

the Contract With America. We'd stand out across the country, and we'd campaign for each other and we'd make money for each other and we built enthusiasm. Then, of course, the historic election of 1994 when we took over the House and the Senate. And it was an incredibly difficult thing after that because then we had to fulfill the promise we made that we do the Contract With America in 100 days. And we did that. Then we got into the really tough work which was having to put a budget on the President's desk to balance it in six or seven years and make all those difficult decisions, take on all the controversial groups that the previous 20 Congresses had failed to do. And we did all of that. And you know the history--the President vetoed it, we had a government shutdown and all of the rest. But this election is about, really is about, whether the country still believes, and I think the country believes in its heart and its gut, that we have to balance the budget. We cannot add this trillion and trillion dollar and trillion dollars to the deficit, pass it onto our kids and expect them to pay for it. But the question is, do we have the nerve to move forward while the AFL-CIO is spending \$35 or \$50 or \$100 million dollars trying to scare us into believing that we are not the country that we thought we were. I always tell the senior citizens that between now and election day is Halloween. And we've just got to kind of walk past all those ghouls and goblins and people trying to scare you and do what you know is right and go to the polls and don't believe the lies they're telling you about Medicare. We talked about Presidential campaigns. I encounter some interesting things out here. I campaign everyday and spend time in shopping centers just about everyday and one of the things I encountered is people who want Dole to win, but have given up. The other thing I encounter, which is interesting, is people who--I was talking to a guy yesterday, probably 70 years old, who said, 'You know, you've got to give it to Bob Dole. He is not taking this campaign down to the mud. I've got to give it to Bob Dole. He really went out to California and told those movie makers to start worrying about what the kids do. I've got to give it to Bob Dole. He really does have more integrity than Bill Clinton.' I said well what you've got to give Bob Dole now is your vote. He said, 'well I don't think I can do that.' (laughter) It's the strangest phenomenon. The polls keep telling you everybody in the country willingly believes that Dole is the better candidate, has more integrity, has more ability, he won't bend under pressure, better in foreign affairs, better in domestic affairs. Everybody says he's a better guy, then they say well I think I'm going to vote for Clinton. What that means is it's soft. Clinton's support is soft. It's not committed. When I first thought about running for Congress, I took a poll soon after I spoke about running, and the poll came back Kostmeyer was at 49 and I was at 19. And I thought, well maybe I shouldn't do this. He's 30 points ahead of me. I'll never catch up. My pollster says "you're going to win. I said, how do you know?" He said because Kostmeyer has been around for 16 years and he's below 50%. He's made all the friends he's going to make. He can't make any more. Everyone has decided that

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with the..... to offer something they like are already with it. They needed 49 and you're at 19. And you can only grow. And since to know you is to love you, all you have to do is go out and meet people. We walked the coals over the course of the next year and a half and he stayed right where he was and we just kept climbing and finally on election day, we were Clinton is consistently right about 50% or a little below. He's not going up. Yes, Dole is double digits behind. He is going up. It will tighten. People will focus on this in the last couple of weeks. Do not be disheartened. We can do this. It would make all the difference in the world if the public and Congress had Bob Dole to work with just for four years--two to four years--we could show the country finally, without all this background of a President trashing everything that we try to do to save the country and I think the Republican party would find number one, get the wisdom it needs in running the government so that we do, and the first two years We will, I believe, keep the House of Representatives in Republican hands primarily because the realignment in the South is complete. The South has decided that the Civil War is over. It's ok to join Abraham Lincoln's party now and they're doing that and I think the vacancies down there will fall into our hands. But it is tough. If this AFL-CIO barrage of absolutely deceitful, vicious attack ads is taking its toll. And we have some members who are really just trying like heck to stay alive. So I want to turn this floor over to Dave, but thank you again for your support and thank you for being among that very, very kind element of society, far less than 1% who actually cared enough about this country, not to just sort of sit back just for the ride, but to get your hands on the wheel and make progress.

Q. What are you going to do in the Senate

A. Well, you know I'm not sure that I can give you a good answer because I'm still focussed on the House and I'm on the committee--I'm on the Incumbent Retention Committee, which means we raise money only from incumbents. Each incumbent is expected to put money into the fund, and we only give it to incumbents and other committees. So I just focus on that and the polling and I really haven't looked into the Senate all that much. It's the same problem. You know, we can watch this race for Bradley's old seat between Dick Zimmer, who is one of the finest men in Congress, a fine guy, bright and decent, conscientious, newspaper, super guy, and Torricelli, who in my opinion, is exactly the opposite. But they run these ads that Zimmer cuts mammograms and cuts Medicare. And you know the way this works. May be you don't. But what happens is, he's running these ads that Dick Zimmer cuts mammograms. will have some bill having to do with the Department of Defense or something, and right before he passes, some Democrat will say I move that we report this bill back to committee and add you know, x number of dollars for mammograms. There's no

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relationship to the bill, we're already doing all kinds of programs for cancer screening and all kinds of stuff like that--so it's a party-line vote. Democrats all vote to recommit it. We have to do the right thing. We have to do the right thing and move the bill along. They get a little check mark that they can never happens in the history of the country. You have to understand that. Never before has a third entity, in this case the AFL-CIO, gone out and said, 'We will pick the race and we will move our money into those races and bring it from out of those districts and into those districts we will buy the

Q. Where are they getting the money....

A. They raise dues on their locals and they have 13 million AFL-CIO members. So if you think about it, if they added a penny a day, that comes out of each member, \$3.65 a year, that's well over \$40 some million dollars and \$40 million dollars is plenty of money to go out and spend it against competition. I don't know if you watch C-Span enough to know J. D. Hayworth, but he's this big former sportscaster from Arizona. A freshman comes in and he's kind of a real guy ... He took office in January of 95 and in April they started attack ads. A relatively inexpensive market, so they can run 25 ads a day attacking him. And he's withstood it for all this time. In Washington he says, 'Boy, they're beating me up and I'm in there and I'm working hard and I'm meeting with my voters and doing all the right things.' And he's been watching these polls and his negatives keep going up and up and up and up and he's I'm going to win, I'm going to get reelected. And then two weeks ago, the AFL-CIO spent another million dollars against him. And I was with him in Washington and the first time he was He said, 'You know, you can stand in front of a machine gun and you can take the fire for a year-and-a-half, but I don't know if I can still stand it.' It was different than anything you'd ever seen.

Q. I work frequently as a We know that television/radio attacks say Republicans cut children, they cut the elderly, they cut the poor, they cut everything. That has a believability largely among Democrats. We work with a lot of Independents and

A. Well, before I leave here, out of my briefcase, a little tool that I use for seniors and I have spoken to hundreds of seniors in the last couple of weeks. And it's very simple--it's a bar graph and it shows how many ... in 1995, we spent \$158 billion dollars on Medicare and the headline is 'GOP Medicare Reform Plan.' And it shows that it goes from \$158 to like \$183 in 1996 and up and up and up to \$289 or something like this. Over \$110 billion dollars--a 40%

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increase over a seven year period. I go into senior centers-- I have 400 of them fire house lunch the other day, spaghetti lunch. We gave everyone of these seniors a you read this again. How much are we going to spend in '97, how much are we going to spend in '98, how much in '99--and they read all the graphs. And then you say, 'Now, if somebody came in here, even if he was the President of the United States, and said he was going to cut Medicare, what would you call him. And then they all say a liar.' And I say well but I'll give you a copy of that graph and maybe you can distribute it. I'd like to have it at the polls on the election day so that you can, but it on the wall and show people that it's going up and up and up.

On school lunches, the President asked for a 2.3% increase and we gave it a 4.5% increase per year for five years. The only thing we did differently is that we said to the states, we're going to let you decide how to run the program. We're not going to tell you from Washington. We don't need somebody in Washington sitting there deciding, you know, how much meat loaf goes and how many string beans. I kept saying to people, every morning the school bus comes to my driveway and I put the two most precious things in my life on it, they go to the schools--I trust the school with their education, with their physical wellbeing, with the morals, with their environment and then I trust the kids will get back home safely. And that's is all done by state and local Board of Education. If I trust them with all of that, do you think I could get them to figure out how much meat loaf or how much string beans to give. I really think that they can do that without Washington. But because we said we're going to take the federal micro-management out, somehow the Democrats decided that they would call that cutting the school lunch program. It wasn't exactly their old fashioned, bureaucrat-controlled lunch program.

School loans--you've seen the Democrats organize student protests to believe that we're cutting college loans. We've put more money into Pell grants, college loans, than in the history of the country. One of the things that we proposed to do is this: Right now, one of my son's birthdays is today, I'm going to leave here a little early to go to his party, but he graduated from college, he borrowed a lot of money--he borrowed \$27,000 over the course of four years to go to college. When he borrowed that money, he never paid a penny of interest on it all during his college years, which is appropriate. He didn't have any income. And the law says that he doesn't have to pay interest for the first six months after he graduates. So looking at everything, we said, well let's say when you graduate from college, you could get to pay interest. I like it because I wanted Andy to go out and get

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a job..... So knew that the day he graduated, he could expect soon thereafter the first payments due on your loan. Guess what? He got a good job, right. He's working a good job and he's working to pay his student loan. So we thought that was appropriate because I said to Andy, you know, some of the guys you graduated from high school with, didn't go to college. They went right to work and some of them tried to buy a pick up truck or a utility truck to do their job and they borrowed money. And you know what? They've been paying their interest and your interest for four years. So now it's time for you to get out and get to work and pay it back. That's just common sense. And for that, we were accused of cutting student loans. So yes, I gave you a long answer. I just wanted to give you some of the argument.

Q. That was a good answer. A very good answer. And why don't some of the other candidates answer, answer that?

✓ A. They don't have my power ^{and} articulation! (laughter)

Q. Everybody speaks in generalities. And everybody sounds good. So by the time you get to be the presidential candidate, you've had a lot of training. How wonderful. But if you sit back and ask 'what'd he say, what'd he say,' either side, they haven't said anything. They have said it's wonderful now ...

A. The exception of Bob Dole's case is the opposite. See, Bob Dole would say, my, I really loved him and he's the funniest guy in Washington, hardly anybody knows that, but he's really a great guy. But see the way he delivered the message would be 'kicked out of college, gotta pay the student loan, right thing to do.' And the problem is that the bottom language doesn't look attractive.

Q. I just knew he'd do what I asked him. (laughter)
..... You know the old truth that these Republicans used to have, I don't know what happened to it or ...

A. Well you know, part of this dilemma is, and I don't want to sound like a bore, picking on the media, but part of the reality is that for the last two years, I have gone to, I'm on the committee that re-did the school lunch program. When we went to move the bill, we had a test and we invited all the we want you to know what we're doing with school lunches. It's much more interesting to say that we're cutting school lunches. Much more interesting, much more fire. Peter Jennings is not going to say, 'Today, the Congress is not cutting school lunches.'

Any other questions?

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Q. CNN, I think, was talking about

A. Christensen has raised a huge amount of money and he seems to be ok. I think we gave them, the Incumbent Retention Committee, gave them about \$11,000. Dick Chrysler is a freshman from Michigan and he has not only endorsed the ads, the PAC ads, the AFL-CIO has 100 paid operatives on the street, working in everyday they get paid--everyday they punch in the union hall, they go out and they spread literature door-to-door, they put signs up, they do whatever they want to do and they come back and punch out and they get paid for it and Barbara Chenoworth, she's a very controversial figure from Idaho and she somehow got linked with the militia. She also is not viewed as a complete environmentalist. It may have to do with the fact that she has a tee-shirt in her office that says, "earth first--then we'll log the rest of the planet." (laughter) She's aligning with the logging industry out there. I have to tell you one funny story about Barbara Chenoworth, and this is just for this purpose. She had a primary opponent who was an anesthesiologist. And they had in Boise, Idaho, on Sunday morning, on television program--a sort of Meet the Press thing--and in Boise, Idaho, it's a big thing everybody watches on Sunday morning. And so Barbara Chenoworth and her opponent--the anesthesiologist--were on the station for a live show. And they asked her opponent, apparently this guy, whatever he was reaching into his anesthesiology bag in order to bolster himself for this debate in his specific work. And they said to him, 'What is the first thing you're going to do if elected to Congress?' He said, 'Well I think I'm going to swim to Hawaii.' And so there was a little nervous tension in the air and they moved the conversation. And they said, 'Well, how would you like the voters to inform you of their positions on the issues?' He said, 'Well, they can punch me in the head 24 hours a day.' And the next thing you know, he was standing naked in the studio and they were dragging him off (laughter). I don't want to dominate the floor because State Senator Heckler has arrived. Any other questions or comments? Ok, thank you again.

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