The first time I ever met Pete Domenici was in Washington all last week and I was coming back and I was trying to sum up—how do you sum up Pete Domenici? We’ve produced all these good people in our history in New Mexico that I know of and I think that was Governor Lew Wallace who wrote Ben Hur. Next person I can think of was Pete Domenici because he’s probably the first statesman—we’ve created some very important Senators but I don’t think we’ve ever produced anybody who’s made us as proud as you are about being New Mexicans. The first time I ever met Pete Domenici was in the back of 1964, beat-up station wagon with a bunch of children sitting in the back—if you didn’t have any children do you feel? And he was trying to convince me that he ought to run for the United States Senate and even though it was a ’64 stationwagon. And I had just gotten out of the Marine Corps, came back from Viet Nam, and I was looking for something to really believe in. Pete Domenici sat there and painted a picture for me of what a United States Senator could be and what he could do from a small state. And I hung on every word he said; I actually believed everything he was telling me. So we went on nine months later to elect the first Republican Senator we’ve had now in 50 years.

I went to Atlanta...
Thank you so much, Commissioner, the one thing I remember when we first started you weren't so prone to exaggerate. (laughter) First, let me say to all of you here, thank you for coming to this event. The campaign's coming to a close. I've been in 14 or 15 counties in the last 6 or 7 days and I must say that it's just been a magnificent campaign. Everywhere I've been, sort of like this event, all kinds of people from all walks of life, join together and help me, greet me, invite people to see me. We have a super group here; nobody could be more pleased than I am to have those, so I thank all of you. I would tell you in a city of politics, Santa Fe, that probably you get a little bit callous about politics and maybe even callous about politicians. Maybe that's the way it's supposed to be in the United States. But frankly this has been the kind of campaign for me that I never expected I would ever have if I served 30 years. It's been gratifying to have people come, you thank, call people and ask them to do something, and find a ready yes, and a willingness beyond anything I expected. I really am not quite sure yet why, but in any event, it's tremendous and something I'll never forget. We've got a few days left; I do hope that everyone here understands that it's terribly important that we all get out and vote, to get our friends out. I'll tell you about a little old man I met in a nursing home in Portales, New Mexico, two things he told me that were kind of interesting. The first one was that he hadn't missed a general election since 1920 and he was very proud of that. But then he had a big smile on his face—I tell all of you this because as I look around there aren't too many old people here—but for you men, you're going to get old like this fellow and he had a big smile on his face as I asked him how
are things with you? He said, 'Great. I think we
maybe I'll ask a few questions and I said, Well, what's so great about it
He said, well, there's only 13 men here, and 83 women
(laughter followed by applause). 'Things are just going to stay great if
I can just keep my health!' (laughter) Well, let me leave
senior citizens and talk about something else. The last four years have
seen a dramatic change in the United States and I guess if we weren't able
to accomplish anything else, think we have, but if we weren't, this would
probably be for this generation. That’s the dramatic and swift
change in the attitude of young people in the United States. Just think
about it. The decade of the seventies saw America's young people in the
streets. And for the most part, they were angry. And for the most part, they
were angry at their country. They hardly believed in anything we believed in; they spent most of their spare time talking about what was wrong with
America. Let me tell you. Isn't it magnificent, just a few years later,
to read and look and see, how the young people of the United States are
proud again. It's tremendous to see them thrilled to talk about
American successes. It's absolutely unbelievable, to see how much confidence they have in the future. Now, I think that means something. I just told
you that all by itself it would be enough; because it's darn important in
our country that while we have differences of opinion, there's young people
who are our future, that they've joined America as early as possible and
that they move with us. As we have problems that they help solve them; as
we falter a bit they remind us, that most of all it's absolutely important
that they remind us about the future. I think it means that they don't
want to go back; they don't want to go back to the decade of the seventies.
They see something different, something good, something positive; they're
dreamers. And for a change, they think America offers good things for them
in the future. They look out there and they say, America's competitive again. If we get a good education, we're going to get a good job. If we have some ideas about going into business, they're meeting and seeing that America is proud to be a country and a people of business men and business women succeeding, profitably, productive, competing and they want to be part of that. Now that would be enough of a change in these United States but they've gone kind of one step further. And that part is the real joy. Literally, by overwhelming percentages, young people of the United States are on our side. Therefore our President and there for what I stand for and to help them come along with the United States, but to make a kind of change where they're helping a party and a philosophy and an idea that most people thought might take 30 or 40 years for the young accustomed people to get / to and want to be part of. That's where we start. And that alone if nothing else coming out of this campaign will cause me, if I'm privileged to go back for six more years, to do everything I can not to let them down. Because by not letting them down, we're going to continue to try our best to make policy in this country to offer every American that wants a job, man or woman, the chance to get a job, a steady job and a good paycheck. There's no better total program than that for the United States. No other goal that deserves more of our attention than that. Let me tell you.

I went to Las Vegas just a little while ago San Miguel county, the home county of my wonderful friend, Lou Gallegos, I met him up at Espanola and he invited me down, said come and join us. (some applause) And he took me through that new Ford factory, 221 full-time good jobs. I met 26 of the young people that work there, one on one, as we walked through this giant place. Let me tell you what a difference to meet them there, shake hands and say, do you like what you're doing? and see a smile and the answer in every case was "you bet".
It's great. "I've got a good job. " Do you like it?" Almost without exception, men and women, answered with "I love it." Good pay, steady, and they're independent and on their own. Nothing will take place there. Our country and our state can't rest. This part of New Mexico can't stop until you repeat those kinds of opportunities for young people over and over and over again. I can say to all of you, that things weren't moving in that direction four years ago. Just no doubt about it, this country was in doldrums.

You look at every kind of economic fact and it's without a doubt four years of no growth in places way up there and coupled with no growth we have the first place. Productivity for America, the bottom of the rung in a free society--bottom. Four years later, top again. For America in business, the giant of production, of jobs, of competition, gone asleep. The teacher, the principal has left the classroom, given up, whether or not that now. They're looking at the United States and saying What in the world's happening? More new private sector in the United States of America in 24 months than all of the European communities of country have been able to generate in ten years. One full decade, for all the countries in Europe, they have not produced six and a half million private sector jobs. So it's easy for me to say what I am going to do; I don't have those pledges, because New Mexicans don't know me yet, there's absolutely no way they're going to. But you ought to know and they ought to know that I have some very simple and basic goals--the top of the rung, that the United States must continue to be a place of opportunity and that everyone must have a chance to get involved in that dream, that chance, that once in a lifetime for that steady, permanent, good employment, that provides individuals with an opportunity to celebrate life to the maximum their way. Now that doesn't come from government. In
the United States, 85 percent, historically 85 to 90 percent, of the daily lives of people that were to succeed occurred because we had an economic base that gave them an opportunity. We must get there; we must stay there; and there's no reason why we can't. While I'm at it, let me also suggest to you that when we have that going for us, there's no reason for the United States not to take care of its moral and social responsibilities at home. We can take care of those third in education; we can take care of those who make mistakes and spend some money to help them. We can take care of those in need and we can educate everybody. We can give everyone a chance to get a good solid education.

And there are a lot of myth around either about the reality or the philosophy of Pete Domenici for the last four years. For instance, one is that we're turning college kids that want to go to college out into the streets because we cut programs to give them loans or grants. Baloney! I was up at WOR today on a show that I was trying to say Sam, I didn't know how to say baloney in Spanish. The best I can come up with was Maquera. (laughter) Somebody says there's a better word but you all know what it is. But actually, 500,000 more college loans available today for young people than four years ago. I don't know where we get cuts; education—it seems to me when you see the cut, you look at and you see how many dollars you've spent and you look at 85 and see how many you spent. And if it hasn't been cut. Well, education has gone up 22 percent in dollars, half a million more student loans available. Those are the kinds of things that we think go right along with the idea of opportunity. You want to talk about which programs to help the poor, expectant mothers, some
people still believe in cutting programs like that. five years ago, and got help
in three years. 10,000 New Mexicans qualified / five years ago--
22,000 now. Food stamps. 2 1/2 million more Americans being helped—about
27%. When I say up, I say $80, $85 dollar.

The same with college loans; the very rich can't get them and maybe that's
the way it ought to be. After all, they took advantage of the American dream
and they have the wherewithal and we're looking for a new
that kind of success. Now we're a big part of this and we're going to keep on doing that, and then one last one that we hadn't talked
about because if you talk about change, you've got to talk about another
change. That change is America's feeling about itself and what others in
the world think about us. So let me talk for a minute about the military
preparedness. It, too, has some pretty strange kinds of conversation
go ing on. The decade of the 70s was a bad decade for America, as the greatest
free nation on earth. I just went through a few of the domestic low points.
But there are very few people who would differ on the fact that we ended that
decade in very bad shape militarily. You don't have to quote Ronald Reagan
or Caspar Weinberger. Just look at the platforms of the two great parties.
And they're all over the place on other issues, but on defense, almost both
platforms say we must continue to spend more for military defense because
the decade of the 70s was the decade of the Soviet Union to rebuild her
military strength beyond anything we expected and beyond anything she needs
for defense. So I'm not in any way in any place in my state, the country
or the world, embarrassed or apologetic to say I'm proud that America's
military strength has gone up, that we're strong again, and perceive that
is strong again. That we're paying our young men and women—No more
for soldiers and sailors because we pay them enough. No more ships that are supposed to sail that don't have any sailors and equipment, so you only build them and they sit in the harbor. Now why do I say all this? I say this because to tell you the truth it is not a cliche. I'm apt to think the United States of America is a bad influence on the world. Unless you believe we are aggressor or believe we covet something in this world. If you believe that, then obviously, you don't need strong America. But I believe the United States is a good place; I think the world's far more dangerous without American involvement. I think peace is further away not closer if America's weak. Conversely, I think you'll get a treaty with the Soviet Union and reduce nuclear weapons. You'll get it when they know the United States of America is going to spend what it needs to be militarily strong. And we'll do it consistently and even if it costs a lot. And they'll soon find out and we'll get a treaty. Also, I believe the world's more dangerous, more commotion and revolution and turmoil if the United States is weak and if we are backing our responsibility to join with others who seek freedom, opportunity and wherever possible, an opportunity for others to govern themselves without outside intervention and agree, So that's true and that was tough because to get back tough policy decisions, but we did it. I don't think we give them everything they want; of course not. We reduce the president's defense budget a $123 billion and put about 40 of that into programs we thought needed it. But we're proud of what we've accomplished. So let me say to all of you, it's been a tremendous privilege to represent you in the Senate. Most of the things I've discussed are policies and ideas, but clearly you must know that there's great joy that comes from representing you. This system makes all of us—people like me,
come home often, visit, look at people, learn from them, solve them. And there's no greater joy than to be in a community five years ago, or four and find they needed something that was supposed to be government's responsibility and work on it and solve it. From the back home no longer have water problems forever to the hospitals hundreds of things like that. That's what makes it worthwhile. And for the people to share their aspirations and the things that bother them and the things that they think are good and right, you just don't forget about them. They're in your mind's eye as you solve problems back there. And believe you me, that makes it worthwhile. I'll close by suggesting to you that this state offers a rare opportunity for someone like me to make sure all the time that I understand. I've had the privilege of speaking at Thomas Jefferson's University of Virginia, where everywhere you look there are memorials to our original to our early history. During graduation speeches there when 5000 young people graduated. But I was also graduation speaker at Wagon Mountain. Well, see, (applause) twelve seniors. I didn't tell them as they sat there in front of me that there were only four more of them than I had children. (Laughter) To tell them step down before they get their certificates of graduation and watch their relatives—mothers, fathers, cousins, uncles, move up there, embrace them and hug them, and take pictures. In every way you've had your first success—'we're with you.' And then to watch the roll get called and find that in Wagon Mountain, NM, out of twelve, four had scholarships to the best universities in the United States. One had four scholarships offered at the greatest universities. I tell you what it does. It tells you that we've got a great future; we've just got to be sure that we share in America's prosperity.
here and now and alive and vibrant, the great faith and hope that the young people have in the future. Obviously if we live up to that commitment the not-so-young benefit too. And even the old. And everybody comes out better. So we're going to keep on doing that. I want to close by saying that we're going to have a little election tonight to celebrate one way or the other over there at the Curr Audium in Albuquerque. I hope some of you can join us. But, if you can't, I succeeded in rounding up the entire Domenici family from wherever they are. All eight are going to find their way somehow or other here, my wife will be here and our grandchildren will be here. We'll have a crowd even if you're not there. (laughter) (applause) Okay, let's just quit for now—but one last thing, see you soon! I'm hopeful we'll have a good evening Tuesday night.

But I'm more hopeful that we'll have a super, super decade of prosperity, and that you people will be part of making sure we get here in Santa Fe, and across New Mexico, so everyone will have a chance, we want more to succeed and cherish the things that are ours. Thank you. (applause)

We can tell you really know your business very well but you don't know mine. (laughter) First, let me tell all the here that I think there's great hope some of you have reached the age of 72 yet but I was down at a nursing home in Portales and I met this wonderful old man—he was 72 years old, even had a bumper sticker on his wheelchair—and he was very happy and couldn't understand why he had so much enthusiasm and such a smile on his face, so I kindly said "Is this a nice place?" He said "Sure is," smiling and effervescent and I said "Well, what's so good about it?" He said "Well, there's a hundred faces here and only 13 of us are men." (laughter) He said "All the rest are women and
things are just great if my health would just hold up." (laughter) First let me give a couple of thanks to you in the group who are realtors because we really appreciate what you did for us. We made a bad mistake in the tax law changes on imputed interest and that was part of this 1300-page tax bill and but for all of you and your wonderful associations state and nationally, it was just falling on the people in this country; could have had a terrible effect on resales. It affects your business but affects literally hundreds of thousands of people who would be selling their property and thinking that indeed they had made a first sale; first interest rates, they would have found themselves all in trouble with the IRS because the law had completely changed it. Because of your efforts here and nationally that law has been deferred for six months, we really would have changed waning days the Senate did change it; we sent it over to the House as part of the bill and understandably in the waning days, they thought that we not pass it then so they compromised and put it all off for six months and that should give us plenty of time to fix that up. We'll do that. You it have our assurance it was really a mistake and 'shouldn't turn out that way we'll get it fixed. I don't want to take a lot of your time other than to thank you. Many of you here have been thanked once, twice or some of you, three times, but in any event, let me thank you again. From my own standpoint this has been a wonderful campaign. I've never been in one like it. People have been marvelous. We hear so much about politicians and political people who are "when they get reelected and run around their states, they're supposed to catch all kinds of hell, people are supposed to disagree with them, supposed to find pockets of resistance where they don't like you and they're mad at everything you did. Well, I didn't find any of those things. Things are
great for me, more support than I ever thought I'd have. People have been gracious and kind, volunteers by the hundreds, contributors by the thousands, and everything looks fine. We have another week left before election and I hope we don't let anything go wrong and I hope all of you will get out and vote and make sure that all your friends do and we'll have a great evening then we'll have a victory party downtown at the Convention Center and if you want to come, you're welcome; if you don't we're going to have a crowd anyway because all of the children are coming...(laughter) my wife'll be here in a couple of days; we might even have a couple of grandchildren—they're a little bit small but in case we think there's not going to be a good crowd, we'll just have all the Domenici's and relatives—it'll be great! Let me just tell you one other thing that's kind of exciting. I would think you would feel the same. There's one thing that has changed very dramatically in the last four years, obviously we each have our own notion of what's happened—good or bad—with the United States, or with New Mexico or with Albuquerque or with our business or with our family but basically the one thing that's really noticeable in our country is that the young people 18-24, 25, just think back 10 years ago—they were in the streets, they weren't with us; they were fighting their country; they were in riots; everything our country was doing was bad. If nothing else had happened and we turned that around and they were on our side and on our country's side and thinking this was a good place we've got some wonderful kinds of quality; four years turnaround would be worthwhile. Much more than that's happened but that would be enough. That tells people like me that we've got a big responsibility. They're on the side of our country because they're proud again, because they really believe that there's a future again and they want to be part of it. They don't want to go backwards; they're always overlooking and so even if there was nothing
else, that would be sufficient to push you on to make sure you do everything necessary to keep the American economy going, do what's necessary to give small and large business a chance and new businesses that want to start that might be new and innovative, taking a in the changing times.

Our young people think that's the country they live in and they think that's what it's going to be. Obviously, if they're right, it's good for all of you and it's good for anybody. So from my standpoint I'm doubly satisfied, pleased, almost thrilled that not only did that happen but they're on our side. They don't want to go back to the decade of the seventies with more and more reliance on government, they don't want to go back to a weak United States. They want to stay involved with a strong and powerful America that's trying to do right, that isn't embarrassed everyday, so we'll have to keep that going. But I really didn't think that transition could occur in such a short period of time. I thought it would come someday but it didn't take a long time—lots of changes and maybe even two or three decades, maybe a whole new generation. But it occurred rather quickly. I'm very pleased about that. I hope you are. From the standpoint of the rest of New Mexico, let me just suggest to you that we're really very close in my opinion to a prospering state everywhere. Albuquerque's getting more than its share; the others look at it and are a little bit concerned that they're not getting their share of new jobs, new businesses. But I see a new kind of hope even in a community like Espanola, in a county like Rio Reba. The local governments talking about joining together with Santa Fe and Los Alamos, pooling their resources, building an industrial park, trying to bring new business in to hire the people, and give them good jobs. You can't imagine from my standpoint the difference in a county like San Miguel up there where Las Vegas is. You go up 5, 6, 7 years ago and almost everything was politics. I mean the greatest thing in the world for politicians was to have a $400
a month job at the mental hospital and you had to go up and promise you were going to leave it there and that's all you heard was you take care of my brother who's been there and my uncle who's employed, now you go up and go through a new plant and they're manufacturing a kind of wood that we use, a kind of board using by-products and 220 people are working and you go through the plant. I met 25 or 30; three young people 20-25, 26, go up and shake hands and say 'How are things?' 'Great.' 'Do you like your job?' 'Love it.' Cause he gets a good pay check and they're independent and they're going to do their own thing and they don't have to scrounge around and be part of crazy kind of things we have in some of our counties where politicians involved from day 1 they're born and one assumes that every good thing comes from local politicians. These young people are delighted that they're on their own. And if you had about 10 of those--12 spread around those poor white states it would change the complexion of leadership in the state; we'd be on our way. We'll make it anyway. The state has great potential, great promise. Sooner or later we have to pull together, that's tough. I don't have to talk about that. You all know that's tough for our state. We need to get that done so that everybody's sort of moving together, they know somebody's trying to help, move them in the right direction and it'll just ignite and there'll be a brilliant future not only for Albuquerque but for everybody around it and for the young people that are growing up in the county that we're going to spend all our money on. Educating them, preparing them for the risktaking and the opportunities and failures that are going to come along. Well, let me say thanks--again, you're most appreciated. It's wonderful to have you as friends right here at the end; we're just about over the mountain.
We hated to bother you again; but thanks for coming out. Hope you have a good time. See you soon. Be on the road a little bit but spend a couple more days in Albuquerque and then we'll come back and all vote together and have a party. Huh? Thank you. (applause) Goodbye. (applause)