitely simpler.

Simplifying it, yeah.

I don't like the idea that you're penalized if you don't sign up by May 15th. My husband takes no medication at all, but we signed up, on the lowest one. I pay \$11.25 for him for nothing because eventually if we get some kind of serious illness, he needs to be on a program and not be penalized.

MODERATOR -- LET'S GO TO HANDOUT #5. THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE SAYS, AMERICA'S CORE VALUES ARE BEING UNDERMINED BY A LIBERAL MEDIA AND A PERMISSIVE CULTURE THAT REJECTS THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY AND THE ROLE OF THE ROLE OF FAITH IN OUR HISTORY AND OUR PUBLIC LIFE. WE MUST DEFEND THE MORAL FOUNDATIONS THAT MAKE OUR NATION STRONG, PROMOTE A CULTURE OF LIFE, AND PROTECT THE SANCTITY OF THE FAMILY.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS, FROM TERRI SCHIAVO TO CREATIONISM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, GOVERNMENT HAS GONE TOO FAR IN LEGISLATING MORALITY. MY FAITH TEACHES ME THAT FAMILIES AND CHURCHES SHOULD TEACH VALUES AND RELIGION WHILE GOVERNMENT SHOULD FOCUS ON DEFENDING OUR COUNTRY AND REDUCING OUR DEPENDENCE ON MIDDLE EAST OIL, LOWERING HEALTH CARE COSTS, AND CREATING GOOD JOBS HERE AT HOME.

WHO'S FOR THE REPUBLICAN STATEMENT? THREE. FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE? SEVEN. LET'S START WITH THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE. WHY ARE YOU FOR THAT ONE?

I take exception to the Republican statement because I think if you say that people are going to have their own tax plan and you're going have to pay for it, they won't. somebody's going to have to pay for it when they show up at the hospitals.

I want to keep separation of church and state.

I agree. I think that the government has enough to do without worrying about what we believe in and not believe in. That's not their role.

I think it's the job at home to teach children religion and morals.

MODERATOR – THOSE WHO LIKED THE REPUBLICAN STATEMENT BETTER, WHY?

These people who don't want us to say the Pledge of Allegiance in schools or prayer at an event, that's my prerogative as a United States citizen to be able to do that. I think have a basis in some type of belief is what our whole system was founded on.

I agree with everything that she said.

MODERATOR – I'M GOING TO MOVE TO THE NEXT ONE. HANDOUT #6.

THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE SAYS, RATHER THAN MORE GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN HEALTH CARE, WE SHOULD PUT CONSUMERS IN CHARGE OF THEIR OWN HEALTH CARE. I SUPPORT PRESIDENT BUSH'S PLAN FOR TAX-FREE HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS, WHICH LOWER COSTS AND INCREASE COMPETITION BY ALLOWING INDIVIDUALS TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN DOCTORS AND THE TYPE OF CARE THEY WANT.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS, OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS BROKEN, AND WE NEED TO MAKE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES. WE CAN LOWER COSTS AND PROVIDE BETTER COVERAGE FOR ALL AMERICANS WITHIN THE CURRENT SYSTEM, WITHOUT GOVERNMENT TAKING OVER THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM. REAL REFORM MEANS AFFORDABLE COVERAGE FOR ALL AMERICANS, MAINTAINING A CHOICE OF DOCTORS AND PLANS, LOWERING COSTS, AND EXPANDING PREVENTIVE CARE.

WHO'S FOR THE REPUBLICAN STATEMENT? TWO. FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE? EIGHT. LET'S START WITH THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE. WHY ARE YOU FOR THAT ONE?

If you give people that tax saving and tell them to buy their own insurance, they're not going to do it. So I think that we need healthcare for everybody somehow.

I don't think again that the government should be taking over the healthcare system. I think that they need to support it and fund it wherever it needs it, apparently, they feel that they can. And that's what they should do. I don't think that they should just decide to form a whole new healthcare system and be in charge of it because I don't think that's what the government is supposed to be.

But can't the government say, a company has to supply an option for the employees to say, I want to pick this kind of insurance or I want to go to this doctor or whatever. In my way of feeling, the 35 years that I worked, I always had insurance. They didn't give it to me free. They charged me for it. But I think that the government should mandate that the big companies supply insurance.

That would be just like a 401K plan. [You're going to not do it. You have to have healthcare, why not?]

MODERATOR – THOSE WHO LIKED THE Republican STATEMENT? WHY DID YOU LIKE THAT ONE?

They're not trying to be the government healthcare. They're trying to let the citizens choose their own healthcare, not the government. They're saying the same thing.

But it's very expensive.

But I understood that if they implemented that plan, they would take the money out of your check and it would go into a savings account. And if you didn't use it at the end of the year, you would be reimbursed the money.

Or it would roll over.

Or it would roll over or something like that, which is ideal because when you're younger, like in your 20's. Like when I was in my 20's, I paid and never used it for a long time, but I was glad when I did need it that it was there.

There's also the illegal guys that are working and they don't pay the taxes and nothing's taken out of their paychecks. Then they get sick who's going to pay for them?

That's why the emergency rooms are closing.

We pay for them now.

This was to me, I'm torn the most of any of them. I see good parts in the whole page. I can sentences that I like on both. And I can take some that I don't like on both. So it's not really that concise as far as confining what they mean.

MODERATOR – DO YOU THINK THAT THIS IS A CREDIBLE STATEMENT FROM THE DEMOCRATS? DO YOU THINK THAT THIS IS DOABLE? CAN THIS BE ACHIEVED?

I don't know.

It says that they can, but. . .

One thing it says in the Democrat statement, we can lower costs and provide better coverage for all Americans. Why aren't they doing it now then? Why are you waiting for now to say that?

They don't want to do it now because the Republicans will take credit for it.

MODERATOR – BUT DO YOU THINK IT'S ACHIEVABLE?

Pretty much anything's achievable. It's the conflicting things that happen when the two parties go at it.

Right, and then nothing gets accomplished. It's like President Reagan said. Anything is achievable as long as you don't worry about who gets the credit. That's the problem. The Democrats don't want to pass it because they're afraid that the Republicans will get the credit for it. So then nothing gets done.

Sweden has great healthcare coverage. They've got the best in the world. And England's done it. So I guess it's achievable. I don't know if you want to do that.

Socialized medicine.

(Many speaking at once).

Socialized medicine is good until you need a body part or major surgery. You get put on a 2-year waiting list. That's not good.

They have long lines and all that stuff.

MODERATOR – OKAY, THIS IS THE LAST ONE I HAVE TO READ TO YOU.
HANDOUT #7.

THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE SAYS, WE HAVE REMOVED SADDAM HUSSEIN FROM POWER, TAKEN THE FIGHT TO THE TERRORISTS, AND PLANTED THE SEEDS OF DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE MUST MAINTAIN OUR RESOLVE IN DOING WHATEVER IT TAKES TO COMPLETE THE MISSION, DEFEAT OUR ENEMIES, AND SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS. AS IRAQI SOLDIERS ARE TRAINED AND STAND UP, WE WILL STAND DOWN AND BRING MORE TROOPS HOME, BUT WE WILL NOT SET ARBITRARY TIMELINES THAT SIGNAL AN UNWILLINGNESS TO FULFILL OUR MISSION.

THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE SAYS, WE ARE SPENDING HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS AND LOSING MORE AMERICAN LIVES EVERY WEEK IN IRAQ, YET PRESIDENT BUSH STILL HAS NOT OFFERED A PLAN FOR SUCCESS. NEARLY

FOUR MONTHS AFTER THEIR ELECTIONS, IRAQI LEADERS HAVE STILL NOT FORMED A GOVERNMENT. WE CAN'T CONTINUE ON THIS COURSE. BY SETTING TIMELINES FOR THE IRAQIS TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR OWN SECURITY, WE CAN ACHIEVE AN ENDURING VICTORY, BRING OUR TROOPS HOME, AND PUT THE FOCUS BACK ON THE CHALLENGES FACING US HERE AT HOME.

WHO'S FOR THE REPUBLICAN STATEMENT? FIVE. FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE? THREE. IS THERE SOMETHING THAT YOU LIKE MORE IN ONE OR THE OTHER? LET'S START WITH THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE. WHY ARE YOU FOR THAT ONE?

I don't think that we can set a timeline. I think if we said, January 1st we're out of there, January 2nd, they'd be in there just bombing the hell out of them or doing whatever, taking over.

Yeah.

Yeah.

MODERATOR – WHAT ELSE?

I just feel exactly what she's saying. Things are what they are. I don't agree how we got there, but nonetheless, that's behind us. So we've got to continue the course and work with the people as hard as we can. And that's what they're doing, as far as I can see.

I think if you set a timeline, it's just going to make the people happy and that doesn't work.

Some Iraqis are interviewed said that they had it bad with Saddam Hussein. But they don't have water and the women have to carry guns.

Look at Germany after WWII. They didn't have anything there.

But there was an end to it.

There will be an end to this, too. It won't last forever.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THOSE THAT LIKED THE DEMOCRATIC STATEMENT?

Primarily because I'm totally against the war. I think it's wrong and I think it's wrong to continue going in the direction that the country is going. I'm supporting the troops, I'm very much supporting them. But the country is not behind it anymore and I think it's wrong to continue going down that road because the leaders says, well, we just can't pull out. We got to keep going. I don't see the reason for it. The Republican says, to complete our mission. What is the mission? What is it?

MODERATOR – WE'VE TALKED ABOUT IRAQ QUITE A BIT. WHAT ROLE DO OUR RELATIONS WITH CUBA, MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA PLAY WITH NATIONAL SECURITY?

I think that we should hear Castro. He's been there. . .

I think Chevas is the guy that we have to deal with.

Yeah, he's bad news. Because right now in Latin America, (inaudible).

Anti-American. And he's got a lot of oil unused.

MODERATOR -- NOW, WE ARE GOING TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT. WE ARE GOING TO LISTEN TO SOME RADIO ADVERTISEMENTS THAT HAVE BEEN PLAYING RECENTLY. WE'LL LISTEN TO EACH AD, THEN I'D LIKE YOU TO RATE IT ON A SCALE OF 0 TO 5, WHERE 5 MEANS YOU FOUND THE AD TO BE VERY CONVINCING AND 0 MEANS YOU FOUND THE AD NOT AT ALL CONVINCING. AFTER YOU GIVE YOUR RATING, WE WILL DISCUSS IT.

[PLAYS RADIO ADS].

FOR THE FIRST ONE, THE REPUBLICAN ONE, WHO CIRCLED:

0 – 2
1 – 1
2 – 3
3 – 2
4 – 1
5 – 1

NOW THE DEMOCRATIC ONE.

0 – 1
1 – 0
2 – 4
3 – 3
4 – 2
5 – 0

MODERATOR – SO. . .

Are these commercials playing now?

MODERATOR – YEAH. THEY'RE PLAYING ON THE RADIO, YEAH, YEAH. SO MANY OF YOU GAVE A 4 TO THE REPUBLICAN AD. WHY DID YOU GUYS GIVE A 4 TO THAT AD? KIND OF LIKED IT? WHY?

I thought (inaudible) what they were doing.

MODERATOR – OKAY. . . **(END OF SIDE A/BEGINNING OF SIDE B)**. . . DONE. JUST LEAVE YOUR PAPERS ON THE TABLE. THANK YOU ALL FOR PARTICIPATING IN THESE GROUPS. WE LEARNED A LOT TONIGHT. EVERYTHING YOU SAID WAS VERY HELPFUL. THANK YOU ALL. GOOD NIGHT.

(END OF DISCUSSION)