

**DEMOCRACY CORPS
GROUP 1
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
COLLEGE WOMEN, AGES 27 - 42
OCTOBER 23, 2001, 5:45 P.M.**

MODERATOR—INSTRUCTIONS

My name's Andrea. I'm from Kirkland, Washington, and I'm on my fifth week of being a stay-at-home Mom due to restructuring, permanent restructuring. And I have two kids, a five-year-old and a six-month-old.

I'm Jane. I also live in Kirkland, and I'm the mother of a ten-year-old daughter. I work in sales of promotional merchandise, tee-shirts, hats, that kind of stuff. I guess that's it.

I'm Kim and I live in Stomish. And I'm pregnant, so I get very nauseous.

MODERATOR—I'LL KEEP THAT IN MIND.

And, what else can I tell you? Oh, what do I do for a job? I do sales, I sell software and hardware for long-term care facilities.

My name is Beth. I live in Stonefleming. I'm married, I'm gonna be a mother in six months. I have a cat named Butch, and I'm in sales too.

My name is Tracy and I live in Redmond. And I have a two-and-a-half year old daughter and a husband. And I do volunteer work for Lake Washington Toddler Group, which is a program for primarily Moms and their kids to go and do activities together. It's kind of like something you do before pre-school.

My name is Natalie. I live in (inaudible). I'm an insurance representative for [Athlac] (inaudible). And I don't have any children yet.

My name's Tina. I live in Bawful. I've got three kids, a grandson and a granddaughter gonna be here in about six weeks. I work at a psychiatric hospital.
I'm Mary. I'm from Isitar I have a six-year-old daughter and I am a stay-at-home Mom but part time substitute teach elementary school.

I'm Elaine. I'm from Belview. I have a husband but no kids. And I'm self-employed producing gear for the upper (inaudible).

I'm Janice. I live in Bawful. I'm married and I two sons, five and seven. And I work part time in a pension office, for pension plans.

MODERATOR—OKAY, GREAT. THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TONIGHT. NORMALLY IN GROUP LIKES THIS, CONVERSATIONS LIKE THIS, I WOULD START OUT TALKING ABOUT REAL GENERAL, JUST ABOUT THE DIRECTION THAT THE COUNTRY'S GOING, YOU KNOW, WHAT THINGS ARE GOING RIGHT, WHAT THINGS ARE GOING WRONG. BUT OBVIOUSLY ON SEPTEMBER 11TH, EVERYTHING IN THIS COUNTRY KIND OF CHANGED, SO I THINK THROWING OUT JUST GENERAL QUESTIONS LIKE THAT IS A LITTLE BIT OF A WASTE OF TIME BECAUSE EVERYBODY KIND OF GOES BACK TO THE SAME THING. SO THINKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE TERRORIST ATTACKS ON SEPTEMBER 11TH AND EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED SINCE THEN, HOW DO YOU THINK THE COUNTRY'S RESPONDING?

I'm really impressed with the way the country's responding. I mean yeah, there's some nuts out there I think, but overall I think we've kind of got our act together. I'm surprised that we have our act together as much as we do. I mean it's unfortunate that it took something this awful to really illustrate that, but I really do think we have our act together and I like the direction we're going. And I do think there's some concerns with . . . I think there's some things that are kind of self-fulfilling prophesy. I think if we get pounded and pounded with all this media that says that says the stock market's doing horrible and people aren't shopping and people aren't buying Christmas gifts and everything, I think that kind of perpetuates itself. And I think if people just kind of, you know, quieted down a little bit on that, I think we'll get back to the business we're supposed to get back to doing, but when we're constantly bombarded with this, "Everyone's afraid, everyone's afraid.", I think it kind of makes everyone afraid. That's my big concern.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHO ELSE?

I think it's darn time that finally this country got back to caring about what's important, which is you know, family and home and self and, you know, stop being quite so materialistic and really caring about getting out there and making a buck and who has the best toys and that sort of thing. I think that that's really . . . You know it's too bad that it had to be a tragedy like this that brought us to this, but I'm really glad to see that, you know, we're back to the basics a bit.

I thought it was really great in the two weeks following the terrorists that everyone was friendly. Yeah, people waved at each other, you know, let you in. I find that that's gone now. People are back to their grind and you don't get the same time of warm fuzzy feeling from everyone anymore.

MODERATOR—WHO ELSE? I'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM EVERYONE ON THIS ONE.

I was a little shocked when, after the attacks happened, probably within, I don't know, twenty-four or forty-eight hours, President Bush was, you know, making his nationwide speeches, and I felt like he was saying things that he really hadn't even taken time to think

about what he was saying in his responses, and it really just kind of scared me. I mean I can't think specifically now what he said, but you know, basically the bottom line was, "We're gonna get whoever is behind this and we're gonna use whatever force is necessary or whatever, and I just thought that to me that was inappropriate. It just . . . I just felt like he was saying that without enough time going by or enough information out there.

Surprised at that though?

Well no, because of his background. You know, I'm not sure how I feel about his plan of what he's doing. I mean it's not like I wanna sit here and say I don't agree with it, I'm just one of those people that's just not comfortable with what we're doing.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHO ELSE?

On the opposite side of that, you know, I did not have a very high opinion of him when he came into office, and the first . . . like right after it happened, a friend called, "Oh, isn't it great? He's in office." And I said, "You know, this isn't a political time. This is just you respect he's in Office at this particular point." And you know, I've been pleased. I mean I know he has a lot of good people around him, that kind of thing, but I've been very pleased with what he's done, having been on the total opposite side of that when he was voted in, so . . .

I feel the same except (inaudible), I felt he's handled the whole thing really well, and I just hope they take care of it right away and just get it done and pull out.

That's my biggest concern too. I'd like to talk to everybody in this group in a year when we're all still there and we're there in five years and we're there . . . 'cause it's, in my opinion, that's exactly what's gonna happen. It's gonna be another Vietnam.

Well it's definitely a different kind of war.

Oh, it is, but . . .

I mean there's no . . . and you're not safe anymore. I mean I used to just go through my mail at work and big deal. Now I have to wear masks and gloves and . . .

No, but there's ground troops, it's a totally different deal than (inaudible).

I'm actually glad I'm staying home now. I'm glad I'm not out working, just because of . . . you know, not that I worked for a huge company like Microsoft or Boeing or whatever with possibilities of something coming in. I think they're a lot higher, but I'm just glad I'm home with my kids, and they're within . . . When they go to school it's only a few blocks away. And so I'm just glad I'm at home now. But the bad thing is the twenty-four hour news coverage on five different channels, and you get inundated with so much information, and like you said, it kind of freaks people out.

I think that . . . I agree with you, it was about two weeks.

It was a quick two weeks. I mean sad, but . . .

And then again, I think the country's right now . . . There's a lot of people that will go back. You know, I mean it'll kind of lean towards, but then everybody starts cutting in line and being rude. I hate that about what's been going on. And unfortunately, like you had said, that you know, the only way to pull together was for some tragedy to occur. And it seems that like war does that, it doesn't matter what war it's been, First World War or Second World War. We kind of start focusing in why we're here. I'm not disappointed in what . . . how Bush is reacting. Part of it is his Cabinet, part of it's his speakers, part of it's him. I think he's being very good about how extemporaneous he's been. A lot of times, he's not reading what's going on necessarily here, he's kind of summarizing it. Unfortunately, we have to do something about it. The issue that had occurred with the terrorism, it has been going on for a long, long time, and it's . . . may it not be war in a sense of trying to kill civilians or whatever, but it is something that we've had to quickly . . . We have to take care of it. We are losing our freedom is what's going on.

But how does it make you feel? I mean if you think about the foreign policy since World War II, I would say that has a direct contribution to causing these terrorists to come into being. So to have the U.S. policies . . .

No, the terrorists are because of religion. It's a different . . . It's a war in religion and religion . . . the religion war has been going on for . . . a year.

But no one ever wins that war.

No, they never win, and they're constantly at war.

MODERATOR—WELL LET ME ASK YOU . . . I WANNA FOLLOW UP WITH SOMETHING YOU SAID . . . A FEW OF YOU SAID SOMETHING A LITTLE BIT EARLIER. HAS . . . YOU KNOW, I'M TALKING ABOUT THE WAY THAT SOME PEOPLE'S PRIORITIES HAVE CHANGED AND THE WAY THAT PEOPLE THINK HAS CHANGED, WOULD YOU SAY THAT ANY OF YOUR THINKING HAS CHANGED PERSONALLY IN THE WAY THAT YOU KIND OF THINK ABOUT MAJOR THINGS IN LIFE. NOT NECESSARILY OPENING THE MAIL AND STUFF, BUT YOUR OVERALL WORLD VIEW, IN JUST THE WAY THAT YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR LIFE AND THE MAJOR THINGS IN IT?

Isolationism is a good idea now. Not to get, you know, butt our noses in where they don't belong.

We don't take advantage of freedom as much. You know, before you could go somewhere and you could fly anywhere you wanted and you weren't afraid. I fear losing my freedom.

I think it has. I mean I definitely think it has.

MODERATOR—HOW?

I just think you don't get in the minutia as much. There's a lot of stuff I think, you know, you start to get into a little rat race of life, and you just stop and think, "This is so ridiculous! What am I getting stressed out about this sales quota for?", or whatever. It'll work itself out, you know? Everyone works hard and you do I think take . . . you know, appreciate your family a little bit more and you kind of put your priorities more in line.

I think a lot of people are putting off large expenditures and investments, buying new cars, things like that, because they're so uncertain, whether it's job security or just, you know, the stock market or the whole financial background of the country. And so I mean I guess that's why you see all the ads for zero downs or financing right now, just trying to do whatever to get people to do that. But we were thinking about it in our family, and we're not gonna get a new car right now. I'm just not comfortable with what's going on.

MODERATOR—HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU?

I think contrary to her situation, where in a way it's kind of jump-started us, and I don't know why that makes sense. But we've only lived in this state for about a year, and so we don't know many folks really. And we've just been meaning to test-drive some churches and we keep saying, "Oh, we're gonna get some sort of sense of community and know some people in that area.", and we've always ended up fly-fishing on Sunday instead of being where we ought to be. And since the attacks, we've really, almost subconsciously, it just was like, "Let's go find a church." I mean it wasn't this huge decision or anything else. And so we just started getting more into that aspect of our lives as well as we're more seriously thinking about purchasing a home, probably a little more than we were prior. And I'm not sure why, that doesn't make sense, but . . .

It seems so unreal to me, to a certain extent, 'cause it was far away. I know it was here in America, but it was in New York, and I kind of have a limited travel area. I mean I grew up here, I was born and raised here. I haven't gone very far. I mean I've traveled for work, but never made it that far back, so to see it on TV, it was like watching a movie.

Yeah, exactly.

And it's . . . you know, my kids are like, "Are they gonna do something here?" I said, "I don't know. What's around here that they'd wanna get?" Something maybe, I don't know. I said, "But you know what? I could walk outside today and get hit by a car and be dead." So I said I think I have a good . . . better chance of that than being hit by a terrorist . . . I mean an airplane coming out of the sky. So I mean I kind of . . . maybe it's naïve, but I've kind of gone on like I normally would. I think it has kind of reshaped my focus towards family like you were saying. Like my kids, like where are you? What are you doing? I wanna know where they are a little bit more. And they're at the age where they're like, "Why?" But you know, it's just kind of . . . it's still not real to me. I mean I watched it on TV, went to work, heard the media. Like you were saying, for the first two

weeks it was like really kind of cool with all the patriotism and it kind of re-taught kids, “This is what freedom is all about.”, ‘cause I think . . . I mean our generation . . . my generation, my kids kind of grew up . . . they’re just assuming and expecting and feel entitled to it. They’ve never had to fight for it, so they don’t really understand what Grandpa went through in the war or whatever.

MODERATOR—WELL, WE’RE GONNA STEP BACK A STEP ON THAT POINT. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN AMERICAN? LET’S KIND OF COME BACK INTO FOCUS A LITTLE BIT.

Cheap gasoline.

Really? Where?

MODERATOR—WHAT’S IT MEAN TO BE AN AMERICAN?

The freedom to choose. You could choose your religion, you don’t have to be one thing or another. If you’re a woman, you can walk down the street, you don’t have to hide under a veil.

And I think also now we’re realizing, false, but a sense of safety too. I mean you know, think of how many people have walked through airports with pocket knives or worse, you know, and things like that. You just didn’t think about those things.

I think one thing though, the media is really expanding their freedom of speech, ‘cause I think they’re giving out too much information. You know, Dick Cheney’s at an undisclosed location or, you know . . . they’re giving way too much information. Or they’re saying, “Oh, troops have moved into this hazardous waste dump located here, and it’s here on the map.”, and you know, “This is how you sneak through the border.”, and I think that’s . . . they’re giving out too much information and taking advantage of the situation.

You also kind of start thinking too, I mean this is bad, but you start thinking to yourself that part of being American, I mean should we be so free and open anymore? You know, are we getting to the point now where we need to not be letting everyone come into the country. And we saw something on TV where they were interviewing these gentlemen, I forget where they were, but they wanted to come here to go to college, but yet they wanted to . . . but they felt sorry for Osama bin Laden and they believed in what he was doing. And I’m thinking, “Why are you coming here?”, you know. Right there, you know, “You’re not welcome. Goodbye.”, you know. “You’re not worthy to be an American. You’re not worthy to be in America.”, that kind of thing. I mean . . .

Well no other country would do it.

No I mean I love the freedom and I think that it’s . . .

But I'm saying if I went and said, "I've lived in the United States and Osama bin Laden, if I saw him I'd kill them because that's what I believe." Would they let me go to college there? I don't think so. I would not last with one step inside that place.

MODERATOR—ANYBODY ELSE ON WHAT IT MEANS TO BE AN AMERICAN?

I've traveled in a lot of Third World countries and I've been very uncomfortable stating that I was an American. There's a lot of hatred in places I've gone, and to the point where my husband and I would often say that we were Canadian, just because it would avoid that whole, "Oh, Americans are evil because they're too materialistic.", and all that stuff.

Even foreign non-Third World countries, you know . . .

That's true.

Absolutely. I mean European countries, "Oh, you're American, great." And you can pay for, you know, that . . .

Well even in Canada once I went on vacation, and my kids were playing with some other kids and they said, "Where are you from?" "Oh, we're from Washington State." "Oh, you're American!", and they ran off and the kids got home they go, "Mom, what's wrong with being an American?" I said, "Nothing. Why?", you know, and they told me what happened. And I don't know why, I mean it was just at the Whistler, but . . . which isn't very far from here.

But you know in Eastern Canada they're taught in school what to the Eastern portions (inaudible) will look like when it's (inaudible) to the U.S. Not "if", but "when". It's amazing.

MODERATOR—ONE OF THE THINGS WE'VE SEEN A LOT MORE OF, PROBABLY SINCE THE ATTACKS, IS THE AMERICAN FLAG. A LOT OF PEOPLE FLYING IT AND YOU KNOW, ON TV ALL THE TIME, IN NEIGHBORHOODS, EVERYTHING. JUST ONE OR TWO WORDS, I'M JUST CURIOUS, WHAT COMES TO MIND WHEN YOU SEE THE FLAG?

Support and solidarity to (inaudible).

I had something really weird . . . I had a really weird reaction. My husband, we have a really funky old farm house, and there was a flag that came with our house. It's really sort of tattered old thing. And he searched and searched for that thing right after September 19th (September 11th), and we . . . behind us there is an Iranian family and there is a Scandinavian family, and somehow or other, I just didn't wanna be rubbing in everybody's faces that, "Yeah, go America!" I was really uncomfortable with that. I just wanted to, you know, and say, "Hey, we hope . . .", you know, particularly the Iranian family, "We hope that nothing happens, you being a Middle-Eastern extract. We hope your children are

safe.” And it just felt weird to me, I didn’t want it. We still . . . I mean, he has it up, but not to my favoritism.

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT. HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU? WHAT COMES TO MIND? JUST A WORD OR TWO. THE AMERICAN FLAG WHEN YOU SEE IT?

Patriotism.

Pride.

I think challenges. You know, I’ve read a lot of World War II books, and all these people who are younger than me, what they experienced in World War II, you know, before they were even twenty, twenty-one, it’s like . . . it’s amazing what they’ve done. So you know, I think challenges.

MODERATOR—WE TOUCHED ON THIS A LITTLE BIT, AND (INAUDIBLE) WAS TALKING ABOUT IT, WHY DO YOU THINK THIS IS HAPPENING TO US, TO THE U.S.?

I think we kind of stuck our noses in a little bit, you know . . . I know we have to be involved in the countries around the world, but I also think maybe we went a little bit too far in how we got involved with those countries. I think a lot of it even goes back to when the . . . since this is all in the news . . . the Israeli state came into play. They basically said, “Okay, here’s your land.”, and they took it away from these people who had it, you know. And I can understand why they’re upset about all of this. And then the United States comes and supports Israelis when they don’t necessarily . . . you know, they may support the other groups, but they don’t show their support as much as the other groups.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHO ELSE? WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO THE U.S.?

I would agree that it’s primarily the Israeli, Palestine conflicts. And ultimately will they ever be resolved? I mean as long as we back Israel, no, I don’t think it will be.

And that whole conflict goes back to the middle ages, you know, the crusades and everything. It’s been going on hundreds of years.

And I think the rest of the world, and I don’t think Americans really realize it, but you know, they kind of look at the situation, you know, that when it happened it’s like, “Why are you doing this?” But you grow up here not realizing it was that big of a deal, until now.

But it’s not a big deal with all of the Islamic people, it’s just a big deal with the extremists over there, do you know what I mean. I mean this is not a holy war yet, but otherwise, I mean you have billions of Muslim people that are totally . . . you know, I mean they’re not for this. I mean I think it’s just the extremists. I mean if you look at those tapes of Osama

bin Laden, he's got this big, huge, "Made in the U.S.A." watch, you know. And they interpret the Koran, or however they want to interpret it to . . .

Fit their ways.

To fit their, you know, their mission. And yes, they do hate the Americans, and I think a lot of it's based on that. But I think it's a small . . . not small necessarily, but it's just an extremist group.

I think the majority of Muslims, you hear from the smaller numbers, you know, because they're more vocal, they're more . . . they're in your face, versus the majority of Muslims are, you know, they don't speak up, and I think they need to speak up more, to say, "This is not . . ." You know, you're hearing bits and pieces. We don't believe in what he's doing, but I think you need to get more people, because all you see on the news is anti-American protests going on. That's what you see, and it seems like a large number, but when they say, "Oh, it's only a thousand of whatever . . ." So I think the majority needs to be speaking up a little bit more too.

MODERATOR—OKAY. ANYONE ELSE ON THIS, ON WHY THIS IS HAPPENING?

Well because we're the focal point. We're one of the wealthiest country in the United . . . or excuse me, the World.

It doesn't matter if it's us. I mean it could be England, you know?

There's lots of terrorist activities that go on over there. That's exactly . . . It's, you know, Germany, look at all the terrorist groups that were going on over there. It's whoever . . . I just don't think it's just because of us. I think it's because we've become who we are, and there is a jealousy of what we have become.

And I think they figure they could get the biggest reaction with this.

That's exactly right.

I mean they do all this all over the place.

I think there's a lot of stuff that the U.S. did that nobody knows about. A lot of stuff they backed, a lot of weapons they gave to groups that now were once allies who are now enemies.

Well, we trained Osama bin Laden, you know, when we were fighting Russia. It's like, we went in there, gave them (inaudible) guns.

Exactly. And those guns are now gonna kill us. And so I don't even think we know twenty percent of the story.

But it makes me wonder, all the other countries that we're funding.

Absolutely!

And that the terrorists were currently growing and training in the CIA camps and all this stuff.

MODERATOR—LET'S KIND OF LOOK INSIDE AGAIN. HOW'S THE ECONOMY DOING? HOW DO THINGS IN THIS COUNTRY LOOK?

Hurting.

I think it's really hurting.

MODERATOR—WHY?

People aren't traveling, people aren't buying things, 'cause they're scared. I'm scared my husband's gonna get laid off and you know, I'm not gonna go out and buy anything, which we would have if we would have known he was in a safe job.

Being a teacher is the safest job right now, it's usually the worst thing, you know what I mean?

MODERATOR—HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU? HOW'S THE ECONOMY DOING?

I honestly don't think it's that bad. I mean I know there's a lot of stuff in the news, and I know there's a lot of people that are getting pink slips and everything, but the market has . . . it's a correction, and I mean those people involved in the stock market are in there for the long term, and it's just gonna be a blip in the screen. I mean really, I mean I went out and bought some investment property and I've got offers on some more, because now is a great time. People are really concerned, but I . . . I mean I think it's gonna be a little while 'til everything's fixed, but I don't think it's a huge thing.

But you also have to look at what you're comparing it to, you know. The market is where it's been for a long time.

For a long time, yeah. I mean I don't think that this was a huge, all of a sudden the stock market crashed. I didn't take my money out of the market.

Me either.

I'm not necessarily gonna go and buy a car tomorrow, but I flew for the first time this weekend, it was weird. But people get back doing what they do, it just takes a while.

I think it'll be interesting to see what the fourth quarter earnings will be, for you know, lots of companies that maybe are doing quite well right now, we'll just see when their earnings come out what happens.

Well like United was gonna go under anyway, and they'll file Chapter Eleven before the end of the year. And all of a sudden now it's, you know, because of September 11th. That probably had very little to do with it.

It gives them an excuse, just like Boeing.

Yeah, to get the funding from the Government.

But I think with the economy too, just with my circle of friends, I've seen more friends affected by it than we ever had. Friends who have taken pay-cuts, friends who had to go back to work, friends who've lost their jobs. I mean it seems like just a year ago it was like, "Oh, I don't know anything.", you know. But now you just see it affecting all your personal friends. That's what I'm interested in.

Yeah, 'cause you're not from our area that you know that Boeing's like a huge employer and then they have all their suppliers and you know, other companies around that are totally affected when Boeing gets slow.

Yeah, 'cause they're laying off like fifty percent now and not thirty. So a lot of people . . .

Boeing? Having a reduction in half?

Yes.

(Inaudible, many talking at once.)

They already cut thirty . . .

They already cut thirty . . . they already gave out a whole bunch, a whole bunch more pink slips are coming out this Friday, and my kids' Dad works there. Bad!

They were getting . . . they had that on the Internet.

It's like you said, it's not something new. They were planning this before September 11th, but it's a good excuse.

MODERATOR—SO OBVIOUSLY PEOPLE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE KINDS OF THINGS. WHAT WOULD YOU SAY YOU'RE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT IN THE AFTERMATH OF WHAT HAPPENED SEPTEMBER 11TH, YOUR PERSONAL SECURITY OR YOUR ECONOMIC SECURITY?

Personal.

Personal.

I think though in my house, I mean, those are pretty tightly tied together, you know, for our economic stability. Well and my company right now is on the brink of failure, and if I'm unemployed . . .

You're saying physical versus financial?

MODERATOR—I THINK SO. I MEAN WHAT ARE YOU MORE WORRIED ABOUT?

Yeah, I worry about things like water supplies, I mean they keep talking about that and what's the other thing I heard . . . was, I never really thought about it, but you know, Small Pox virus and how that could be used as a weapon. I mean Anthrax, at least we have antibiotics and that can be handled. But there are other things that . . . I mean I'm not saying it's terrorist-based. I mean I'm assuming it probably is, but things like that that could really affect, you know, hundreds of thousands, if not millions of people. And that's really scary.

I think too, for personal sake, you just worry about your children, you know. You want them to grow up safe. I mean like just the week afterwards, my husband came home, "We have to have a plan to move to Artico if something happens." I'm like, "Okay."

(Many talking at once.)

I mean he was serious, he said, "I don't want her to grow up scared all the time." You know, she's fine now, but I mean you know, you do . . . I mean that was just more of a reactionary thing to it, but I think, you know, in our heads right now we have a little plan, you know, for what's gonna happen. And we have a little family plan that if things start coming to Seattle, you know, what's our plan to try and stay safe? I mean and that's . . . that seems weird to me because we're not over-reactive people at all, but I think it's kind of brought that to my family anyway. We're feeling just nervous.

Well I think we see too, you know, on TV you see the war-torn areas of these other countries, and you're almost, I hate to say it, hardened to it. And then here it happened in the U.S. and here this thing goes down, it's like, "Wow! Okay."

We're not invincible.

If it could happen here, it could happen anywhere.

Yeah, I mean this was major . . . I mean we've had bombs and stuff go off, I mean when the bomb went off at the . . . you know, in Oklahoma City, everybody thought it was terrorists then, it was someone right within our . . . That was horrible.

(Many talking at once.)

But he was home-grown is what I'm saying.

MODERATOR—WHAT WE'RE GONNA DO NOW, WE'RE GONNA SHIFT GEARS A LITTLE BIT. (INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN ON HANDOUTS). HERE ON HANDOUT NUMBER ONE, THINKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT GEORGE BUS, I WANT YOU TO WRITE DOWN ALL THE GOOD THINGS THAT COME TO MIND HERE ABOUT GEORGE W. BUSH HERE ON HANDOUT ONE. THEN FLIP TO HANDOUT TWO, AND YOU CAN WRITE ANY DOUBTS OR WORRIES YOU HAVE ABOUT HIM . . . SO TELL ME WHAT YOU WROTE ON THAT FIRST PAGE. TELL ME THE GOOD THINGS ABOUT GEORGE W. BUSH.

Laura Bush.

MODERATOR—WHAT ELSE?

I like the way he's handling himself in the media, the way he's portraying himself and just like, impromptu a lot of the times. It's sort of like you were saying how he's, you know a lot of them just read right off the impromptu like . . .

I put candor, honesty, humor, strength, leadership, (inaudible), safety and (inaudible).

I appreciated the fact that . . . I think it was maybe the second or third little speech he had after the attacks, there was . . . in fact there were a couple of instances where you could see that he was so choked up, and then he was about ready to lose it. That made him human to me. I can honestly say, I don't think Al Gore would have done that, I don't think Bill Clinton would have done that, and it would have been more about them as opposed to thinking about the country. You could tell, he really mourned what happened, and that he was just genuine. I mean he was real.

He's more of an every day person, he's not, you know, an intellectual. He's the guy next door pretty much.

I appreciated his . . . in one of his last speeches when he had the plea to American children to raise a dollar (inaudible), and actually to me . . . I appreciated that, because it meant that he was not thinking of this as an adult issue, that it's an entire family issue.

MODERATOR—WHAT ELSE?

Just thinking that he's family oriented. I also put because he's religious too, but because he comes from a good background and everything like that.

I think it's incredible that he seems to do so well at giving credit to others. He's very humble, and he's always really making it a point to mention, you know, Condoleeza Rice or you know, whoever's involved in that particular part of it, whether it's Colin Powell or

whatever. That he's not an egomaniac like a lot of Presidents we've had in the past, where it's you know, "About me and I did this and I did that." He's not looking out for himself in this, he's looking out for the country. At least that's the impression I get.

I think he's also surrounded himself with good people.

MODERATOR—I SEE A LOT OF HEADS NODDING TO THAT ONE.

You know, Colin Powell and Dick Cheney who have experience with the (inaudible) for international issues, which everyone said was his weakness. And I think that he understands that that is a weakness, and that's why he got really good people with great experience in his position to help to back him up.

I think he's done a really good job uniting everybody. Nobody's really talking about Democrat/Republican, it's just, you know, more American and I think that's great, because I don't think that he had as much support prior to that. I think there was a lot of, you know, typical whining and complaining that people have.

He seems really careful to always mention that just because there are people in this country that are from Afghanistan and people from this country that are of the Muslim religion or whatever, he's really careful to kind of protect the Americans, and he always makes a comment, usually at the end, that says, "Remember, don't hate your next door neighbor. There are Afghanis in this country that love America like you do." Which I think there was a little bit of an uprising and there was a lot of lashing out for the Musks and different things at the beginning. And there still is some I'm sure, but he's kind of kept a lid on that and he's also been very adamant about . . . at least in press conferences where people are trying to get him to divulge stuff that he shouldn't be divulging, classified information and he just gets right in there face and he says, "Hey, I'm not gonna tell you. End of story. We're done."

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT. LET'S FLIP THE PAGE THEN TO THE DOUBTS AND CONCERNS WE MIGHT HAVE ABOUT HIM.

I think his view on the environment, you know, he's very pro-business, you know, and give money to the oil drilling and who cares what happens to the environment, or not following through on some of the treaties that Bill Clinton signed for the environmental issues.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHAT ELSE?

I think with this situation anyway, I feel like, and I also think it's sort of a (inaudible) that he's way out of his league. And I had a friend who lives in London who e-mailed me and a newspaper article from the London times shortly after this. They were all saying, "Great, this guy's gonna lead you guys in the war? Okay, good luck!"

Well I worry about it because I mean, like you were saying earlier, I think it's really good that he is a regular person, he's honest, he's just out there, he kind of says, "Hey, this is what's going on." But he admitted, in his honesty, he admits to a drinking problem and stuff. But I have a lot of experience with alcoholism with folks through work and stuff, and it worries me that he had that problem, that maybe it's gonna come back, because it's a very difficult thing to be under this kind of stress that he's under and not go back to that.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHAT ELSE?

I had mentioned at the beginning that I think when he was running for Office and now a couple . . . a day or two after the attacks, that sometimes he just comes out and speaks before he takes time to really think about the big impact of what it is that he's saying. And that's made me uncomfortable with him from way back when he was campaigning 'til now.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHAT ELSE?

In light of that, I just cringed when he announced that you were either with Americans or you're against them, because putting it that black and white for a lot of countries is just not . . . I mean you can't make it that black and white, so . . .

My only concern is that prior to the attacks he was really pushing for a lot of looser immigration issues. And he wanted to do the right thing by way they might be a little softer on immigration, you know, he was looking for that Hispanic vote for a while there, and I'm just still concerned about that.

I think just the things I've said kind of everybody has touched on at some point. I wonder if he's really that smart. I wonder if he's thorough, I wonder if he thinks long-term, I wonder if he's rash, I'm wondering if he's ignoring other issues. He's a little bit of a bully, I think he has a big, fat ego, and I think it's totally . . . I'm not saying that bad, I'm not saying that . . . you almost have to be that to be the President of the United States, but I think he's also really U.S. centered and it's all about us.

MODERATOR—ONE OF THE THINGS YOU SAID IS IGNORING OTHER ISSUES. WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK ABOUT IT?

Well, you don't hear a lot of other issues.

There's nothing else people wanna talk about right now, and I can appreciate that, but that's what I mean about thinking long term. You know, this is . . . Is he thinking, "Okay, we'll stop bombing now." Is he thinking about a year out, is he thinking about two years out? Is he thinking, you know, what's this gonna do? 'Cause I'm all . . . I wouldn't have voted for him, but I'm glad he's in office now. He makes me feel good a lot of the time I see him on TV, and I think, "Oh, well I'm glad that went against what I wanted." But I still think in four years, what kind of impact is the billions and billions and billions of dollars that he's just handed out . . .

Income taxes.

And just literally seemingly without thought.

MODERATOR—WELL THAT LEAD TO MY NEXT QUESTION.

Oh, good.

MODERATOR—WHICH IS, HOW DO YOU THINK BUSH IS HANDLING THE ECONOMY? DO YOU TRUST HIM TO HANDLE THE ECONOMY IN THE MONTHS AHEAD? I MEAN I THINK WE'VE ALL AGREED, IT'S GONNA BE A PRETTY TOUGH TIME. DO YOU TRUST OR NOT TRUST BUSH TO HANDLE THE ECONOMY IN THE MONTHS AHEAD?

I'm concerned. I don't distrust him, that's not what I'm thinking. I'm just concerned. I'm just focusing on . . . All Presidents when they come in are dramatic. It happens to be that we were still wiggling through a stock problem when he first came in. I mean it's been . . . it was gonna happen, but I am slightly concerned about what is gonna happen with the economy and how he's gonna react, and he has money, because of oil. Is he not gonna worry about it or is he gonna worry about the country in general.

I think not that local politics haven't always been important, but I'm sure paying a heck of a lot more attention now to what's going on right here and the people that I can be responsible for and putting (inaudible) right here and right now, taking care of my home and the economy here. That's really become important to me, because I, you know, Washington, D.C. is a long way away, and to me sometimes it really does feel like almost another country.

Yeah, 'cause a lot of what gets passed are (inaudible).

I'm also concerned that he's mandating a much bigger problem.

MODERATOR—HOW SO?

Well, I mean you can throw money at stuff, but (inaudible) was laughing about the Social Security lock box. Well, there it goes . . . Well, that's all our money.

We're just not gonna have to worry about it until then.

Right, you know, when we're sixty-five or seventy and can't work, who's gonna pay . . . You know?

And that's actually a huge issue.

Yeah, it is. And I'm not saying he shouldn't have opened the money up or whatever, shouldn't give the money to find out what the hell is going on and give the money to the economy . . . give some . . . whatever, but I just . . .

We don't know where it's . . . We don't know if we really have that much money. I mean, it's kind of like we're in the dark a little bit. And think we . . . as we Americans, we wanna know. And to a point we shouldn't, but to a point, hey, you're spending our money that we've all made together. So it just is a concern.

MODERATOR—HOW ABOUT THIS SIDE OF THE TABLE? I DON'T HEAR MUCH OVER HERE ON THIS QUESTION. BUSH AND THE ECONOMY.

Well, it kind of concerns me 'cause his willingness, like you said, just hand it out and, "Oh, we'll bail you out here, we'll bail you out there. United we'll give you five million." It's like wait, wait, wait, back up. Look at what was going on. Like you said before, they were in trouble before. And yeah, I mean the folks in New York, New York needs help to rebuild 'cause that's a huge, huge project, but all the airlines like Boeing and stuff, it's like yeah, it does have an effect, but we can't just turn around and . . . I mean shoot, if that's the case, why don't you just give every American a million bucks, you know?

Well, that's what he did when he first came to Office, gave everybody three hundred dollars, and it's just like, to me, that just seems like total, just oh, for the economy, make everyone happy and aren't I great and yadda yadda. Yeah, and I mean I spent that money, I mean I enjoyed getting a check in the mail, but I just don't know if that's the right thing to do.

See I don't think that really helped the economy either.

Yeah. I paid my bills. Most people pay their bills. I paid mine.

(Many talking at once.)

MODERATOR—WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK? YOU'RE SHAKING YOUR HEAD A LITTLE.

I don't think he should have done that tax cut. I mean that really . . . I mean we took the money and paid off bills, but I think everybody would have been happy if it would have been just going forward, you know. You don't have a tax cut if it applies to the next year. I just . . . you know, the fact that we're still paying off national debt, and we're all getting money back? I mean, whatever!

But he did the same thing in Texas before he was elected President of the U.S., and you know, Texas is hosed right now, because they have no money. And you know, they have to follow through on this tax stuff. And I don't want it to be another '80's.

See, I guess I'm a really bad example, 'cause I actually do not mind paying taxes, and I'm in the highest tax bracket you could possibly imagine. I mean I get screwed on my taxes, but I will happily pay for police, 'cause I like police when I call them, will happily pay for

the fire department, I will happily pay for teachers that will teach my kids. I'm happy to do it.

Me too.

Yeah.

MODERATOR—WE'LL TOTALLY SHIFT GEARS FOR A MINUTE. JUST A REAL QUICK QUESTION. A LOT OF PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT BUSH, MAKING YOU FEEL COMFORTING, YOU KNOW, HE'S THE PRESIDENT, OBVIOUSLY HE'S THE SYMBOL OF THE COUNTRY. DEMOCRATS . . . DO YOU THINK THAT DEMOCRATS ARE AS PATRIOTIC AS GEORGE BUSH AND REPUBLICANS?

Yeah.

Definitely.

I don't really see a big difference.

Yeah, I mean I don't really either, but I think typically you don't . . . Republicans tend to be a little bit more big and you know, "God Bless America!", you know, whatever's gonna happen. And then you know, you break it down and it's like, okay, what did that really mean? That to me.

MODERATOR—OKAY. STEP BACK FOR A MINUTE AND TRY TO USE YOUR IMAGINATION HERE. THINK BACK TO NOVEMBER OF LAST YEAR AND JANUARY OF THIS YEAR WHEN BUSH WAS SWORN IN, AND IMAGINE THAT INSTEAD OF GEORGE W. BUSH BEING SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT, JOHN MCCAIN HAD BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. AND EVERYTHING THAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE HAD HAPPENED. HOW DO YOU THINK HE'D BE HANDLING THE CURRENT SITUATION?

Similar.

I think so.

Yeah.

I mean I think George Bush has been very tough. I think John McCain would be very tough. I mean I think very similar.

MODERATOR—HOW WOULD IT BE DIFFERENT? HOW WOULD HE HANDLE IT DIFFERENTLY IF AT ALL?

Maybe he would think out the military a little bit more.

Well, I think they have thought it out pretty well.

But I think they'd still think it out, you know, I think it would be even more because of his background of his being a Veteran. You know, he's gonna look at the big picture of what his actions are gonna be versus, you know, "Okay, we do this."

I think he maybe would have gone on to other issues maybe a little faster than Bush has been.

MODERATOR—LIKE WHAT? WHAT OTHER ISSUES?

Oh, I don't know. He's . . . I mean I'm not that . . . I don't know that many of his issues, but he just seems like the type that would say . . . He would be more compartmentalized, does that make sense? Like, "Okay, we're doing this right now. Over here we're gonna do this and this.", you know. I think he has more of that military mind, where . . . I mean I'm not an expert, I have no idea. But I think just he seems like he would be more the type where he could do maybe five more things on his plate.

He'd be multi-tasked.

And I'm not saying it's wrong that Bush hasn't addressed a lot of other issues, I mean this is a big, huge deal. You know, I mean I don't think it's wrong that he's slowed it, you know . . .

I actually don't think he would have bailed out all the companies either, because he's really into campaign reform, and that's soft money. And I don't think he would have bailed them out.

MODERATOR—WHO ELSE? MCCAIN? WHAT WOULD MCCAIN HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY?

I just think he's much more serious. I don't think he would have brought the country . . . Bush is more personable, and a little . . . you know, I don't know. I don't know the guy personally, I'm a little young to be . . . I just know from when they were doing the campaigns, I just keep seeing his face and I think that he's had a face lift I don't know how many times, and I just see this very serious kind of man.

McCain?

Yeah. And . . .

He doesn't joke about himself very often though, John McCain.

No, he's not his . . . I just, because I have a sense of humor, I just . . . I leaned more towards Bush.

I don't think the country would have the sense of family and togetherness. I think with Bush you get the family, we're a country, we're united. With him, it's easy for him to convey that because he grew up in a good family.

(Inaudible).

Yeah, I think McCain would be real (inaudible). You know, and like when Bush was like, you know, "Either you're for us or you're against us." Those are kind of harsh statements, but I don't think he could be wishy-washy with, either you're gonna . . . you know, I don't know. I didn't have a problem with that statement, only because, it's like, "Yeah!", you know.

I think the other countries would have taken McCain more seriously from the get-go.

Me too.

And I don't think they would have had that image of "Daddy's little boy" in the White House.

That's true.

MODERATOR—LET'S DO THE SAME EXERCISE, BUT THIS TIME IMAGINE GORE WON INSTEAD OF BUSH.

We'd be having the drilling of the Arctic. That would be the main issue, (inaudible) coal reserve, not an issue.

I see him more wishy-washy.

Yeah, oh yeah.

MODERATOR—THINKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE ATTACKS AND THE RESPONSE TO THEM, WHAT WOULD GORE HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY?

I don't think he would have been so out there and, "We're gonna get them.", you know. He would have been much more stoic and treated it as a disaster, but not . . . and probably I'd say humbled but then also strong. And I think again, that other countries would have probably seen him as a stronger man.

Gore?

I think so, really.

I just . . . I don't trust him. I think he would have relied much more on his Cabinet.

And see, it's hard to say, because who was his Cabinet going to be?

I mean I'm sure Bush does too, but you don't necessarily get that impression.

Well see, I think Bush does lean more on his Cabinet than Gore would.

I think Gore would have run that country.

Where has he gone?

He's in that undisclosed location and Al Gore is telling him what to do.

He probably would have been much more in the camera's eye than Dick Cheney has been, so . . .

MODERATOR—HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU? HOW WOULD GORE HAVE HANDLED THINGS DIFFERENTLY?

I think it's so hard to even say. I think it's . . . And I think that so much of the feeling that the country is having right now, the patriotism and the going through the motions of grieving, that sort of thing, from sadness and shock to anger and things like that, I really don't think it has a heck of a lot to do with who's running, you know, the person who's running the country. I mean I think it's . . . it comes so much more down to, you know, so many more factors than just the President is.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK ABOUT THAT? DO YOU THINK THINGS WOULD HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT IF IT WAS A DIFFERENT PRESIDENT, THAT PEOPLE WOULD HAVE REACTED DIFFERENTLY, THAT THERE WOULD BE A DIFFERENT SENSE IN THE COUNTRY?

No, I don't think people would have reacted differently, I just think that he's been a good leader when it comes to that part.

I mean it's hard to say . . .

He was a great personality, though. He has a great kick-ass, you know, we're gonna go out and beat everybody up.

But did you see that personality before he was in Office?

No.

I don't think I saw that.

No, no. Not at all.

So it's hard to say what Gore would do, I mean because you're not really sure now with, you know . . .

Well, I think Gore would have maybe been, "Let's go in, get out as fast as we can," which is, you know, very typical for a Democrat. They don't . . . you know, they're not the war hawks. You know, they're not into long, drawn-out conflicts. They're more similar to what Clinton did with the bombings of the embassies. They sent missiles over to these facilities, suspected facilities, and that was it, they didn't hear anything more about it. So I think it would have been more of pin-pricks versus you know, doing what they're doing.

MODERATOR—DO YOU THINK GORE WOULD BE ACTING DIFFERENTLY IN ADDRESSING THINGS BACK IN THE U.S., OTHER ISSUES ASIDE FROM THE ATTACKS?

I think he'd be addressing the economy more . . . the larger picture balancing the budget versus you know, spending as much as what's going on. I don't think all this spending would be going on.

MODERATOR—WHAT ELSE? GORE . . . HOW WOULD GORE HANDLE THINGS DIFFERENTLY HERE AT HOME?

We'd never see that whopping six hundred dollars.

MODERATOR—SIX HUNDRED BUCKS, THE DRILLING . . .

I still haven't seen that whopping six hundred dollars actually.

You'll never get it now.

I don't think I will.

MODERATOR—ANYONE ELSE? GORE? GORE WOULD HAVE DONE THINGS DIFFERENTLY? HOW ABOUT CLINTON? IMAGINE CLINTON WAS PRESIDENT STILL. HOW WOULD CLINTON HAVE RESPONDED TO THE ATTACKS?

Well, we've seen him respond already. I mean all of this was on our . . . you know, it was in our house, but . . . We have already seen what he has done when . . . with the Desert Storm. You said . . . I mean I think he would have sent troops.

I do too. I think he would have done very similar to what George Bush has done.

I think Gore would have been more extreme. You know what I mean, not as . . . I just think he's a little bit more extreme Democrat than Clinton's a little bit closer to the middle.

I also think that . . . I think that what Clinton would have gone in for versus Bush is that he really seemed like every man to me. I mean . . .

(Inaudible, many talking at once).

That's not what I meant. But he really felt like somebody that could live in my neighborhood.

I think Clinton would have unified the country like Bush has done. I don't think Gore would have come anywhere near that.

Well Clinton's a smooth talker too and he's an attorney, and you know, he could . . .

Absolutely. A politician all the way.

He could obviously talk around a lot of things.

MODERATOR—ANYBODY ELSE, HOW CLINTON WOULD HANDLE THINGS DIFFERENTLY IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA?

See, I don't think he was that strong with his foreign policy either. I don't see him being any stronger than Bush.

MODERATOR—OKAY. HOW ABOUT HERE AT HOME? HOW WOULD CLINTON HAVE HANDLED THINGS DIFFERENTLY WITH ISSUES HERE IN THE U.S.?

With him the environment would be much of an issue.

I don't think Social Security would have been tapped and (inaudible).

Yeah, I don't either.

MODERATOR—SO CLINTON WOULDN'T HAVE TAPPED THE SOCIAL SECURITY?

My initial reaction is to say, "no", but who knows.

MODERATOR—OKAY. ANYBODY ELSE?
I think he would have kept the economy in line with the decisions that he was making.

MODERATOR—DO YOU THINK BUSH HAS NOT DONE THAT AS MUCH?

No, I don't.

I think it's sort of a Republican thing to . . . that's a harsh generalization, but is that you know, it's like a business. You know, he's running the country more like a business. You gotta spend money to make money. And I'm not so sure that that's the way you run a

country. But that's the way all of a sudden you turn the economy around, by just dumping all these (inaudible).

Well, he's kind of thinking of the trickle down aspect. Let's give the companies money, therefore then they won't release so many people from employment, and it's gonna trickle down to them.

I'm not sure that it's gonna work.

I'm not sure of this either, because I think he's being too dramatic.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WELL THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY A LOT OF ISSUES STILL FACING THE COUNTRY BESIDES THE ATTACKS, REBUILDING FROM THE ATTACKS AND RESPONDING, AS WE ARE NOW IN AFGHANISTAN. BUT THERE ARE STILL A LOT OF ISSUES HERE AT HOME IN THE U.S., AND I WANNA TALK ABOUT SOME OF THOSE ISSUES. THE FIRST ONE I WANNA TALK ABOUT IS "ENERGY POLICY". THINKING ABOUT THE ENERGY POLICY THAT WE HAVE NOW IN THE U.S., WHAT CHANGES DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE MADE?

Since everything is gone since September 11th, what is our Energy Policy?

I know!

It's not on the news anymore, and it's like I . . .

MODERATOR—WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME THAT? WHAT IS OUR ENERGY POLICY?

Well, I know the rates are going up . . . 'cause we're selling it to everybody else and there's none left.

And I know they're drilling a lot more.

In the taking of natural resources, with no regard to their running out . . . the Government has not subsidized the manufacturers who are making, what are they calling them, green machines and all the energy efficient vehicles and . .

(End of Side)

. . . as much as they have been subsidizing some of the oil.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHAT ELSE?

What was your question?

MODERATOR—ENERGY POLICY.

Is it good? Is that what you're saying?

MODERATOR—WHAT IS OUR ENERGY POLICY NOW AND WHAT SHOULD IT BE?

Sorry. Checked out for a minute there. Well, I think it's interesting that we really haven't solved our problem of relying on gas to get everywhere, and you know, it gets talked about, but there's really not a whole lot that's done. I mean trucks and SUV's are what everybody drives, they guzzle the most gas. And yeah, you know, there's the hybrid cars and things like that, but I don't think our country gets it when it comes to that. I mean in our area, you're not from here, we have now above ground . . . what do you call it . . . rail system. We have no subways, very few people take the bus, they don't have incentives to really do so. They keep trying things, they don't really work, and then they just keep pumping more and more gas. And I don't know, it's interesting.

The energy has affected us quite a bit in this area, especially since our electricity bills have gone up quite a bit in the last . . . what is it, year-and-a-half, two years? And we . . . all of us on the east side drive to work, partly because there's not enough busses. Or where the busses go . . . they don't go to the right areas.

That's a local political issue.

It's not federal, but it does affect us right here. And I wish that we would put more research more into money into the aspect of where are we going, where are we gonna be tomorrow. And be able to build more cars that run . . . you know, that don't run off of part (inaudible), part gas, but also (inaudible).

That's what a lot of our interest in the Middle East is because we need their oil. We want their oil, and we've got our, like you were saying, our noses are in everybody's business. We have our nose in there, it's because they got what we need.

That's right.

And we're gonna, you know, play the fence with Israel, Palestinians or whatever so that we make sure our oil is . . . we can get to it.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHAT ELSE SHOULD WE BE DOING IN TERMS OF ENERGY POLICY?

We need to look towards alternate energy, figure out how to harness the ocean, you know, the water currents that are natural in the ocean. Do something, I don't know. I mean I've seen something . . .

(Inaudible) needs to be pushed a bit more.

MODERATOR—NOW ARE YOU THINKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THINGS THAT THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DOING? WHAT KINDS OF POLICIES . . . I'M TRYING TO FOCUS ON ENERGY POLICY WITHIN THE COUNTRY, AND OBVIOUSLY THE GOVERNMENT.

I think they should be a lot more forward-looking than dealing with just today's and maybe yesterdays . . . making up for yesterday's problems.

We really need to be thinking about, you know, figuring out a way to get the consumption down over time. Less reliance.

MODERATOR—SO GETTING CONSUMPTION DOWN, FINDING OTHER ALTERNATIVES.

And gas is an alternate energy source, besides you know, fossil fuels.

I think when gas is cheap, more people use it. And then the wind blows and then it goes up, but if we . . . maybe raise the price a little bit more, people are less likely to drive long distances or to take the bus. Maybe they'd willing to do that.

But even working with the car companies, you know, the Government could get involved with saying, "Starting in the year 2008, these requirements must be met."

But the lobbyists for the car companies are so strong that breaking them is just . . .

Then again, the county does do stuff, I mean they send human resources. It's like saying, "You have to give out these things for harping and you have this many employees, you have to see who can car pool with who.", and having to do it is kind of a hassle.

I mean it really is. I've had to do it.

Then they come like, "Oh, yet another regulation.", so those of us who end up doing . . . you know, they come up with these little plans that kind of . . . like with Boeing and stuff. That's an amazing thing, you know. I mean big, huge companies that have a lot of . . . thousands of people, but right now, commuting to them, you know, it makes sense to do that. But a company that only has maybe two or three hundred people . . .

Well, it can't go on forever, I guess is the thing.

MODERATOR—SO WE HAVE TO DO SOMETHING?

Yeah, I mean it is a finite amount.

MODERATOR—OKAY. LET'S TALK NEXT ABOUT HEALTH CARE POLICY. WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HEALTH CARE POLICY? WHAT SHOULD WE BE DOING?

It's too expensive.

They need to get rid of the managed care, because they've actually shown in certain cases that the insurance company pays more to manage the care than they would if they just paid the premiums as they came in, because you've got your nurses who have to review, your doctors who have to do the (inaudible). It's a huge bureaucracy that they said they were getting rid of.

Well, I think there's a difference between HMO care and managed care.

I'm talking just managed care. Managed care is what most things are. HMO, PPO's are totally different.

But there's a high time too. There's a hybrid in there that's managed care.

You've got your what's called Participating Provider . . .

MODERATOR—WE'RE NOT GETTING TOO FAR INTO THIS ISSUE HERE. I JUST WANNA KIND OF TALK ABOUT . . . KIND OF STAY FOCUSED ON THE LARGER POLICY LEVEL.

Well I think prescription drugs need to have some regulations because the way these drugs come out, you know, they have a twenty-year monopoly on these drugs, and they charge an arm and a leg, and then the Government's idea is you know, have the pharmacists give discounts. Well it's not the pharmacists who are charging an arm and a leg. It's the drug companies and the reimbursements are less than the costs that the pharmacists are getting reimbursed. So what's gonna happen is that the pharmacies are gonna go out of business. So I think they need to have some regulation with the drug companies.

That's because the drug companies are allowed to pass on their research costs in the costs of the prescriptions, where other countries don't do that. That's why people go to Canada, 'cause Canada doesn't allow the drug company to tack on research costs, figuring it into the cost per pill kind of thing, and the United States does. When we buy a prescription, we're paying for all their research and all the cuts that they give you.

And health care for older people. I mean I know my (inaudible) income. You know, she . . . half of her monthly income goes to her drugs that she takes, you know, and there's no benefits. I mean she pays extra for health insurance and Medicare, has to pay for drugs. I mean it's just . . .

We're the wealthiest country in the world, and yet I don't know what percentage of people are walking around probably between ten and thirty that don't have health insurance, and that's unacceptable.

Well, if you're under eighteen you can get it through the state real quick. I mean it's one (inaudible) boom, and then you're done. But all the . . .

But there's still . . . I mean you read about it in the paper all the time. I mean people have to make a choice. It's not affordable if you have to do it on your own.

No.

It will cost you, you know, three thousand dollars a year or whatever to come up with your own plan. And people just, you know, they gamble and they say, "No, we're not gonna do it."

MODERATOR—ANYBODY ELSE ON THIS? HEALTH CARE POLICY.

Since I work in the . . . I sell software to long-term care facilities and health care industries. I think the policies that have occurred with the health . . . the long-term care side where they, you know, change the type of reimbursement and it made more control. They require the facilities . . . doesn't matter if you're in a hospital or you're in a nursing home, you are required to fill out certain forms, and they regulate those. And I think that's a plus, but the problem is that those that are enforcing it are not knowledgeable. Therefore I think that in our healthcare reform or policy or whatever, we need to start . . . we need to be teaching people. We'd be better to inform those around us about what and how it works, and . . . because you've got a lot of people on Medicaid and facilities, and they're not getting the care, of course they're not if they're on Medicaid. But they're not getting the care as much because they're not . . . the facilities are not getting their reimbursement amount from the Government that they need.

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT. LET'S TALK ABOUT ECONOMIC POLICY.
WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ECONOMIC POLICY? WHAT SHOULD BE GOING ON WITH ECONOMIC POLICY?

What is going on? I think Greenspan's a pretty intelligent guy. I think he's done a really good job over the last few years on driving the economy, and I think what's going on is kind of out of his control right now too. But I think he's still trying to get it moving.

MODERATOR—WHAT KIND OF CHANGES SHOULD WE BE MAKING IN OUR ECONOMIC POLICY NOW TO DEAL WITH THE CURRENT SITUATION?

I don't think we should be cutting any taxes.

Well they can't exactly lower the interest rate much more. If people aren't willing to buy a house with six and a quarter percent, then you know, I mean, they're not willing to buy a house.

Then they can't buy a house.

Right, but I mean so much more opens up with it's six and a quarter.

MODERATOR—ANYTHING ELSE WE CAN DO? DON'T CUT TAXES, WHAT ANDREA SAID, INTEREST RATES ARE GETTING DOWN TOWARDS ZERO. WHAT ELSE IS THERE?

Imports and exports.

MODERATOR—WHAT ABOUT IMPORTS AND EXPORTS?

I don't know. I don't know a whole lot about it, but you know, that's affected our economy in the past, and I don't really know what we're doing right now. I haven't been focused on it.

MODERATOR—ANYONE ELSE? ARE DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS DOING THE RIGHT THINGS TO KIND OF RESTORE AND REBUILD THE ECONOMY?

I think it's kind of stalled right now.

Right.

But I think one thing that needs to be done is educating young people on the hazards of credit cards, because we are a country of debt in credit cards. You know, it's not uncommon for . . . My son got . . . at the time he was four, he got an application for a Diner's Club card. So I think there needs to be more education in the school systems on, you know, living within a budget and managing your financing instead of depending on credit, because their parent's parents, you know, I'm not saying all parents, but a lot of adults are so dependent on credit cards, and that's what the kids see. So if my parents can do it I can do it.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO RELIANCE ON CREDIT'S A PROBLEM. WHAT ELSE?

I worked for a major credit card company for eight years, and I agree with Andrea, it is sick. When you get . . . actually when you have someone's account up on a screen and you see how many years it will take to pay it off and you see where all this money is just accruing and accruing, and you really have it right out in front of you, it's a lot different than what a customer gets on a statement. And always the little tiny fine print that companies put in their (inaudible) that allow them to charge you more than what you think you're being charged and all the fees and everything else. I would like to see more regulation of credit card companies from now on. In addition to the education piece, but I

would like to see those companies regulated more. I mean it was a great company to work for and they treated me really well, but you see where all that money comes from and it's scary, because . . . I started in the collections department, and you're talking to people who have gotten themselves in so deep and so far that this credit company's gonna put a lean on their house.

MODERATOR—OKAY, BEYOND THE CREDIT CARD AND THE DEBT . . . I MEAN I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT THAT, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE GOING ON IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC POLICY IN THE COUNTRY? STEPS THAT WE'RE TAKING NOW TO DEAL WITH THE CURRENT ECONOMY?

Limit imports. I mean there's been talk about cutting off imported goods from certain countries that are not on board with us as far as that whole thing goes. You know, maybe that's something to look at. But you can't pick up anything without it saying, "Made in China", you know, most of the time, so that might be something to look at.

MODERATOR—WHICH PARTY IN CONGRESS, DEMOCRATS OR REPUBLICANS, AND THEY HAVE DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO HOW TO SOLVE THE CURRENT ECONOMIC SLOW DOWN. WHICH PARTY DO YOU WORRY MORE WILL DO THE WRONG THING, WILL ACTUALLY MAKE THINGS WORSE?

Republicans.

MODERATOR—GIVE ME A QUICK SHOW OF HANDS. HOW MANY SAY REPUBLICANS? HOW MANY SAY DEMOCRATS? (NO NUMBERS GIVEN).

It's kind of . . .

MODERATOR—A FEW SHAKING . . .

Independents (inaudible).

MODERATOR—SO WHY . . . THOSE OF YOU WHO SAID REPUBLICANS?

'Cause when it comes to defense spending they've had very deep pockets and are willing to put billions and billions of dollars into that budget, and we went through all the stuff we did with Reagan on recovering from all of that. I can't think of anyone not wanting missile . . . underground missile project that he had that . . . those types of things kind of stick in my mind when I think of (inaudible).

MODERATOR—BIG DEFENSE SPENDING.

Yup.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHAT ELSE? MORE ISSUES ABOUT REPUBLICANS AND WHAT THEY MIGHT DO.

Cut social services.

Yeah. And education.

Well, and I see social services being cut already.

Well I know.

Well, because of the September 11th thing, they have to cut their budgets, 'cause Federal Government's reducing . . . I mean it's the trickle down theory to the state and then the state, you know I called the state, for example to say, "Where's this application? This person needs medications.", you know, they can't get them without it, you know. And here's the poor person that can't get their medication and is gonna be psychotic and probably kill somebody. You know, it's a . . . I mean it's not unfortunately an unlikely scenario in some situations, because the Government . . . you know, that trickle down thing.

MODERATOR—WHAT ELSE REPUBLICAN? WHAT ELSE WOULD REPUBLICANS MIGHT DO?

I think they have . . . like the stereotype of Republicans, they tendency to . . . I had a thought and I lost it. But you could come back to me.

MODERATOR—ANYONE ELSE ON REPUBLICAN?

They're big business is much more touchy . . . I mean much more affiliated with Republicans, and so you tend to see them looking out for the big business.

I think whoever has money (inaudible).

I think they also . . . they have a tendency to put a lot more pork in bills, you know. They're looking more for, "What can I get out of it?", or "Buy the lobbyists that buy me all this stuff." Or "For my district."

But that's a political thing.

I think that's either way. I don't think Republicans are any worse than Democrats as far as, "What can my people get out of this?"

MODERATOR—OKAY. WELL HOW ABOUT DEMOCRATS? WHAT WORRIES YOU ABOUT THEM, THE THINGS THAT THEY MIGHT DO?

Well, the stereotype of tax and spend, that's something that worries, you know . . . I mean I do think Republicans do put a whole lot of money into defense, but let's say for example,

during the Clinton administration, if we had put a little bit more into defense, our Intelligence might be a little better. I mean who's to say that we may have known more and could have done something.

Do you think that was a . . . I sort of agree, again yet I've said that statement a couple of times, but I'm just wondering now if . . . I think we're all just sort of sitting back (inaudible) happy in the '90's . . .

Yeah, that's true. I agree.

And I don't think anyone thought, "Oh, this is gonna be a problem."

No, I don't either. I agree.

But I think it's like, "Hey Reagan, and you spent all this money . . .", you know. Or to Clinton, "And you didn't spend any money." I think there's a better happy medium in there somewhere.

MODERATOR—POLITICAL LEADERS IN CONGRESS, WHAT SHOULD THEIR PRIMARY OBLIGATION BE RIGHT NOW? SHOULD IT BE TO PROTECT US FROM TERRORISM OR SHOULD IT BE TO LOOK AFTER THE ECONOMY AND OUR ECONOMIC WELL-BEING?

They have to balance that. You can't do one, and you can't just do the other, you've gotta do both. That's their job, they have to be able to balance the needs of the country, which include not just the economy and protecting us, but everything else that goes along with it.

That's the reason they hit the Twin Towers. I mean that's the strength this country's (inaudible).

(Inaudible) maybe see a balance, but I think they can control going to such a degree. I think when push comes to shove, people are not spending money, all the programs and all of the, you know, whatever they do in Washington, D.C. won't help. I mean if we all just kind of lock up in our houses and not buy anything, I mean two hundred million people just quit going shopping, you're gonna feel it no matter what Congress does.

MODERATOR—OKAY. ANYONE ELSE ON THAT QUESTION? OKAY, WHY DON'T YOU GUYS GO AHEAD AND FLIP TO HANDOUT NUMBER THREE NOW. THIS IS A LIST OF PROPOSALS THE DEMOCRATS HAVE MADE ON THE ECONOMY AND I'M JUST GONNA READ THROUGH THE LIST, AND THEN JUST TELL ME, YOU KNOW, WHAT KIND OF JUMPS OUT AT YOU, WHAT SOUNDS GOOD, WHAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.

EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS BY 13 WEEKS FOR THE UNEMPLOYED IN HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AREAS.

So this would be in addition to the already . . . in this area it's thirty weeks?

MODERATOR—THESE WOULD BE NEW PROPOSALS THAT THEY'RE MAKING.

COVERING AT LEAST HALF OF THE COBRA HEALTH CARE INSURANCE FOR THOSE LOSING THEIR JOBS FOR UP TO ONE YEAR.

FUNDING "READY-TO-GO" CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, SUCH AS IMPROVEMENTS TO AIRPORT AND GROUND WATER FACILITIES, WHICH WILL CREATE JOBS WHILE STRENGTHENING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE AND SECURITY.

TAX REBATES OF UP TO \$600 FOR THE FORTY PERCENT OF AMERICANS WHO FILED TAXES BUT DID NOT RECEIVE A TAX REBATE THIS SUMMER.

TAX INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESSES TO ENCOURAGE INVESTMENT THIS YEAR IN NEW PLANTS AND EQUIPMENT.

DELAY THE TAX CUT FOR THE WEALTHIEST ONE PERCENT OF AMERICANS – THOSE EARNING MORE THAN \$375,000 A YEAR TO ENSURE NO MONEY IS BORROWED FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND TO PAY FOR TAX CUTS.

I like the first two, 'cause my husband's job like at Boeing, I just feel he's . . . we're gonna have a problem with health insurance, 'cause the cost . . . for Cobra, I mean that'd probably cost me what, four hundred a month for a family of four?

Maybe more than that, trust me. It's gonna be about eight, nine hundred dollars.

Well Cobra is more expensive than just getting your (inaudible) policy, so I mean I like the ideas, but . . .

What about basic health plan with . . . they take away the income for folks who are laid off and unemployed, take away the income requirements on basic health plans, aside (inaudible) options or something.

Cobra could cost a whole lot!

This is better than the \$600 tax rebate.

Yeah, it'd be above six hundred, because I think . . .

MODERATOR—SO STAY FOCUSED ON THIS PAGE. WHAT'S GOOD ABOUT THIS?

I like the third one, it's like the CCC that they did. I mean not that I think that . . . yeah, I like that one.

I like the last one too.

Yeah!

Me too.

You know, the wealthy people seem to get a break all the time. They don't need tax breaks, they can hire accountants to find ways around taxes and things like that.

But this won't do anything. I mean . . .

Well this will ensure no money is borrowed for Social Security.

Yes, but to delay a tax cut, you still . . . there are still so many loopholes that I don't . . . I mean, that just seems like a really pointless exercise to me, that's all.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK OF IT?

Well I think I mean don't delay, just eliminate that tax cut for those people, and do not dip into Social Security. Leave our Social Security alone. I mean if they're gonna dip into Social Security, by God let me get my 401K without a freakin' ten percent tax penalty on me because . . . my husband worked at Boeing before, and when he got laid off years ago, for a year-and-a-half, I had to take out the 401K, and I got a thirteen or a ten percent penalty on my own money, you know, that I already paid tax on and then some.

You didn't pay taxes on your 401K.

I did. What I did, I had to pay taxes on it at what . . . the highest plan.

Your tax break.

Plus pay an extra ten percent of . . . it's my money.

MODERATOR—SO WHAT ELSE ON HERE?

I like the idea of dipping into the resources that we have, money, people, muscle and putting it back into the economy.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO KIND OF THE THIRD ONE ON HERE?

Well three and five. I mean I like the idea of giving businesses even money to, you know, expand and you know, make investments and new plants and things like that, going forward. I think part of our problem is our infrastructure and our security, and that's why I

really like number three, because all those people I think, a couple of things happened. One, you do strengthen that infrastructure, but also you give all those people who are out of work a sense of they're doing good for the country and again, we're unifying and we're really solving, you know, you had mentioned the water supplies and things like that. I mean if we can do things to help protect and put people's mind at ease, I think that makes people go out and spend more if they feel more secure, and I think that's just sort of a round robin thing. Same with number five . . . I think you know, if we give tax incentives, then they have to use them. They can't . . . We can't just say, "Okay, we'll give you a tax incentive. Use it at your discretion.", you know. They have to . . . they can only do it by investing in new equipment and new plants and new products or whatever.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHO ELSE?

I agree with those two. And health care too. But we decided Cobra was too expensive.

The thing is, if it's a Government plan, that's really the only realistic way they could help, I mean if you think about administering a plan, Cobra would be the way to do it. Well, it's our personal view (many talking at once).

MODERATOR—WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, TOO MANY PEOPLE JUST YELLING OUT. I WANNA HEAR EVERYONE'S OPINION REGARDING THIS.

Like on a national level, I mean, it's like you're trying to help people get health care coverage. How are you gonna go about doing that? The Cobra plan is already in place, so they already have something there. They don't have to create anything, they're just funding it.

Yeah, but what I'm saying is the DSH, the State Aide system in each state is already in place. The States already have the State Welfare . . . Medical in California, Medicaid is what we call it here. They have that in place and it's a whole lot cheaper for folks. Normally they have . . . at the State level they have . . .

MODERATOR—OKAY, I DON'T WANNA GO INTO TOO MUCH. I WANNA TRY TO TRY TO JUST STAY FOCUSED ON WHAT'S HERE.

You have the option to buy this insurance and let those people buy that insurance. They'll probably (inaudible) anyway.

And on number one, rather than seeing the extension, I would rather see that money put into re-training or something that's going to help people find a job faster.

Like make that . . . give the normal thirty weeks, and if you decide to go to school and get re-trained, you can get an additional extension.

Yeah, I think that's something that will improve their skills or give them a new skill for something.

MODERATOR—ANY OF THESE THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE TO YOU, ASIDE FROM THE DEBATE OVER COBRA OR . . .

The tax rebate.

MODERATOR—EVEN FOR THE PEOPLE THAT DIDN'T GET ONE PREVIOUSLY?

(Many talking at once.)

Well because (inaudible) coming out of their pay next year anyway, so it's . . .

Or they made too much money.

MODERATOR—OKAY, LET'S FLIP TO HANDOUT FOUR. NOT SURPRISINGLY, HERE ARE SOME REPUBLICAN PROPOSALS.

CUTTING THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX RATE FOR THE SALE OF STOCKS.

CUTTING THE CORPORATE TAX RATE FROM 35 PERCENT TO 25 PERCENT.

ACCELERATING BY TWO YEARS TAX CUTS THAT WERE PART OF THE BUDGET PASSED EARLIER THIS YEAR SO THAT SINGLES MAKING OVER \$27,000 AND COUPLES MAKING MORE THAN \$45,000 RECEIVE A TAX CUT THIS YEAR.

ADDITIONAL TAX CUTS FOR BUSINESSES TO RELIEVE THEIR FINANCIAL PRESSURE, INCLUDING \$25 BILLION IN PAYMENTS TO COMPANIES SUBJECT TO THE ALTERNATIVE MINIMUM TAX.

EXTENDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR THOSE WHO LOST THEIR JOBS AFTER SEPTEMBER 11TH.

I like number one.

I think that it depends on how it's structured. I think capital gains should be split up based on different tax rates, because some people are selling stocks to survive, and some people are selling stocks just to make a buck. So I think that it depends on how it's structured, if they structured it based on income levels.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHO ELSE? WHAT DO YOU LIKE ON ANY OF THESE PROPOSALS?

I like number three, giving the people tax cuts. The folks that are down at that level who are really struggling. I mean because twenty-seven thousand a year is not a lot of money if

you can't . . . and if you figure it out, that's not much more than two thousand a month, then you're paying taxes and SSI, so you don't even bring home . . . You probably bring home fifteen hundred a month if you're lucky. I mean an apartment around here's like about nine hundred dollars, eight hundred, nine hundred dollars for a one bedroom, two bedroom maybe if you're lucky.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHO ELSE? ANY OF THESE THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE TO YOU?

I think the last one kind of goes back to the other with the tax refund.

Yeah.

MODERATOR—SIMILAR.

And why do we wanna cut corporate tax rates?

Yeah.

Yeah.

I'm sorry, corporations make plenty of money and they have plenty of ways to figure out how to . . . I'm sorry, it's stupid. I mean they can afford it.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK ABOUT THIS IDEA OF CUTTING CORPORATE TAX RATES?

No way.

MODERATOR—NUMBER TWO HAS CUTTING THE CORPORATE TAX RATE AND THEN NUMBER FOUR HAS ADDITIONAL TAX CUTS BECAUSE THIS IS . . .

See, it's all about businesses.

And that's because they think that it seems like if they go to the businesses then it's gonna affect us.

No, what it's gonna do is give those CEO's a bigger bonus at the end of the year, 'cause the bottom line's gonna be better. It's not gonna help the average employee, and I mean . . . I don't think.

MODERATOR—WELL LET ME ASK YOU. WHAT DO YOU THINK IS MORE LIKELY TO HAPPEN IF . . . IF YOU FOLLOW THESE PROPOSALS AND YOU GET MORE MONEY BACK INTO THE HANDS OF BUSINESSES, THE PEOPLE WHO CREATE THE JOBS AND WHO SPEND A LOT OF THE MONEY, CREATE A LOT OF PRODUCTS, THAT KIND OF STUFF, ARE THE COMPANIES GONNA TAKE

THAT MONEY AND CREATE JOBS AND CREATE MORE PRODUCTS OR ARE THEY GONNA TAKE THAT MONEY . . .

And hoard it.

I don't trust them to create more jobs.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

I don't trust them . . .

I think the big one is gonna be super Conservative, including corporations and not that I blame them, but I don't see that . . . Boeing got a bunch of money, "Oh, keep all these people. Now we're not gonna have all these job cuts." You think they would do that or . . .

No.

I think they'd (inaudible). 'Cause that would make the bottom line better, investors might invest, but it's not gonna keep the people in.

Well, the businesses are out of focus of changing the way they run their business. If they wanna reorganize it, they wanna become more efficient . . . If they give more money, and this is something that they might put in their little bank account and have for a rainy day. And like . . . I don't understand why United Airlines, a big business, do not have any money put away for a rainy day. I believe they did, I just don't think we should be giving them more.

I don't know how long the tax rate's been thirty-five percent, but our economy's been really strong for quite a while, and you haven't really heard about corporations hurting over the past several years, with the exception of you know, like dot coms and stuff. So I mean why do we need to change something like that that's . . . It's healthy.

I think it depends on the size of the corporation though too. I mean we're talking big corporations, but there's corporations that are only one and two Mom and Pop businesses, and they're considered a corporation. The small businesses seems like a totally different story.

MODERATOR—SO YOU GUYS KIND OF DRAW A LINE BETWEEN SMALL BUSINESSES AND . . . UNITED, MICROSOFT, BIG COMPANIES.

But the point is, is what we're seeing right now is the money that they've been given out. At least the media's telling us, we don't know. Is being given to the large corporations, and I guess that's what's bothering us, is it's being given to the large corporations, but the small businesses are not, you know . . .

But there's no guidelines on what they do with that money, I think that's my biggest deal, is that if I'm gonna give a corporation a bunch of money or a big tax break, I want some leverage as to what that's being spent on. And so I think that there's no guidelines involved in that. I mean if I know . . . If I was the CEO of a company and I got a huge tax break, I'd do the Conservative thing, put the money away.

And I think the other thing on that is where do they make up the difference? Because you can't really go after . . . I mean we know that Bush isn't gonna increase everybody's personal taxes, so is he saying that our overall expenditures are going to be decreased by whatever billion, trillion dollars. And in light of what's going on, it seems like that's really unrealistic. It's like now we're gonna be spending more money because we have to.

MODERATOR—WHICH SET OF PROPOSALS DO YOU FIND YOURSELF AGREEING WITH MORE, THE DEMOCRATIC SET OR THE REPUBLICAN SET?

Are we all women for a reason?

God made us that way.

You know what I mean. Is this a group of women because of . . . I mean, it's just curiosity, because I think we're all sort of . . . women would go a certain way and men would go another way.

MODERATOR—THE THEORY IS THAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE CERTAIN THINGS IN COMMON WILL BE MORE HONEST WITH ONE ANOTHER.

Oh, okay.

I like the Democrat list better personally.

I like the Republican.

I'd like a nice combination.

I would too.

I want some Senate debate.

MODERATOR—WHAT WOULD BE THE BEST PARTS OF EACH? WHAT WOULD BE THE THING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE THE MOST?

Funding rebuilding construction projects on the Democrats. And the incentives that they have to use towards plants being implemented. You know, if you're paying only some, then . . .

MODERATOR—SO THAT'S WHAT BETH WAS SAYING, FOR TAX . . . FOR TAX, FOR BUSINESSES (INAUDIBLE).

Yeah, if you got a cutting of your corporate tax rate, you have to do this, you know. Or if, you know, I mean I don't mind people getting some extended unemployment benefits, but maybe those benefits would have to go into making sure all your kids are covered, you're all covered.

Or job re-training, you have to begin somewhere.

Some sort of combination, I know that takes a lot of bureaucracy and . . .

But also, I mean the unemployment doesn't even come close for most people to what they were making in the first place, and so start putting regulations on that money, it would be like . . . I mean and I'm in the same situation, it's like . . . it's gonna go to alimony and child support, okay?

MODERATOR—OKAY. SO WHAT ELSE? HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU? WHERE ARE YOU ON THIS?

I'd like to see a good blend also with this. It's pretty much the same thing (inaudible).

MODERATOR—IF YOU HAD TO PICK ONE OUT OF BOTH LISTS, IF YOU HAD TO PICK ONE THING, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

I guess the construction projects and I would also say cutting the federal gains on the stocks if it was structured to someone's salary.

MODERATOR—WHO ELSE? ANY OTHER ONES YOU GUYS WOULD PICK?

Five on the first page.

MODERATOR—TAX CUTS FOR INVESTING.

Um-hmm. And . . .

MODERATOR—ANYONE ELSE? ALL RIGHT, WE'RE GONNA GO AHEAD AND FLIP TO HANDOUT NUMBER FIVE. LIKE SOME OF YOU GUYS HAVE MENTIONED BEFORE, SINCE THE ATTACKS OF SEPTEMBER 11TH, DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS HAVE BEEN WORKING PRETTY WELL TOGETHER, THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF BI-PARTISANSHIP. BUT OBVIOUSLY A LOT OF THE DIFFERENCES THAT WERE THERE BEFORE THE ATTACKS ARE STILL THERE, AND AS MORE AND MORE ISSUES COME UP BESIDES THE RESPONSE TO THE ATTACKS, SOME OF THESE DIFFERENCES ARE STARTING TO COME UP AGAIN. SO WHAT I'M GONNA DO . . . WE'RE GONNA TALK ABOUT A FEW DIFFERENT ISSUES AND I'M GONNA READ YOU STATEMENTS, ONE FROM THE DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS, ONE FROM THE REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS. WE'LL READ THEM THROUGH TOGETHER,

AND THEN I WANT YOU TO TELL ME WHICH ONE YOU AGREE WITH MORE, OKAY? YOU GOTTA PICK ONE OR THE OTHER. I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU HAVE TO COMPLETELY ENDORSE EITHER ONE, BUT IF YOU HAD TO CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER, WHICH WOULD YOU AGREE WITH MORE, OKAY? FIRST ONE:

DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS SAY WE NEED AN ENERGY SECURITY PLAN THAT REDUCES OUR RELIANCE ON OIL FROM THE MIDDLE EAST. WE NEED TO USE AMERICA'S TECHNOLOGICAL KNOW-HOW TO DEVELOP NEWER, CLEANER ENERGY SOURCES, SUCH AS WIND AND SOLAR, AND TO BUILD ENERGY EFFICIENT CARS AND APPLIANCES. WE CAN SECURE OUR ENERGY SUPPLY USING CLEAN FUELS LIKE NATURAL GAS BUT WITHOUT DRILLING FOR OIL IN THE PRISTINE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE.

REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS SAY THAT THE LESS DEPENDENT WE ARE ON OIL FROM THE MIDDLE EAST, THE MORE SECURE OUR NATION IS. WE NEED TO INCREASE DOMESTIC PRODUCTION OF OIL, COAL AND NATURAL GAS. OUR NATIONAL SECURITY REQUIRES THAT WE OPEN ALASKA'S ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE TO OIL DRILLING, SUBSIDIZE THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW, CLEAN COAL TECHNOLOGY AND BUILD NEW POWER PLANTS.

(Many talking at once.)

MODERATOR—HOLD ON, HOLD ON! WE'RE GONNA DO A SHOW OF HANDS, ALL RIGHT? REPUBLICANS, HOW MANY PEOPLE AGREE WITH THE REPUBLICAN STATEMENT MORE? ZERO. HOW MANY AGREE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC STATEMENT MORE? ALL RIGHT, ALL TEN. TELL ME WHY.

Less harm on the environment. If their trying for alternatives, you know, wind and solar, they're not gonna totally just start drilling all the oil and using all our natural resources up. I think they'll get other sources.

Yeah, they're looking long term.

Yeah.

I find the Democratic one to be a little more difficult to achieve and more time consuming. I mean I look at the Republican one and you know, six weeks ago I was just saying, "No way!", and now you look at them kind of going, "Oh, shoot, maybe."

What do you do having cars on the road that need gas, you know? I mean it's a huge issue. You have . . . You know how many people you're gonna put out of work if you don't have gas anymore.

I agree . . . I (inaudible) so high, but a lot more people car pooled, and it was directly . . .

I'm not saying . . . I would do the Democrat one too, I'm just saying that there is a huge, huge issue.

MODERATOR—WITH THE TRANSITION YOU MEAN?

Yeah. I think that's gonna be . . . It's a very painful process it's gonna be. I think it should happen, I think it needs to happen . . . It has to happen. But I would never begin drilling in that Wildlife Refuge, 'cause we'd never get it back. But it's just gonna be painful.

Probably that you'll never get it back, but it opens the door to have all the national parks and other refuges that are currently being protected to be opened up. I mean they're talking about clean coal technology and [Escavante] was just signed in, and that is the biggest coal site deposit and it's owned by the U.S., so it's a huge . . . Plus it affects my business.

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT. WELL THERE SEEMS TO BE A LOT OF AGREEMENT ON THAT ONE, SO WHY DON'T WE FLIP TO HANDOUT NUMBER SIX.

DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS SAY WE NEED TO DELAY TAX RATE CUTS PASSED EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR THE WEALTHIEST ONE PERCENT TO PREVENT BORROWING FROM THE MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS. THEY SAY THIS IS THE ONLY WAY WE CAN MEET OUR IMMEDIATE NEEDS – REBUILDING AFTER THE TERRORIST ATTACKS, EXTENDING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS FOR THOSE LAID OFF IN THE WAKE OF THE ATTACKS, FUNDING NEW SECURITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, AND INCREASING EDUCATION SPENDING – WITHOUT SACRIFICING MILLIONS OF AMERICANS' LONG TERM SECURITY.

REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS SAY WE NEED TO EXPAND ON THE TAX CUTS PASSED EARLIER THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO GIVE MONEY BACK TO THOSE WHO WILL INVEST IT IN OUR ECONOMY. THEIR PLAN INCLUDES TAX REBATES FOR MANY FAMILIES WHO DIDN'T QUALIFY FOR THE EARLIER REBATE PLAN, ACCELERATES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OTHER TAX CUTS FROM THE EARLIER PACKAGE, AND OFFERS NEW TAX CUTS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE IMMEDIATE INVESTMENT BY BOTH INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES.

MODERATOR—SHOW OF HANDS. THIS TIME WE'LL START WITH THE DEMOCRATIC MESSAGE. HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD SAY THEY AGREE MORE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC MESSAGE? SIX.

(Inaudible).

MODERATOR—I KNOW . . . I MEAN OBVIOUSLY YOU’RE GONNA AGREE WITH PARTS OF EACH ONE, BUT IF YOU GOTTA CHOOSE ONE OR THE OTHER, HOW MANY PEOPLE WOULD SAY THEY AGREE MORE WITH THE REPUBLICAN PLAN? THREE. OKAY, SOMEONE DIDN’T DECIDE.

I didn’t vote, I’ll take Democrat.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO SEVEN “D”, THREE “R”. ALL RIGHT, THOSE OF YOU WHO AGREED WITH THE DEMOCRATIC MESSAGE MORE, WHAT WAS IT ABOUT THAT ONE THAT PUSHED YOU OVER THE EDGE?

Dipping into the Medicare and Social Security.

Um-hmm.

MODERATOR—OKAY, SO THE TRUST FUNDS AND PROTECTING THOSE.

I mean the wealthiest people are the ones who can afford to pay a little bit more on taxes versus that in the Republicans, giving tax cuts to the people who didn’t get the rebates, now we all said, “Oh, it was nice, but we spent it.”, so it didn’t necessarily . . .

The Republicans are assuming that people are gonna invest in the economy.

They’re not necessarily.

Just pay your bills.

(Inaudible) talk about surgery.

And also, people who do get tax cuts didn’t make . . . You had to make over fifteen thousand a year, so that means you actually had to pay something in taxes in order to get something back.

Right.

It’s just because it’s a learned thing that we think that Medicare or Social Security is actually being depleted. I mean is it that we’ve been taught since we were . . . Oh, gosh, I don’t know who else is in their thirties . . . (inaudible) big, but you know what, when you get to be that age, you’re not gonna have (inaudible, many talking at once).

I agree with putting money back into the businesses and to getting the businesses to give to us. I agree with the businesses to be encouraging more jobs and pushing it that way. I’d rather have it go that way, but . . . Well, I guess that’s why I’m on the Republican side.

And I think I’m on the Republican side, because if someone said to me, “Well we’re gonna delay this tax rate.”, or “We’ll give you the money back and you can figure out what’s the

best thing to do with that money for your family.” And I am not necessarily good with money, but my husband is great. And I would rather have the choice over that money.

I agree.

MODERATOR—SO PERSONAL CONTROL, THAT’S THE ANSWER TO THAT.

Yeah, to me that’s . . . yeah, it’s just a little more personal control with my own financial issues.

MODERATOR—WHAT ELSE ABOUT THESE STOOD OUT? I MEAN SEVEN OF YOU PICKED THE DEMOCRATIC MESSAGE AND ALL YOU’VE MENTIONED IS THE TRUST FUNDS. WAS THERE ANYTHING ELSE OR WAS THAT REALLY THE OVERRIDING THING?

I mean that’s . . . yeah, I guess that’s one of the best . . . yeah.

I think the problem with personal control though is, you know, when you’re sitting at a table with good people who would take care of their money, I think we’re probably at . . . not a vast majority of the people. I mean there are a lot of people that would . . . I just . . . I would prefer to have somebody . . . I mean this was going back to talking about . . . I mean I don’t . . . I don’t have a problem with taxes as long as we’re talking . . . These are issues that I actually have had a vote on, that sort of thing. I (inaudible) tax too, to see my . . . I’ll pay a school and that sort of thing. I would rather have somebody taking care of that money, somebody that I trusted and cared about rather than just expecting that individuals or you know . . . I don’t know.

But isn’t that sort of the whole thing about America?

Yeah.

I don’t know, I just . . . I’m growing more Republican in life, (inaudible) military matters (inaudible, many talking at once).

MODERATOR—SO THERE WERE KIND OF TWO BASIC VISIONS LAID OUT. THE REPUBLICANS WOULD TAKE MONEY, PUT IT BACK INTO THE ECONOMY, BACK INTO THE BUSINESSES, BACK INTO PEOPLE WHO INVESTED AND KICK-START THE ECONOMY IF YOU WILL. DEMOCRATS ARE SAYING THE ONLY WAY THAT WE CAN MEET OUR NEEDS, YOU KNOW, THESE IMMEDIATE NEEDS THAT WE HAVE WITHOUT SACRIFICING LONG-TERM SECURITY, IS TO SCALE BACK THE TAX CUTS, TO HOLD OFF A LITTLE BIT, AND TO SAY OKAY, WE’VE GOTTA PUT MONEY . . . RATHER THAN PUTTING IT INTO TAX CUTS, WE NEED TO PUT IT INTO THESE IMMEDIATE NEEDS SO THAT WE DON’T STEEL OFF THE BACK END. VERSUS THE REPUBLICANS GETTING THE MONEY IN THERE AND KICK-START, REBUILD THE ECONOMY AND GET US BACK TO FULL STRENGTH. WHICH ONE OF

THOSE KIND OF, YOU KNOW, WORLD VIEWS, WOULD YOU SAY YOU AGREE WITH MORE?

Democrat.

Yeah, absolutely.

MODERATOR—WHY?

I . . . just again, I feel like we need to be taking care of, you know . . . I don't know. There are a lot of things that the Government takes care of that I would prefer to see continued taking care of . . . you know, the highways and transportation, education, environment. Rather than, you know, we need to worry about the basics right now.

I still think people need time to let everything settle before they're gonna go out and jump-start the economy.

Well I think the economy too, I think we need to put some trust in Americans. I think the economy . . . it's just about our (inaudible). I mean that's pretty devastating what happened. I mean it's gonna take me a while before I decide to just take a trip for the heck of it. I'm glad I went to Tahiti before this happened, because I don't think I'd get on an airplane full of fuel right now. Well, maybe I would . . .

MODERATOR—OKAY, LET'S FLIP TO THE NEXT ONE, HANDOUT SEVEN.

REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS SAY WE NEED TO RENEW OUR COMMITMENT TO NATIONAL SECURITY. WE NEED TO INCREASE OUR DEFENSE SPENDING SO OUR SOLDIERS HAVE THE MOST ADVANCED WEAPONS IN THE WORLD AND PUSH FOR A MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM TO PROTECT OUR CITIZENS FROM ATTACKS BY ROGUE STATES. WE'LL WORK WITH OTHER COUNTRIES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, BUT WE NEED TO START PUTTING AMERICA'S INTERESTS FIRST AGAIN.

DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS SAY WE MUST PROVIDE OUR ARMED FORCES WITH THE RESOURCES AND SUPPORT THEY NEED TO FIGHT AND WIN THIS WAR ON TERRORISM, BUT SEPTEMBER 11TH ALSO REMINDED US OF HEROES AROUND US EVERY DAY. WE HAVE TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT AMERICA BY FUNDING THE RECOVERY FROM THE SEPTEMBER 11TH ATTACKS, IMPROVING OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT AND MAKING SURE EVERYONE SHARES IN THE REBUILDING OF OUR ECONOMY.

MODERATOR—WE'LL DO A SHOW OF HANDS. HOW MANY FOLKS SAY THEY AGREE MORE WITH THE REPUBLICAN STATEMENT? FIVE. HOW MANY ARE

FOR DEMOCRAT? BETTER SEE FIVE . . . I SEE FIVE. ALL RIGHT, SO TELL ME, WE'RE EVENLY SPLIT HERE. THE REPUBLICAN ONE FIRST, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THAT ONE?

I picked the Republican one because I do think we do need to spend more on defense. I think it's not gonna be similar to World War II, we knew who our enemy was. It's gonna be someone out of the blue that we didn't even know. The one thing that I don't like about that one is that we need to put America's interests first. Well, I think that's what got us into trouble in the first place.

Oh, I think we should put our interests first.

Yeah, that's what got me to say this one.

Yeah.

The issues are health care system, protecting the environment and making sure that the shares are (inaudible). I mean that's the way . . .

Well I mean that could be our interest and that probably is our interest, but we need to start protecting ourselves before we go out and start protecting everybody else in the world.

Well see, I read it the other way. It's like we're gonna put our nose in (inaudible).

See, I took it the opposite way. We need to protect America first, we need to protect our borders now.

Yes.

We need to concentrate on home and what's going on here and feed the hungry people here. I mean if we gave the millions of dollars to the people here, nobody'd be hungry. But I mean not that we shouldn't give it to other countries, but boy, we give a lot of money to other countries for food and this and that.

Don't we have some of the most advanced weapons?

Not anymore.

Don't we?

It's the whole thing about Intelligence and things like that. We're better than most, but there's a lot of things . . . there's a lot more stuff we could still do. Oh, there's a hell of a lot more stuff we can do.

James Bond!

MODERATOR—OKAY, HOW ABOUT THOSE WHO AGREE WITH THE DEMOCRATIC MESSAGE? WHAT WAS IT ABOUT THAT ONE THAT WON YOU OVER?

Well they said the right stuff.

MODERATOR—WHAT WAS THE RIGHT STUFF?

Everyone cheers in rebuilding the (inaudible).

Yeah, everyone shares, they're gonna provide the armed forces with resources. I mean I almost . . . that's why I was kind of wishy-washy, 'cause it almost, it sounds a little bit too good to be true.

Kind of warm and fuzzy.

Yeah, but I mean it's a good idea, but can it really happen? I don't . . . Not if we're having terrorist attacks every two . . . I mean, we do need to keep our country safe right now.

MODERATOR—OKAY. LET'S FLIP TO HANDOUT NUMBER EIGHT, AND THIS IS SOMETHING WE'VE TALKED A LOT ABOUT TONIGHT, YOU GUYS HAVE TALKED A LOT ABOUT TONIGHT, WITH JUST THINGS WITH SPECIFIC GROUPS HAVE ASKED FOR FROM THE GOVERNMENT SINCE SEPTEMBER 11TH, AND THAT CONGRESS IS CONSIDERING DOING, TAKING ACTION ON A LOT OF THESE THINGS.

Oh, that first one makes me sick.

MODERATOR—I JUST WANNA KIND OF GET YOUR REACTION. WE'RE GONNA READ THROUGH ALL OF THEM, THEN I WANNA GET YOUR REACTION TO THIS WHOLE THING.

GIVE A B\$15 BILLION BAILOUT TO THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY, WHICH GOES ENTIRELY TO THE AIRLINE COMPANIES BUT PROVIDES NOTHING FOR THE MORE THAN 100,000 AIRLINE EMPLOYEES LAID OFF AFTER SEPTEMBER 11TH.

PERMANENTLY EXPAND CORPORATE TAX LOOPHOLES LIKE PROPERTY DEPRECIATION AND DEFERRAL OF TAXES ON INCOME EARNED OVERSEAS.

REDUCE THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX RATE, 80 PERCENT OF WHICH GOES TO THOSE EARNING MORE THAN \$200,000 A YEAR.

REPEAL A 15-YEAR-OLD CORPORATE TAX AND MAKE THE REPEAL RETROACTIVE FOR THE ENTIRE 15 YEARS. THIS MEANS FORD MOTOR

COMPANY WOULD BE GIVEN A REBATE CHECK FOR \$2.3 BILLION, IBM WOULD BE GIVEN \$1.4 BILLION AND GENERAL MOTORS WOULD BE GIVEN \$832 MILLION.

STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF PATENTS SO DRUG COMPANIES WHO MAKE ANTIBIOTICS USED TO TREAT ANTHRAX AND OTHER POTENTIAL THREATS COULD SELL MILLIONS OF DOSES TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AT FULL COST WITHOUT ANY COMPETITION FROM SIMILAR GENERIC DRUGS.

I think not.

I think number three still has merit, even though eighty percent of it goes to people earning more than \$200,000 a year, because I think a lot of people got hit with capital gains and (inaudible).

Would this also be the inheritance?

MODERATOR—IT'S JUST THE CAPITAL GAINS TAX.

And I'm not sure . . . I don't really understand number two and what the impact would be on us. So I don't like the whole loophole thing, if it weren't loophole there . . .

(Inaudible) the taxes and it was like, I don't know, these are all these big corporations wanting money back again. And like the airline industries, yeah, they got hit hard and it's a trickle down thing to all these people which I mean affects everybody, but why should they be the only ones to get the money, so the CEO's can still get their four hundred thousand a year or five hundred thousand a year salary?

MODERATOR—WHAT ARE YOU THINK, I MEAN AFTER HEARING ALL THESE THINGS THAT PEOPLE ARE KIND OF GOING TO THE GOVERNMENT AND SAYING . . .

Well, I think that number one, I don't really like it, but for those like United who lost two planes and planes are very, very expensive. You know, the money to go towards them purchasing two new planes or whatever. You know, their losses . . .

They have insurance companies, I mean there's insurance companies for that.

(Many talking at once.)

You know, a simple mentality when the country first started, laissez faire, you know, just do what you want, as long as it's not monopolistic. We're helping, the Government is helping businesses stay in business, and I don't think that's what the Government should be in business of. It's not laissez faire.

MODERATOR—DO ANY OF YOU FEEL LIKE MAYBE SOME OF THESE COMPANIES ARE TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF (INAUDIBLE)?

Oh, yeah.

Absolutely.

They'd already be going out of business, a lot of them.

MODERATOR—AND SO A LOT OF THEM WERE FACING THE PROBLEMS THEY'RE FACING BEFORE IT HAPPENED, YOU KNOW?

Yeah. I mean this is an excuse.

MODERATOR—WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT?

Well, it's pretty lame.

They're just as bad as the terrorists.

(Many talking at once.)

I actually think it's an impressive (inaudible) because they can get away with it. I mean, I don't think they should get away with it, but you know . . .

Gosh we all have pitfalls, look at all the problems in our life. Why is it that these companies, when they have something major to them, they get saved, you know, they get a crutch. I think that's what bothers a lot of us, that . . . that there's an individual that's hurting.

MODERATOR—THERE'S NOT GONNA BE A FIFTEEN BILLION DOLLAR KIM BAIL-OUT FOR YOU?

Thanks, no taxes on that please.

Ten thousand dollars and that would help.

MODERATOR—DO YOU THINK ANYTHING SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THE (INAUDIBLE) OR IS THAT KIND OF THE NATURE OF THIS BUSINESS?

Well I think they should, like I said, I think they should support an help companies because of the situation. But it seems really excessive to me. I don't know why we can't have some sort of, you know, maybe give the airline industry, you know, didn't we already give them five billion dollars? Didn't the Government already give them five billion dollars?

We should give them low interest loans. That would be a good deal.

A loan would be a good idea.

But is fifteen million a lot to the airlines industry?

That's what I was thinking. How much is fifteen million . . . to us that's like a lot of money. But like to replace an airplane . . .

Well I guess I find it interesting that they don't want the Government to regulate them, they don't want the Government in their business at all, but the minute something goes wrong, they want the Government right there.

Right.

Well, it's all these people suing everybody and to pay off all these lawsuits. People in this country are too darned lawsuit happy.

It's like when things are going their way, I don't know, I guess that's kind of like what I said about the police. When things are going their way, but I don't know.

MODERATOR—OKAY, WELL OBVIOUSLY WE FOCUSED A LOT TONIGHT ON KIND OF THIS IDEA OF DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS AND YOU KNOW, EVEN GIVEN EVERYTHING THAT THERE IS GOING ON IN THE COUNTRY, POLITICS MARCHES ON JUST LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE AND THERE WILL BE CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS IN ALMOST A YEAR FROM NOW. GIVEN EVERYTHING WE'VE TALKED ABOUT TONIGHT AND EVERYTHING YOU BROUGHT INTO THE ROOM BEFORE THIS, REGARDLESS OF WHICH WAY YOU PLAN ON VOTING, WHAT DO YOU THINK ARE THE BEST REASONS TO VOTE FOR REPUBLICANS FOR CONGRESS?

I think because they want immediate answers, they want to solve immediate issues. Whereas we draw the issues here, all the Democratic issues are long term now. We have to look long term, we do, but I think we keep pushing things off, you know, and looking long term is good, but you've gotta come right back to today.

MODERATOR—OKAY. WHO ELSE? WHAT'S THE BEST REASON TO VOTE FOR REPUBLICANS FOR CONGRESS?

I would think of the good old boy that was strong on the Republican side so they will probably get things done quicker.

That's true.

But that seems to be a (inaudible) thing these days, and (inaudible).

I do kind of like the idea of giving you know, having less Government control so everyone can take care of their own (inaudible), have more of a personal choice of financial aspects.

MODERATOR—ALL RIGHT. FLIP SIDE. GIVE ME THE BEST REASON TO VOTE FOR DEMOCRATS FOR CONGRESS.

Environment.

They're more touchy-feely too.

There will be a lot of social programs in place if you do have a problem.

Long term solutions, more of the long term solutions to the energy, you know, that kind of thing.

Health care.

So there's a balance between Democrats and Republicans.

There is something to be said to that.

Oh, yeah! You need both. You need to have . . . I don't think it'd be very good to have all of one or all of the other.

That's scary.

MODERATOR—WELL, GIVEN EVERYTHING WE'VE TALKED ABOUT HERE, FLIP TO HANDOUT NINE. YOU GOT TWO CHOICES. CIRCLE THE ONE THAT YOU WOULD VOTE. AGAIN, YOU GOTTA CHOOSE, I MEAN THIS ISN'T BINDING, YOU KNOW, I'M NOT GONNA SEND THIS TO . . . WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO IS TO CHOOSE ONE AND THEN JUST REAL BRIEFLY WRITE DOWN WHY YOU VOTED THAT WAY. WHAT MADE YOU CHOOSE THAT?

MODERATOR—WE'RE ALL DONE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TIME. YOU WERE VERY HELPFUL.

(End of Tape)