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Thurman/Garlits Debate - Gainesville, Florida - October 25, 1994

Karen Thurman

Good evening to all of you and thank you for being here tonight. You know, I ran for Congress just two years ago to make some changes in the way this country was running and I have to tell you that I think we've done a pretty good job so far in just two years. In fact, we have brought the deficit down. People always think we haven't, but in fact that is true, and we've brought it down well. We've actually created some good news for you in the fact that we're looking at about 4.6 million new jobs that have been created in the private sector. We've looked at reforming student loan programs so that they're not going to cost as much. In fact, the University of Florida was one of those campuses chosen for the first direct loan. Look at reform as it relates to Congress--for the first time, Congress will be under the same work place laws as the private sector. That's been a major issue in this country to bring it about. And then I've worked on some things individually--things that I've been taught over the last several years with the responsibility that I've been involved in both the local level and then with the state legislature. The first one would be the illegal immigrants. For the first time, Florida will receive a period of dollars, or a group of dollars, coming back for incarceration of illegal aliens. That means that's less dollars that have to come out of the state that should be used for education. We also looked at water issues, the future issue of this state and have been for a long time, and that was to look at alternative sources to find dollars available so that places to the south of us would actually come under the alternative sources being used instead of having to pipe water from northern counties. Those were issues that we brought our experience in state legislature from our experience at the local level and certainly something that needs to be dealt with at the federal level.

First of all, my company here tonight, is I want you to hear the differences in the views of the candidates that are running for Congress. And I am asking for your support on November 8th and I thank you.

Big Daddy Don Garlits

Thank you very much for coming. I'm not a politician, never thought I'd have to be--62 years old--I should be retired. As I look at this great nation of ours, I feel it's a lost cause. It seems to me like we need some good common sense government. The experience that I would take to Washington is that of a successful marriage of 41 years, two wonderful daughters and four great grandchildren. I been in small business since 1956 by employing hundreds of youngsters that didn't have the opportunity to go to college. They still wanted to make a life for themselves. We trained them, they went on to be successful businessmen even today.

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I paid my taxes, I have payroll every Friday and unlike Congress, I always balance my books.

When I travel through this district, there's one thread that runs right through it. I hear it everywhere. Government, especially the federal government, has grown too big, it taxes too much, and it has involved itself into our personal lives way beyond what it was ever meant to be. And I believe that about the taxes because we are now working, ladies and gentlemen, since July 10 just to pay for government. But my opponent saw fit to pass the largest tax increase in the history of this nation with a single vote. She could have voted no, but she voted yes, and that's why I'm in this race. That was the one that got my attention. That was supposed to be on the rich people and it wasn't. It was on the poor people, the middle class and it was on our At this rate, it boils down to one issue: is government too big, or is it too small. I show you the Constitution of the United States of America it's 61 pages. I can pass it around and everyone of you will be able to understand what's in this valuable sacred document of ours. It has run this country for over 200 years. It guarantees each and everyone of you to life, liberty and pursuit of happiness regardless of your race, religion or creed. And I have it before your eyes the Clinton health care plan. Take a look at it--you have 1450 pages of regulations, 55 new bureaucracies, and if this gets passed, our freedom is gone. Amen.

OK. Thanks for the opening statements. And we'll begin with our first question--we direct this to Representative Thurman.

Q. Representative Thurman, many voters are disillusioned with the role of political asset money, known as PAC money. You've accepted thousands of dollars in the past from the National Rifle Association and you voted against the Brady Bill. You've accepted thousands of dollars from a medical PACs, insurance PACs and money from labor and agricultural interests and you voted against NAFTA. How do you defend the selection of PAC money and can you honestly tell voters that it in no way affects the way you might vote.

KT First of all, you look at PAC contribution. Many of them, four, five groups right here in the university. Agriculture plays a very large significant part of the state of Florida, in fact, it is the second largest industry in the state of Florida. Many of you know the Institute for Food Sciences here on the university campus. Teachers are all over this country. Nurses are from within this district. Farmers are from within this district. As far as the NRA part of it, because of just what you've mentioned, I chose not to take money from the NRA this time, specifically because I did not want the record of the Brady Bill or the assault weapons issue to become an issue of money, but something of personal conviction. If you look at the different issues as relates as

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PAC's

far as, you mentioned doctors or medical, let me suggest to you that even though Mr. Garlits may make fun of the health security act, everything major issue of health care in this country. And let me tell you, I did, in fact, support that piece of legislation, not in total, but yes I did support it. I can guarantee you that some of those mentioned here did not support it. Campaigns unfortunately are very expensive, for I can probably spend close to \$400,000 this time. I don't think campaigns should be for rich people only. I think campaigns ought to be for all Americans who are able, so everybody can serve in Congress. And I can guarantee you as a teacher who made \$12,000 a year when I started off, I couldn't do this and fund this campaign on my own. And so I have relied on them. But you can look at my voting record and you will find that for as much money as we have taken from all interest groups, there will be conflicts in everyone of those votes as far as it relates to the money given to this campaign.

Q. Thank you very much. You have one minute to respond.

DG I'd like to say that when I got married, I made \$.50 cents an hour, that's \$22.00 a week, so she did start off a little bit better than I did. And I believe that the PACs are wrong. I believe that the legislation should be that the PACs should be able to give more than an individual and I don't how many of you know it how much that is, an individual can give \$1,000 in an election cycle and I think that's all the PACs should be able to give. That would give them equal representation with people and I think a corporation should be added to that. Why should a PAC be able to give \$10,000 and a corporation nothing? It's ridiculous. I believe there should be some campaign reform. Now I got a lot of my money out of the state, but it was from individuals mostly. I'm not totally against PACs. I'd just like to see them reform so that couldn't give so much money. But those contributions that came to me from out of state indicate that people all over this country have faith in me to do a good job in Congress, cause when you go, it affects the whole nation, not just your district.

Q. Thank you. This question is directed toward Mr. Garlits. Mr. Garlits, recently we had in Florida, American Civil Liberties Union came on campus to speak. And that's an organization that many students and professors believes tries to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States. You've been quoted as saying you believe the ACLU is bent on destroying the Constitution and have suggested that it should be investigated by the FBI and that several members of the ACLU might be charged with treason against the United States. Could you explain why members of the ACLU, you think, don't defend the Constitution of the United States and why do you

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think they should be federally investigated?

DG I see very few cases that the ACLU has actually defended that I felt should have been and the is the perfect case. There was a gentleman that raped and when he left her in the desert to die, they went to prison, found this guy, got him out, took it to the Supreme Court and never mind the victim, the ACLU has caused this country so much damage that you could fill dictionaries with it. Now a few cases that have come along and helped to defend the Constitution, but the overwhelming evidence, in my humble opinion, is that the ACLU is very detrimental to this nation. Now when I was a youngster, if there was an organization that did so much damage to a nation that government checked into it to see where it came from and what it was about, I bet very few of you in this room would know who the founders of that ACLU are. Tell them to look it up--you've got the books here--go to your books, check it out, find out who formed the ACLU and what's in the charter. I believe it makes the accusation out here. You're the people with the books and the library, you will be very surprised when you find out where they came from and what they're about.

I'd like to respond to a couple of things--the health care--if I have a minute. This that she says has got the good stuff in it. Let me tell you, I know that there are some problems in our health care system, but taking the money out of our society and sending it to Washington and then pulling out the administration fee, we know what that is in Florida, we give back \$.55 cents on the dollar that we send to Washington. How can we possibly send our money that we're now spending on health care to Washington, have them take out the administration fee, and still get the same thing? Ladies and gentlemen, this is nothing more than rationing like it is in all the other countries that went to national health care. Now one other thing, you're young in this school. You'd better think about this real clearly. You're insurance will double--that's exactly what's going to happen. Bill Clinton says it's going to go up slightly. It's going to double if this plan goes through, cause somebodies got to pay the money. And that happens to be the young people.

Q. Answer the original question regarding the ACLU and then he got into health care.

KT Well I did think that this was the United States of America. I thought people had the right to disagree and have differences in their beliefs and have the ability to be protected under the Constitution of this country, whether it's the ACLU or whether it's Lake County that we're concerned about the lack of teaching multi-culturalism within their own areas. If they wanted to make sure that their students have

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that right. I have to tell you that of all the things I think about, the last thing that I'd want is the FBI investigating any of you for believing differently than somebody else does. I don't want big government looking over my back and making sure that I'm not doing what they expect me to do. (Applause!)

Q. This question is directed toward Representative Thurman. Many people feel that the Everglade area in the state of Florida is in apparent environmental danger. But at the same time, it is a necessity to continue to create jobs in the state of Florida. How do you feel we can balance protecting Florida's natural resources with economic success.

KT Let me give you an issue that I worked on when I was in the state legislature, not necessarily the Everglades, but one that dealt with safe drinking water, which was called the Underground Gorge Tank Bill. It particularly did just what you're talking about with balance. In fact, I will tell you today that there are people in this state that will say that we have still because of that piece of legislation. And we did balance the environmental concerns to jobs concern. Specifically looking at something called the early incentive program when we actually asked businesses to come in and tell us whether or not they had a problem. If they had a problem, then what we did is we allowed them to correct it, not put them out of business, but give them the tools to actually correct through a that went into a big that everybody got to use. We also started a third party liability program because they couldn't get insurance. Nobody would write their insurance for them. But most of all, what we did is we cleaned up the problems of gasoline contamination in this state to make sure that are drinking water was safe, and at the same time our businesses continued doing the job that they provided

Q. Thank you. You have a minute to respond to the question regarding the environment.

DG I have to respond on the Constitution first. This Constitution guarantees me your rights and I stand by the Constitution and I did not say that people should be investigated for having different ideas. But when an organization as big as that of the ACLU says the things it does, it needs to be looked into.

As for the environment, it definitely need to look out for the environment as it's very fragile here in the state of Florida, I think that the national
..... when we have Florida industry put out of business by things like spotted owls in California, we

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Q. The next question is directed to you. The number one concern among voters is that involves crime. You recently voted against the Crime Bill is not the right bill, what ... how do you think crime

KT Let me suggest to you, first of all, that on crime, that it would be the most 5% of the crime in this country. Most of your crime issues are dealt with at a state legislature. But we did offer a solution. One, that this legislature, in fact, was grappling with all last year. Specifically in two areas. One was instead of taking the \$33 billion that Congress was going to pass to put the Crime Bill into effect, we were going to take \$12 billion of those dollars, with no strings attached, give those dollars to the state prison system, allowing them to do the construction so that we could make sure that criminals would serve at least 85% of their sentences. The second thing was to go ahead and give it to law enforcement, whether it be law enforcement through your sheriff, chief of police, state patrols, which ever wanted them depending on what the needs were about not what the needs of Congress were. deficit of \$1.6 billion, specifically in illegal immigration. Let me suggest to you that we received Crime Bill, 101 it takes 218 I think we came up with the right solution. Let me suggest to you that they Capitol and sign the Contract with America private sector should have. They want to take that out of there. They want to make into federal programs. They want us to pay for all us spend our money

Q. Mr. Garlits, respond to the crime

DG Well first of all, the way government 3.2% --that's not cutting anything out, and only 3.2% I repeat it again, 3.2% so that you can hear that. ...

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criminals are afraid to come to Florida
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I think that all the illegal immigrants that are in the state
and all those immigrants should be returned immediately. Then
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also believe that the should be taken out
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Q. Thank you. I have a question directed towards you. In Florida, at the mentioned already, illegal immigration is a concern among voters. In California for instance, voters are going to decide at the ballot box whether to cut-off benefits, including health care and public education for illegal immigrants. Would you support a national bill of this nature, or if not, what type of bill do you think would be good for Florida in order to stop this problem?

DG We don't need a bill. All a bill is going to do is get us more pork than It is against the law for illegal aliens to be here. Put them on a boat, put them on a plane, send them home (applause).
.....
You've got to look at this. This is how they're doing business, now they're taking our money away from us. And California spends 10% of state budget on illegal aliens. And listen, I don't know how much more, I can't get the number, but I bet it's about the same. Then I think Congress should have a moratorium on even the legal immigrants to see if maybe we want to stop that for awhile until we get our own house in order because there's always going to be about 300,000 immigrants that you and I as human beings are never going to because these are direct family members and we to keep the families apart. So that's always going to happen--about 300,000. That's about all we can stand right now, folks. We're broke. I gotta keep telling you--we're broke. There is no magic pool of money in Washington. Ms. Thurman thinks we're made of money. We are not made of money. We are broke!

Q. the immigration question.

KT Mr. Garlits, my guess is \$4 trillion dollars that the Republicans still have over a 12 year period of time. I understand I came to the state

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legislature that did (applause) I understand what that means when I don't pay \$7.50 minimum wage. (applause) Let me suggest to you that it's real easy to about the idea of what you're going to do with illegal immigration. Let me give you the ideas that we actually I told you that in this legislative session for the first time Congress is actually repaying the state of Florida as well as California, as well as Texas. Let me suggest to you to be able to find those illegal aliens is to better enforce what you have on your borders. So what we did is actually raised the border patrol to about 4,000 to 6,000 new border patrols so we can stop them from coming over on our borders. We also did some areas where we have picked up and enhanced our automation system and communication equipment so that could, in fact, have deportation.

Q. Thank you. For an answer to the next question, with defense spending being cut in order to balance the budget, but the world obviously remaining a dangerous and unpredictable place, what do you think the role of the United States military should be and will be in the coming years?

KT Well, defense spending has come down and over a period of time, probably from the 1980's to 1990's, and some of what we call What you saw, even in the Gulf War, was in particular, where we actually activated our National Guard armory to take over there and use them. But defense spending has gone down and let me suggest to you that it's also leveled off this last year, recognizing significantly that we do have some volatile places in this world and we are talking today some of those things, specifically to pay for some other things that are happening. Everybody talks about wanting to do something at home and worrying about this country. Some of those and priorities do take some money, and we have got try to keep those monies here in this country to make that difference. I don't know what's going to happen later on, but I tell you that we are going to need to be ready when there is a national security to this country, we will be ready.

Q. Thank you. Your response to military cuts.

DG I have to repeat, there is no critical money to keep sending down here for immigrants. I mean, she keeps saying that there's going to be money from Washington. We have to send that money to Washington first. I don't think they quite understand that. But I will this about defense, we are dangerously low. The Pentagon says that our defenses are now below what the absolute minimum should be. I believe that a safe nation is a strong nation. We have a lot of little

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crazies around this planet and it would be nice to know that we were safe and we had a defense that could make here in this country if we got in any kind of a problem. We also have a big China over there. So don't think that it's a safe world. We have lived in safety now for a number of years and it's because we're strong. We don't want to lose that position.

Q. Thank you Mr. Garlits. This question is to you. The public school system which provides education for millions of Florida's youngsters is under budget strains and also at the same time, parents are worried that they can no longer provide safe education or good education in the public schools. What ideas do you have to improve public school education and to improve the state of education in general?

DG Well this will go in direct contrast with my talk about federal government should get out of education. The federal level should be cancelled and it should come back to the state, and even more power even in the area of the community. This is where the problem lies. We spend more in this country to educate our children than any country in the world and we're way down on the SAT scores. And it's because of silly things that are taking up the time in the classroom--we're not increasing the time that students go to school, but we're teaching multi-culturism, we're teaching sex education, we're teaching how to put on condoms. All of this ridiculous stuff. Now that's alright if you want to stay after school and learn that stuff--that's what we did when I went to school (laughter). We've got to get back to basics if we're going to turn out students who can read and write (applause).

Q. You can hold the applause. Let them all have their time. Representative Thurman, about public education.

KT In the State Senate, we actually started what is called "School Days Management," specifically so that we could get the Department of Education and have it back to the local controls, giving your elected school board their responsibilities. But we also looked at it from a stand point of trying to bring parents, teachers, students and business people system. Local schools, not just at the school board level, to make decisions as what was best. Where were the deficiencies, what were the problems that those teachers and that's what we need to work on, and give that local control back to them along with a local flexibility. But if we took everything out of the federal government, as you suggest, we would no longer have any of the title programs which are for those of the disadvantaged--reading, writing and math. Those are your three basic areas that you try to help build level. Those would be gone. That is part of what is in at the federal level in education. We also did remember the National Service Act to provide an opportunity

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for people to work in their communities, and get an opportunity to go back to college with those credits.

Q. Thank you very much, Representative Thurman. Times up. Question to you Representative Thurman. The idea of term limits seems to have caught fire in the United States as well as in the state of Florida. Do you support the term limits movement and would you be willing to set a limit on how many terms you yourself would serve if it were passed?

KT Well, I do not support term limits. I have not ever supported term limits. It was not where I was in the last election when I was asked either. You know, my dad was a B-52 gunner in the Air Force, fought for this country and I have to tell you that I think that he would be disturbed to think that we were taking somebodies choices away. What you're asking somebody to do is not be given the opportunity to vote for whom they want to. I think that is wrong. You have to look at even in Congress or the state legislatures at the turn over. I think it's something like 60% of Congress has turned over since 1990. That suggests to me that you have done term limits and you've done it through the voting booth and that's what the term limits amendment that has been However, just saying that, I also recognize that Florida passed the constitutional amendment, one in which the people in this state, went out, got their signatures and, in fact, had that opportunity, some my personal opinion is that ... And as far as setting my own term limits, let me suggest to you that I served seven years on City Council to prepare myself while I was seeking to understand what the community that I was going to represent. Then I went to the State Senate. I would stay there no more than 10 years. I found that was plenty of time. I took the work that I had done in the State Senate and transferred it to work that I would be doing in Congress. So set my own limits on myself as far as But do I believe in term limits, no.

Q. Thank you. Your views on term limits Mr. Garlits.

DG I believe in term limits because two years. You're only supposed to go you're supposed to be a citizen in the community, wanting to do for people that knew something about what the people in that particular community wanted. When I'm there, they took care of the they took care of their farms until you came back. I believe what would be good if we also planned to I believe that district, even if this is what the people think and spend six months in Washington. This will give ultimately the people to our congressmen and to access to.

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Q. Thank you. The next question directed to you. As you might know, Gainesville is in the process of having a vote on a referendum dealing with a gay rights ordinance. In the federal government and Congress sometimes sexual orientation issues do appear as happened in the debate over the military that has a "no tell" policy. Could you talk about what your feelings are regarding issues of homosexual rights and how you would stand as a congressman.

DG First of all, homosexuality is not my bag (laughter)
..... I don't think that you should have any special right as a homosexual, any more so than my wife I believe that this is a thing and what you do in your bedroom, in your privacy is your business. My position, I'm a Christian, it doesn't go along with what I do. That doesn't dictate what you do. That's your own choice. But special rights, absolutely not, because what is it going to be next. Special rights for something because I have a German Shepard dog or I have special rights because I have a Rottweiler? (applause) I mean we can everything special rights. But no, two of my best friends are homosexual (laughter) but there that's their thing, I've got mine.

Q. With the remaining time, military question too.

DG OK. The military--now that's a real sensitive area. I was 17 years old, I was in the National Guard, a big sergeant had me dig a fox hole for him and I had to sleep in there with him at night. And I don't have to tell you the rest of the story. Gays do not belong in the military, I'm sorry.

Q. Thank you.

KT I support the "don't ask, don't tell" determination. The second half of your question though is something that each and everyone of you is going to have to dig down into your own pulse and your heart. I don't live in Gainesville and I don't live in County. The issue that has been brought to you before your community can make some decision on discrimination. I don't believe in discrimination. I think it is the wrong thing to do. I think we're building the country up hatred. This is the time when we should be healing--not pulling people down. So I feel very strongly that you're going to have that opportunity to vote. And I hope you exercise that opportunity. So you make sure that you live in the community that you want to live in.

Q. Thank you. The next question is directed toward you. It deals with welfare reform which is the topic that will probably come up to vote in Congress in the next year.

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President Clinton has suggested that there might be a call for a welfare reform system that would put a limit on two years on recipients and other types of limits. What ideas do you have for reforming the welfare system?

KT

(We actually worked with a group called Main Street Forum which is a sort of moderate, conservative Democrat in the Congress to look at the welfare reform issue. And specifically, to break some trends here. Let me suggest to you that in constituent that came to me was on welfare. She was very upset because she had received a Pell Grant to go back to school. She had two children. Her parents had been on welfare. She said Mrs. Thurman, I don't want to be here anymore. I want a different life than I have today. Guess what happened to her when she got that telegram? Her income was too high for her to continue to have her benefits that were helping her put food on the table and medicine for her child. She said what am I supposed to do--how am I supposed to do this? So what we looked at was to provide the two years with the tools and the available to them. If they happen to need Medicaid or they needed ASPC or they needed some kind of food stamps, that we would allow that and provide that for that two year period of time as well as day care. Day care being a big part of this issue in providing day care services for them. Putting that through a two year program rather it was to gather an whether is was to make up a training program and a vocational issue. Then at the end of two years, give them a period of time to get on their feet--six months--whatever it is. And then take them off the assistance that they been gaining over the last several years. This is the way to work and put people back to work and I think it's a good idea.

Q. Mr. Garlits, your thoughts on welfare reform.

DG First of all, you've got a 12 year old in a doctor's office waiting for pre-natal care and she' somethings wrong. A 15 patient is sick. An 18 year old graduate that can't read or write and you're 21 years old something is wrong in America. I saw we give these young couple from the beginning of time encourage these youngsters to get married, we give them a five year opportunity \$500 or \$600 then this money will continue to come in amount of money you give them encourage them to use contraceptives. If you take a young couple with a child, five years together Ladies and gentlemen, totally destructive. This is

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why we have so much juvenile crime. Now this
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Q. Thank you Mr. Garlits. Mr. Garlits, I'd like to ask you your opinion on what you would recommend.

DG
Anybody over 25 years of age
..... insurance.
young people 100
years
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..... \$600 billion dollars.

Q. Your response. Since the health care plan what would you

KT ~~Let me first suggest~~ that this requires government involvement in health care system, probably about 40-50% of people in this country are in a government program, whether it be Medicaid or Medicare. And so use that. The Health Security Act built on was not about government becoming involved in I took an issue of looking at three things--universal coverage, because while they talk about maybe that the young people don't want insurance, I don't believe that. I believe they do want health insurance (applause). Let me suggest to you where the cost is, and that's for people that aren't paying up front. That the indigent health care. We're forced to provide universal coverage so that everybody was paying into it so they'd have to drop the cost. The other two issues are basically looking at the demographics of the districts that I represent. One was to look at pharmaceutical assistance because that is a major issue for people that live in this district--the second largest senior population in the state of Florida. That means that I have people that have choose between drugs in the legal sense of drugs

Q. Thank you Representative Thurman This question is directed toward you. The notion of family values is viewed with a great deal of popular interest in political family values which might mean different things to different people. What does that issue mean to you and does government have any role in that issue and what role might that be?

KT Well, I guess I should start with maybe the history of myself.

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I've been married now for 21 years, but I'm working on it. I have two children--I have 16 and 17 year old. And so you tell that I'm very active with my family and I try to stay with my family. I work hard with my family--we play together. What government ought to be doing is nothing as far as family values. But we ought to be providing for this future so that people have an opportunity to stay together. That we're not pushing people apart because economically they can't stay together. We ought not to you can get if in fact you don't have a husband. I think that's the wrong message that we're sending to our families. I think we should put our families together. I think we should be providing opportunities for families to play and share them. But I don't see government having a role in that. I think this is a role of your family. This is your church, this is your community, these are the things that you do together. It's not about government playing a part of your family. You need to do that yourself. (applause)

Family
values
never
get
spooned!

Q. Mr. Garlits, what is your view on family values.

DG Well I do agree with Ms. Thurman on that. Government shouldn't be involved in your family. There's one thing that I did, that's helping the underprivileged because now that the young lady that's getting welfare have their children out of wedlock, so the government is involved in that. So I would just like to see people involved in putting families together. But I just can't hardly believe that Ms. Thurman said that this health care plan wasn't about the government being involved. There's over 55 government agencies involved in this plan. This has to be government involvement. And far as prescription drugs go, why is it that the Americans pay sometimes six times as much for the same prescription drug as some in Europe and other countries. This is something that should be looked into. Our American people should have the same advantages as foreigners have when it comes to buying our prescription drugs. This would very well solve the problem in itself.

Q. Mr. Garlits, I have a question from the audience. It deals a little bit with the defense issue that we talked about earlier, but more specifics. It talks about international policy in hot spots such as Haiti, Bosnia, Somalia, the Middle East. What do you think the US' role is in any of these regions and should this be a time when we are more active or start pulling back?

DG I don't believe the United States of America should be in countries that if you dial 911, we come running. We can't afford it and we're right back to the same thing. We've got over a billion dollars we've spent down there in Haiti and Haiti is no threat to this country whatsoever. The fact the

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matter is, the embargo that we put on Haiti has caused more damage than anything else any little two bit dictator could have ever done. If we wanted to help Haiti, we should have sold arms to those people and let them over-throw (applause). As far as the world goes, there are some things wrong in the world and I'm not against a world police force with equal people in this force and equal amount of money paying for this. Just like here. You've got a police force here and everybody look after everybody. Well, that's the way it should be in the UN. If we pay the major portion of the money, we send the major portion of the troops, the major portion of the equipment, it's like we're the police. I think this is wrong, I think everyone should participate equally and if they won't, then we'll just get out of the UN and save our money for ourselves. (applause)

Q. What is our military role in the world today?

KT Well, let's talk about Haiti. We have a in the beginning, I did not support going in there and taking over Haiti. Colin Powell, Jimmy Carter and those went down there, came back with what they thought was an agreement and a role that the Americans could play. And that's what they did. But interestingly, we've heard about illegal immigration all night tonight, and yet here was a perfect example to put their country back on the road so that we could send the immigrants that have come over here back to Haiti, because that's where they wanted to be anyway. They were coming over here to get away from not a nice situation and we're talking about not playing any kind of role. I think we would have ended up with more Haiti immigrants than anything else. As far as Bosnia, I was one of those that said I think we should let them fight their battle. The Middle East, I think the other issue over there is security for this country. We ought to be participating and quite honestly, if we have done the job right the first time, we wouldn't have to back there now. (applause)

Q. I have another question from the audience and this question has to do with if you support the line item veto for the President, if you support the A-Z plan, which would have spending items, you know, running the

KT I know exactly what the Yes I did support the line item veto Let me suggest that I don't think you should give any administration total power over and line item veto. Of course, ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you that it has nothing to do with it. It has to do with the fact that political needs that come up within your district. For example, the Brain Institute at the University of Florida, the

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VA Hospital for \$18m for ambulatory services. I voted against NAFTA, I voted against the Crime Bill. I don't want the President to come down here and say to me, Oh by the way, Karen, your constituents aren't going to get what they need because you voted against these things. That is the wrong message. Do I believe the the line item veto forget to look at those issues and if he makes that decision, and then it comes back to Congress and we can get the support of 50 signatures from Congress to bring up the issue that he line itemed, you bet. It's not to give the total power as it relates to the President of the United States or the Governor of the State of Florida. Secondly, A-Z A-Z was a bill that I was actively involved in. It was an issue to deal with spending cuts. It was an issue to have 56 hours of debate on the floor of the House, specifically to look at ways to cut. And I signed the discharge petition. I looked at one of those 260 whatever that signed the bill, and didn't have the guts to sign the discharge petition because you know what, I think the only way that we true deficit reduction and understanding of the problems in this country, is to have Congress debate them and I was willing to put that on the line for Congress to debate the issue of this country. (applause)

Q. Thank you. Mr. Garlits, regarding line item veto and the A-Z bill.

DG First, I want to finish up on the embargo. It was Bill Clinton and his campaign promises to Haiti that caused us to have so much immigration illegally plus the embargo, the people were starving to death was no place for them to go. If Bill Clinton had not said what he did in his campaign speech about Haiti, were it not for the embargo, we wouldn't have the immigration problem. But I support the line item veto and it isn't a total power for the president because the Congress has two-thirds majority overriding any thing that he makes But don't you understand that if two-thirds of Congress to agree to something, it has to be something that's pretty good for the whole nation. Now that's my position. It's got to be good for the district, not hurt the nation, good for the nation, not hurt the district. That's the only way I'd vote for anything. And let me tell you, if projects for this university are good, than Congress are going to give them to you. So we cannot give up on education and not fool people and know what the country needs. But there are so many irons that get through on these bills, thousands and thousands of them, and we spend about \$100 billion dollars a year on pork barrel projects and line item veto is necessary.


Q. Thank you Mr. Garlits. Another question from our audience. It seems to suggest that young people are particularly concerned with issues of race, and they're wondering in this

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question, how would you rate of state of race relations in the district and country during this election year, and what kind of role again does government play in trying to solve and heal some of those race problems? And also, in some of the programs, some of the disparity between different races?

DG Race relations in this district are pretty good. But in the country they're not good. They're in terrible shape in lots of places. We've got to do something about it. Now I'll tell you a little story that I ran into down in Pasco County. This lady came up to me and she said I was raised in New Jersey and my children were in New Jersey, and she said we have always, we've had black people living around us all the time. And she said I come down here to Florida and now they have some special programs for black children and they take them into the program and they won't let my children in there, and they are beginning to drive this wedge between the black children and the white children and I never taught my children to be like that. She said I don't know what we're going to do. I've talked to the school, they won't do anything about it. We have got to stop that kind of foolishness. This is a free country, everybody has got to have equal rights. We can't give one group something that we don't give another group. If something is available to one, we have went overboard in allowing these issues and it is causing a problem. I see it travelling around this country. We don't see it so much in this district--we're pretty good because we're comfortable in most of the race relations are real good. But when you get into these big cities, there is a serious problem and the government is a lot to blame for it because they have done things that have shown partiality. And I can give you a little hint for something to grasp to show you what I'm talking about. We have a black teenager shot a tourist in north Florida and we And what happened? The federal government sent Janet Reno down here in a plane to make sure that everything was going to be alright. That's racism as far as I'm concerned and the government was practicing it.

Q. Thank you. Your response to problem of race relations.

 KT Well let me suggest that ^(on the) in this district since we're bordered by a minority access, ~~that there is only 2% minorities in the entire district~~, and in this district, they cover nine counties. So I suggest to you that there are no race problems in this district, but of there's only being about 2%. One of the things that I think happened was the back in 1982. What was the first time in the state's suggestion was that we actually have three black members and Hispanic members in Congress because of the minority, because of the 1982 decision. We've provided opportunity to have them be there, to listen to them, to give their suggestions, to

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give the concerns that were within their communities. They no longer are locked out. It's not all white males that are elected to Congress from the state of Florida anymore. We finally have an opportunity to see everybody participate, even the women. (applause)

Q. Thank you. During this campaign, President Clinton promised a middle class tax cut. So far that hasn't come to fruition. He suggested that might be part of his agenda next year. Do you support a middle class tax cut and if you do or don't, what other tax reform type of plan do you support?

KT Well, let me suggest to you that I don't know that President Clinton said he would try to do that in the next session because in my estimation, if you look at the earned income tax credit which covers about 15 million working families, not people on welfare, not people above a certain level of income, but working families that are making about \$28,000, they actually got a tax increase this last year through the income tax credit. We also sent to those who are working seniors. If you're a widow or a widower and you're out there doing \$4.25/hour job and that doesn't take you out of poverty, you also will be getting an earned income tax credit. Ladies and gentlemen, that is a middle class break there for the first time. We also took small businesses, you know, they kept saying Oh, you're going to hurt. Let me tell you, 95% of businesses in this district never even saw anything. If anything, they saw a tax break. We said to them, you get to take 25% of your health care insurance premium off your taxes. You get to have a capital expenditure from \$10,000 to \$17,000. So there actually were several issues within that reconciliation that did give working families a tax credit and income.

Q. Your ideas on tax reform, Mr. Garlits.

DG So far, I've found it interesting after I got into this district and travelled completely throughout it, that only about 25% of it was black people. Just thumbing through this district I find it interesting that she'd do it like that There is something else. Who ever has the most obnoxious rules for small business of anything I've seen. One thing that I travelled throughout this district, and I've talked to small businesses, you can't believe how straight and far it has come down on our small business community. And this community will employ about 80% of people in this nation of ours. And the small business is not one that's going to itself under NAFTA over to Tiawain. This is employer When these rules were put into place, it just didn't happen yesterday. It takes about two to four years to get all the bureaucracies in place and guess who went to the Senate when all that was going on. There she is--

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10 years--when all this was happening. Now it's all coming to roost. Our small business is being destroyed. We're going to have to do something about it.

Q. The next question is along the same lines. This question creation of high tech jobs, particularly now being considered by any global economy . What type of ideas do you think you could come up with that would provide Florida in the next century with high tech jobs?

DG I'll tell you, the first thing you better have is you better not pass GATT because today in this age that we live in, finances and technology are able to be transferred instantly, electronically any place in this world. Now if we can do that in your big company, and you can go to Vietnam and you can have 47 people working for what you can have one in the United States of America, it doesn't take a long time just to figure out where the industry with the very challenge that you're talking about are going to go. Because this industry that we're looking at needs to be right here. So they better not pass GATT. The President's got it up there and they are going to put some serious pressure on the Democrats to get that thing through, because the Democrats control Congress right now and they could get anything they wanted if the President could just get them all in line. Thank God there's a few conservative ones up there that are building hope on the other side of the aisle. But if they pass GATT, this country is in trouble. You won't be getting any kind of industry here because who would rather have 47 people versus one. It makes a lot of difference in the bottom line of a big company.

Q. Representative Thurman, your ideas of bringing high tech jobs to Florida.

KT Let me suggest to you that when we talked about defense earlier, one of things that we're doing is defense conversion today. And one of the things that we're trying to do is take the dollars that have been spent on defense to train those in technology. Let's talk about that. How come we can't use this defense technology that we have used, for example, I talked a little bit about water in the beginning. Why can't we take the Navy and use the resources that they have to solve the problems with our water problems with using that technology for years, there's an opportunity. How about the issues on this campus with solar energy--great way to look at renewal resources. And there is a lot of opportunity going on with solar energy today and also an environmental clean up with solar energy. Let me also suggest to you that we did a bill this year to transfer from the university level technology that's being developed to go into manufacturing. And then on top of that that budget reconciliation we talked about for 50% capital

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gains for those businesses or those entrepreneurs that would like to invest for a five year period of time. Those are some ways to bring about some jobs for this country.

Q. Thank you Representative Thurman. Thank you Mr. Garlits. That concludes all the questions that we have. And at this time we're going to have both candidates finish with some conclusion statements. Two minutes each. And we're going to begin with Mr. Garlits.

DG I have listened to common sense, no nonsense candidate. I believe our country is in trouble. I believe we need to make some changes. We need to make a lot of reform. I signed the Contract with America. I'm proud of it. I went all through the district to talk with the people, just like you, businesses, home owners, families and the things they talked about were things that they wanted. Almost everyone points out that they can't put pieces of legislation if we want to pass them. I think it's a great idea. You know what your congressman is going to talk about, what he is going to pass before he ever goes up there. It's a new idea. I would like to see the agenda from the Democrats, what they have in mind. I'm afraid we wouldn't like it if we saw it. But we've got reforms in Congress and we've got bills that are a lot of good things to America. Things like a balanced budget amendment, line item veto, term limits, the job creation act, common sense legal reform. Just to touch on that, this is one of the things that's wrong with our health care system is malpractice. One of our doctors in pays over \$400,000 for liability insurance that is passed onto the patient. There's a lot of things we can do. Sign a contract we can to go over the PA..... see it and read it. smaller government, competition, it's not against the Constitution, but I am against things like this. Vote for me, Don Garlits, on November 8. Thank you. (applause)

Q. And now a closing statement by Representative Thurman.

KT Well again, let me thank you all for being here and being so patient with us. Let me let you know some other things that we did in Congress this year that have not been talked in the past. How about the Family Incentive Relief Act, the one that provides so that when our families when we have some sickness in there are not going to be taken out of their jobs, but doesn't How about the Voter Motor Bill so that we can make access and give access to more people to vote in this country. How about Clinic Access Bill where we're not going to keep doctors murdered anymore. That we're going to try to make it so that we don't have these problems in the country. How about the idea of making sure that

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children can start off with a good foundation and so that they can succeed when they get into school. How about finance, campaign finance reform. We sponsored it in the House, the Senate filibustered it, we didn't get it or the lobbying reform in both of those situations. So I believe that we started in that area. We also did the reduction in government that they keep talking about wanting to do. We did 252,000. And by six years, it will be 273,000. Our work force will be smaller than it was in the Kennedy administration. I think that's a pretty significant cut. I think we've done well. We started the debate in health care. Maybe it didn't get finished and maybe Congress won't finish it up there. But I guarantee you're going to start seeing more and more market-driven solutions to these problems than you did before we started this debate when Clinton got elected. And I think you're going to start seeing that. We saw reorganization in the Department of Agriculture to reorganize. An issue that he talks about was small businesses. I specifically passed something. Some of you may know about this on risk assessment, cost benefit analysis. Putting some priorities in government spending, making us look at what our risks are, and what the cost is, if it's a good issue, a issue for this country. Most of all, I think that you see the difference between the two candidates. You've read some of his statements and I am going to ask you if you look at all of those, and on November 8th. Thank you. (applause)

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