

**Politics and Eggs  
with  
Governor Bill Richardson  
October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

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James Brett:

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. If we can just begin. My name is James Brett, and I am the President of the New England Council, one of the co-sponsors of "Politics & Eggs." The other co-sponsor, is the New Hampshire Political Library, run by Michael Chaney, who was unable to be here today. And I want to thank you for being here. Terrific, terrific attendance. And it's made possible by the generosity of many of the banners you see hanging on the different parts of the room here. These corporate neighbors have stepped forward and contributed to the "Politics & Eggs" series, and allows each and every person to come here and have breakfast free at no charge at all. It's because of these generous supporters and many of the names on the table in front of you. And I hope that you will acknowledge them and recognize them as very good corporate neighbors.

I also would like to say that when, when the speaker concludes his remarks, we're going to have a roving microphone going around, so if you just wait for the microphone, but also, identify yourself, who you are, or who you are representing, so it would be very helpful, with the candidate, as well as for all of us to know. This morning, needless to say, we are very honored to have Governor Bill Richardson here. Many of you know that he was born in California, but grew up in Mexico city, attended high school and college in Massachusetts, and earning a degree from Tufts university, and then went on to get a master's degree from the Fletcher school of diplomacy at Tufts university.

As many of you know, Governor Bill Richardson, we were just talking about baseball and the game tonight. He truly was an outstanding baseball player. He was an excellent baseball talent. And in fact, in 1999, Bill Richardson received one of the highest individual awards, the MCAA bestows, the Theodore Roosevelt award. The teddy is given to a former college athlete who distinguished himself in public service. The former recipients that received this award were Dwight Eisenhower, the first winner of the award. Gerald ford won it, George walker bush and Ronald Reagan received it. Well, someone just mentioned it to me earlier; Bill Richardson has a resume that sounds presidential.

After 14 years in the United States Congress, he was our ambassador to the United Nations. He's run a very large federal bureaucracy, presidential candidate's energy secretary, and now currently the governor of New Mexico. While the Governor balanced the states budget for five years, cut taxes, increased the minimum wage, improved job growth. He has a reputation, also, of troubleshooting in very, very difficult places.

Having secured the release of American prisoners in North Korea, Sudan, as well as Baghdad where he went head-to-head with Saddam Hussein, obtained the release of American prisoners in Iraq.

Governor Richardson is a four-time nominee for the Nobel peace prize, and I might add, the one that Al Gore received this morning. He's also the first Hispanic to hold two cabinet positions. There's another side to the governor, and that is that he likes a challenge. While campaigning for governor in 2002, the governor set the record for shaking the most hands during an eight-hour period. In fact, I think the Guinness people wanted to come over to New Mexico, and they wanted to send eight, nine, ten people over. As prudent as he is, he said look, I'll pay for two people, and that's it. I think two came. But what he did, he shattered president Teddy Roosevelt's record of 8,513. The governor shook 13,392 hands during that eight-hour period. Please join me in giving a very warm welcome to one of the most hands-on presidential candidates, the honorable Bill Richardson.

Governor Richardson:

Thank you. Thank you, Jim, very much. Now I know you were such a great politician representing your community. One, I was hinting I was going to run, and now that I'm running, It's a great honor to be here. Earlier, this morning, I was talking to my wife, Barbara, and she has been a little irritated – that we've been married – we celebrated our 35th wedding anniversary just this year. And she, and she is a graduate, by the way, of Colby Sawyer College. I just thought that I would throw that in. And she told me, she had been irritated because I had – our 33rd came up, and she was in Santa Fe, and I was in Dubuque, Iowa, and she told me, she said you know, I know how obsessed you are about polls, and you know, you see Iowa and New Hampshire, you are moving up slowly, but here in New Mexico, you are at, at, today, at 69%, the highest you have ever been as governor. I said, how is that? I haven't been there, and she said, that's why you are doing so well!

I want to thank Jim and Larry, the Vice President of the New England council. I understand Representative Skanell is here. My former, well, he's a friend, former congressman, Mike Harrington is here, who was a legendary member of congress for many years from Massachusetts, and what I thought I would do, since this is a very important audience, I'm not going to give you my usual speech. In fact, it takes an hour and a half, so I can't anyway. And Jim has said, don't go over 15 minutes, which is impossible for somebody of my, my politician efforts to become president. Here's what I want to talk to you about, and I will. The need to become energy independent, the need to become more competitive in our schools to pay our teachers better, for afford college loans for our kids. There is just so many issues, where the divisions are enormous, and we have, basically, a president and a congress and a dysfunctional relationship. You have got the congress right now at 11% approval rating. Slightly higher than the vice president and HMO's. That's supposed to be funny.

And my point here is that apart from being partisan, you know. This is, obviously, a partisan primary, more than anything, we need somebody that knows how to govern,

that represents change, that can deliver change and deliver experience, and in my view, having been a CEO, governor, a diplomat, we elect governors in this country. Seven out of the last eight have been governors. That right now, it's not going to be and shouldn't be an issue of who has the most money. Who can raise the most money, who has the most political pedigree or duke political pedigree, or who is the most glamorous, but basically, who can change this country and who can bring the country together and who has the most experience, solid experience. The issues, here's where they are, and where I distinguish myself from the other candidates, although it's critically important, I believe, that, that we have positive campaigns, and some of you remarked you liked my TV ads where I, I'm humiliated by an interview. My point there is that I don't like negative ads. I don't like to tear other people down. But, I think when they are ledge policy differences, the purpose should serve. The war is the number one issue, and I have the strongest position. I spent a lot of time in that region. I went head-to-head with Saddam Hussein. I believe this war is a mistake. I believe that there is no military solution, that there's a political solution. A diplomatic solution but that time has vanished.

My position is within a year, bring all the troops back. All the troops out. Put some in Kuwait and in Afghanistan, and basically, shift the \$750 billion we are spending in this war to domestic needs, to health care, education, and to deal with America's own problems. The reason that I believe we need to take all our troops out is because our kids have become targets. They are caught in a crossfire between Al-Queda and the insurgents, and when 70% of the Iraqi people say it's ok to shoot at an American soldier, I believe our position has become unaccountable, and taking out the troops is the only way that I believe we can forge a compromise between the three green bay packers in Iraq. An all Muslim U.N. headed peacekeeping, a donor that allows other countries to pick up the future of Iraq. You look at Iraq, they are not exactly a helpless country. They have got 400,000 security forces. They have got 150 billion reserves of oil. They have had three democratic elections, but I believe that not until all our troops are out can we form a peace, and other candidates, Senator Clinton and Obama, they wanted to leave troops behind and take the combat troops out so it's non combat troops there. How are they going to defend themselves? They say that they are going to leave the troops until 2013. I want to shift the focus of our foreign policy away from, from being bled dry in Iraq to the real threats that affect this country.

International terrorists which I think is real, Al-Queda, Bin Laden, nuclear terrorism, nuclear proliferation. A nuclear weapon this size that might cross the border. Becoming energy independent, which I believe is, is a national security priority in reducing green house gases. That's issue number one. Issue number two is education. Those of you here, I noticed the blue chip industries you represent. You want a workforce that is competitive, that is prepared. We don't have that in this country today. We're behind hopelessly in science and math. 28th in the country, in the world. 29th in the world when it comes to high school graduate scores compared to the European union in China and India. We need science and math academies and upgrade our high school curriculum. In science, math, language, and civics, and art in the schools, which is the key to upgrading ourselves in science and math. We need 100,000 new science and math teachers, and what I proposed yesterday in Manchester is a far-sided education plan that -

- it cost \$70 billion, that it cost resource, and we take it out of funds in the defense department and some of the college loan operations that are, that are, I think, ripping off many students today.

Here's what I would do. I would have preschool for every child. I would have full-day kindergarten. I would have a minimum salary for teachers at \$40,000 a year. The congress implodes this act called the no child left behind, and i have a plan, scrap it. It doesn't work. I would change it. I think the teachers are clapping. I would also have a new system for college loans. Today, our kids, 12 years, 15 years, paying off loans. Here's my plan for college loans. You get two years of tuition paid by the government. Pay off your loan. In exchange, you give one year of national service to the country. Join the military. Clean up a forest. Work in the inner city. We need new innovative policies to be more competitive. Universal health care. Every candidate is for this. I am. I think no matter who you are, a ditch digger, a CEO, a maid, an elementary school teacher, we all deserve it, but the first thing we need to do is focus on the fact that one-third of the \$2.2 trillion health care budget is administration, bureaucracy. Not direct care. It's lack of electronic records. It's something that before we start taxing people and creating new bureaucracies, we need to fix.

We need also to allow everybody to be part of the best plan in America, the congressional plan. I would lower Medicare to 55. Today it's 65 and over. To our veterans, I would let our veterans get their health care anywhere they want, not just in the V.A. system. I think that that is important today. Our V.A. system is not equipped for mental health, not given the budget it deserves, so why not allow our veterans instead of having to go 150 miles to get health care in the local hospital. To be reimbursed by the V.A. We need also to focus on prevention, and what I did in my state, we got rid of junk food in schools. We need to do that nationally. We have got to have healthy breakfasts for every child in every school. We should have mandatory physical education and promote wellness in the work. We should have smoking bans. We should find ways; also, that America says that we're going to be a nation of research in cancer, stem cell research and heart disease and Alzheimer's, when in effect, those budgets have gone down. They have been flat. We need to conquer these. Autism, I spent some time in your schools yesterday morning. The number of disabled kids, special learning kids, and autistic kids is growing. We have no strategy to deal with it.

The economy, now, I'm a different kind of person. If you are looking at endangered species, I cut taxes in New Mexico, state, personal income. We went from 8.9 to 4.2 because we weren't being competitive with our surrounding states. I cut the capital gains. We have got special incentives, and this is what I would do as president. If a company pays over the prevailing wage, we give them the tax incentive. If a company has some of the new generational economies in America, renewable energy, high-tech, I have (aation), biomedical research, space, we have given them a tax incentive if they pay over the prevailing wage. The result in my state, the sixth fastest growing economy in the country, a balanced budget, a surplus, and an economy that is moving forward. That's what we need to do in this country, and we need to deal with the deficit. We need to deal with a \$9 trillion deficit. I get food, at democratic events, whether I say it's important to

have a constitutional amendment to balance the budget. I would do it over a five-year period. You can't do it in a recession. You can't do it in a war or an emergency, but you balance your budget and your household and your business, and the states have to do it. I have to balance the budget. I have done it five times or I'm impeached, and this is a matter of economic growth.

We need also, as I said, to invest in science and technology and better schools. Energies. My point with energy is this -- we don't need little energy bills, you know, that congress, the other day, they went in and they said well, we're going to have 35 miles per gallon fuel efficiency. That's pathetic. It should be 50. We need to reduce our, we need to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. 65% of our oil is imported. It's Venezuela, around countries that are not friendly. We have to have a massive shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Here in New Hampshire, the potential is as enormous as it is in my state. The solar, wind, biomass, wood products. I have seen your plant here. Biodiesel and fuels, distributed generation. Fuel cells. American technology, I believe, needs to be in these areas. But instead, we have these incentives for fossil fuels, and hardly any for renewable energy and fuel. We need to also have fuel efficiency at 50 miles to the gallon in our vehicles. 100 miles per gallon plugin hybrid. We have the technology, and Detroit has the technology, yet they refuse to adapt to the new changes. And we need to deal with more effective mass transit policies. I have noticed, I was in Salem, and you are starting to have a traffic problem.

I'm not running for mayor of Salem, but my point is that you know, we have had these transportation policies, building more highways instead of focusing on light rail and commuter rail and open space and, and land use policies that make sense. Generally, you have done well here in this state, but you see the major cities in this country. And we're not doing it. And this energy shift, to become energy independent, I'll be honest. I will ask you to sacrifice a bit as Americans. A bit. Not necessarily wearing sweaters but I'm saying, be more sensitive when it comes to appliances and air-conditioning and the vehicles that we drive and the way that we get to work and, and the way that we live every day. So, I think that the spirit of a great New England president, John F Kennedy needs to be rekindled. If we are going to fight the special interests on the issues I talked about, it's important to have a rekindling of the American people to do something for the country. I think that the people are ready to come together and, and collaborate and be part of a partnership that fixes this nation's problems, that are so huge, but at a time when today our nation is so divided, we think of ourselves in red and blue states and republican states, instead of thinking of ourselves as one America.

My last point is this -- those are a lot of sort of new ideas I have thrown out. It's important, too, that we remember who we had been as a nation. That is, if I'm elected president, I'm going to say something very clear. I will follow the constitution of the United States. And secondly -- I will, I will not go to war unless there's the consent of the congress, and third, we are going to be a nation that will respect a woman's right to choose, but we will be a nation that also recognizes the importance of stopping unwanted pregnancies, dealing with adoption, of dealing with sex education and family planning, that we will be a nation internationally that will rejoin the international community. I

think in the introduction, the diplomacy, you have got to talk to people, to Iran and Syria. This president doesn't do that. He doesn't talk to people he doesn't like, so as a result, we have these, these huge, huge backlogs of, of peaceful movements in the world that are crying for American leadership, and that means if I'm president, the first thing I'm going to do is we're going to fight terrorists. We're not going to become like them. That means that our, our special personal liberties will not be a brick. I will shut down Guantanamo. I will say habeas corpus is back, and I will say we won't eavesdrop on our own citizens. I will say that we won't use torture as a tool in our foreign policy, that we will respect the Geneva convention, that we will be a nation, once again, that cares about the third world, that doesn't just care about the middle east, or Europe, that cares about genocide in Africa and sexual slavery and aids and international poverty. Why? Because that's also in our interests. It builds international support for our goals as a country. Anyway, I don't have all the answers. I'm into my 16th minute.

I just wanted to tell you that, that I love campaigning in New Hampshire. I love that, that you're first. By the way, I just want to know, it was Bill Richardson, the first presidential candidate who signed a pledge, not the campaign anywhere outside of New Hampshire. Not get in front of some of these other states that have. I note that there is one candidate that has said that, I'm not going to tell you her name, but she hasn't taken her ballot off Michigan. I have. I think everyone else has, I don't know. I am glad, I am glad that the decisions are made in the living rooms of New Hampshire and Iowa where you talk to us, you grill us, you look into our souls and see that we're real, and I am confident that New Hampshire, you like underdogs. I am an underdog. You like hard workers. I've been to, to -- I have had, since the start of the summer, 53 public events, more than any other candidate. I've been to towns in New Hampshire where there are no people. I've been to Marlow, new Hampshire, where I couldn't find any people -- no, I did find them, and the story about them, they tried to get, I think it was, I don't know if it was Roosevelt, the president promised to go there, and he went the wrong way and didn't show up so they have been waiting for, for a presidential candidate ever since. Anyway, Jim, I'd be very pleased to take any questions. Yes, sir.

Audience member:

When you brought up the theme of bringing people together, I questioned in my mind -- the former U.S. attorney from New Mexico, David Iglesias. I was curious how you would evaluate his job as a U.S. attorney and how he handled himself when he was fired, and if he's someone you respect even though he's republican, someone you would consider in your administration? Has he been talking to you?

Governor Richardson:

I would consider him in my administration. This is a young man who, he was asked by the justice department, hey, investigate voter fraud in New Mexico. Minority voter fraud, and he said to the justice well, there's a slight problem. There isn't any. So, I'm not going to do it. And then our senior center called him and threatened him and the rest is history. Here's my deal. If I'm elected president, my justice department, my attorney general will be somebody that I say to him or her, you represent the American people. You don't represent me or the Whitehouse or political office. We cannot

politicize the justice department. I would also have all the U.S. attorneys in the senate confirmed. I believe that is important, just shouldn't be a political point, at least there should be some kind of scrutiny. Yeah, I'd consider him because I know that he has integrity. I was told that he was an able person. I only met him once. Here's something else that I would do. If I'm the nominee, I will tell you my cabinet before the election. You need to know who is part of my team. You need to do that. I have already made some commitments. I asked Joe Biden to be my secretary of state, and he turned me down. He wasn't very happy about that. But I said that I would have a teacher as the secretary of education, I would have a veteran as head of the veteran's affairs. I would have -- so, I've already moved in that direction. I would also, I would also say to you that I'll have, have independents and republicans in my cabinet, I will. I think we need a government of national unity. Don't worry, I won't overdo the republicans.

The thing that bothers me today is the selection of our Supreme Court justices. How would you take politics out of that process? You may not like my answer because I want to be honest with you. I will, obviously, want the best, qualified person, a legal scholar judge, not somebody that, that contributes to the campaign or -- it should be the highest quality individual. Secondly, diversity would be important. Diversity, I think, that the court right now lacks diversity. Third, I'll be very honest, I'll say to my nominee, and I have been criticized for this, I will ask three basic questions. Do you believe that Roe versus wade is settled? Doesn't mean you believe in the issue but is it subtle law, and I will ask do you believe the right of privacy is subtle law? Third, I will say, do you believe the civil rights statues that we have are settle law? And then the last question will be, will you uphold the constitution? Would you uphold the people's constitution? If I get questions, questioned on what I just asked, I will not appoint them. I think it's important that we stop this charade that, you know, we can't ask, it's a free world, how they feel about this. My gosh, they shaved the policy of this next generation. I believe that the last Supreme Court justice -- decisions on school equalization, on civil rights, on the right to choose have been harmful. I mean, thank god for, for Suter, a New Hampshire guy who turned to be a progressive, I guess nobody knew.

Audience Member:

Regarding your educational program, you mentioned a number of new initiatives. You commented on how existing federal initiatives, such as the federal grant programs, [inaudible] and other programs, such as the trio that promote access [inaudible]?

Governor Richardson:

They fit in, but I will strongly support them. Your program, trio, the access program is outstanding. Pell grants, they have been going down almost 40% in the last 10 years. Work-study programs. What I would like to do is consolidate all of the, the federal, the loan programs into an endowment that basically, is, -- you put more resources into it. I think that education should be for those between three and 99 years of age. Not that I'm trying to get all these votes, just that, you know, you have got working moms that, that, well, they are 36. They have had two jobs. Kids are gone. You want to upgrade, but they can't get educational stance so they fall into this gap of whether you are middle class or

poor, you can get it if you are poor, the assistance, so I would like to find a way to, to have these, these endowments and scholarships for every American.

Community College, to go vocational. What ever happened to vocational school? We got rid of them. The stupidest thing we ever did. We are trying to bring them back in my state. Junior college, not just college Ed days ago, not every kid will go to college, but the programs that assist people. The scholarships. Grants. People say how are you going to pay for this? Well, I outlined it in my education plan. \$70 billion from, from getting rid of some of the entities that provide the student loans now, and some of the entities in the department of defense, the cold war weapons assistance, procurement we don't need. Nuclear weapons program. In my state, we want to upgrade our nuclear weapons modernize them. We should be reducing them. We have got 10,000. I think (we have) to have sensible priorities, and education for me. I want to tell you, nobody talks about it in the campaign. Get into these debates; if you watch these debates, do you all watch them? I go to every one and I wonder if everyone -- if everyone watches them. They don't ask any questions. So, I want to go back to your questions. Welcome back to New Hampshire.

Audience Member:

My question to you is, is America ready for a Latino president? And why.

Governor Richardson:

I hope so. You know what, I don't run as a Latino. I run as an American proud to be Latino. You run as a governor from the west who is very proud of my heritage. I don't wear my ethnicity on my sleeve. On the other hand, you know, my biggest problem is the fact that I'm Latino, but I've got a name Richardson, and Latinos don't think that I'm Latino so that's, that's -- I don't believe that, that this country any more is going to discriminate on who and, who is going to be president. We could very well have a woman president, an African American president. Somebody like myself of my heritage -- I think the American people want competence and results. I think we crossed that bridge, and it started with John F Kennedy breaking the barrier when he was the first catholic president, so I don't think that criteria is there. There are some that will not be happy with it, but my sense is that, is that the American people are ready for, for somebody that could bring them together, that can manage, that can have a vision for the future that is positive. You know, I'm optimistic. I listed a lot of problems but I'm optimistic, I'm patriotic. I believe we have resolved these Problems, build new coalitions. One start is public finance. We do need that. There is just too much. But I think you have to inspire people, so ethnicity, I don't think it's a factor, and you know, I'll also be a president -- I'll tell you right here, I will not discriminate on the base of race, gender or sexual orientation.

Audience Member:

Governor, welcome back to New Hampshire. I'm Scott McDonald. Yesterday the house formulations committee passed house resolution 106, I believe, condemning the slaughter of over a million Armenians in turkey, I believe, over 90 years ago in 1915 or

so, and officially labeling that as genocide. Do you think that given the current state of affairs in the Middle East, this was a prudent thing for them to do?

Governor Richardson:

Yeah. Yeah, because you have got to stand for something in this country, you know. The Turks, they are important, you know. We need them and Iraq, they are members of NATO. They want to get into the European union, they are important for us, but there was a genocide, and, and this was many, many years ago, and the Armenian people have been, you know, just a simple symbolic act, is something that, that occasionally politicians should take tough decisions. It's going to anger the Turks and it has, but they have to understand that, you know, we're a nation that, that, not just should condemn genocide this is Armenia but why is it, you know, today that, that we hear every day about north Korea in the middle east, there's a genocide happening in the Sudan. 300,000 people have been killed. I was there. I was able to get a very [inaudible]. Got an American journalist. We have got to stand for something. We have got to not just speak out with, with our greatest military, which we have. We have to take care of America's national secure, but I believe it's important to associate ourselves with countries that have free elections and, and democracy and human rights and, you know, the Geneva conventions that somebody asked me earlier this morning. And so yeah, I would have -- I voted for it before. This comes up almost every year, and it doesn't get approved in one of the bodies so they keep doing it. But yeah, you know, occasionally you have got to do the right thing. Go ahead.

Audience Member:

I'm Rod from Massachusetts. Health care and tufts school. Governor I have left some of the debates, and you pointed out in (regard to) health care that you had experience as a governor working with issues of cost and access. My question is, as the top domestic priority according to the polls, where do you see the lines drawn in terms of what are trying to get done, especially what you are hearing from the republicans on health care?

Governor Richardson:

Well, I watched the republican debate the other day because I was on a show. I was supposed to comment. I got enormously depressed. It just seems that they are clinging to the status quo. You know, when we talk about health care, it's important that we be practical, that we do something that is doable. The debate is, should we have single pair medicate for all. Well, that sounds good. Undubious, though, because I know my health care system in my state, my state runs Medicaid. Do I want them running the health care in New Mexico, by bureaucrats? No.

But I want a partnership, I want to find a way that, that you channel the best of all the entities that participate in health care. Now, I do believe that we need some cost controls. I do want to restore the doctor patient relationship. I think that has been hurt. I do want to have electronic, marginalized health care. I think we have to expand access and, and lower cost and coverage. This is why I said that everyone should participate in the congressional plan. I would expand Medicare to 55. I would change for the vets what

we want to do. I would find a way that everybody shares, but I think a big emphasis should be on, on technology, to shift that one-third into direct care, but I just can't stress the importance of prevention, of wellness, of, you know, investing early in cancer screening. Ovarian cancer. You barely can detect it, so it takes screening, intensive screening, and somehow, we have lost that technological edge.

Audience Member:

[Inaudible] you as the governor of a Border state, really on the front line of that issue, could You share your thoughts with us about that issue, how it should be handled?

Governor Richardson:

Two years ago I declared a border emergency in my state because the flow of people and drugs was intense. The federal government wasn't doing anything. My constituents wanted me to do something. That enabled us, the state, to hire local law enforcement because the federal government. Wasn't doing their job. So, I have some scars on this. I have always found that immigration is an issue where you have got to do the right thing because it doesn't win you any votes. In fact, it loses you votes. And every time I talk about it, I lose votes so thanks for asking me.

But, this is what I would do. This is -- I would do four things. I would do four things. First, we have got to tighten border security, no question. That means more national guard. That means double the number of border patrol agents. That means technological entities that will detect nuclear materials at the border, but am I for this wall? No because it won't work. You know what will happen with this wall? You erect a 12-foot wall; by the way the congress only funded half of it, typically. You erect this 12-foot wall, and you know what you are going to get? 13-foot ladders.

It won't work. When people are desperate, they will do it. Let's do it with trained personnel. The second thing we do is those that knowingly hire illegal workers should be fined and punished, enforce the law. We don't do it. The third thing you do is you talk frankly just like I said we should talk frankly to our enemies. The Irans, Syrias, North Koreas. We should talk frankly to our friends, and our friend here. That is a problem is Mexico. And that means, basically, you know, when presidents have these summits, you know, I'm going to, to stand here with Jim. They have these summits, the two leaders, they finish the discussion, and the two presidents, they have their flags, I'm talking about all summits, they stand up like this, and Jim is now the president of Mexico, by the way. Jim Calderone. And you know, they say, we have just had a very productive meeting. By the way, I've been in those meetings. When diplomats say they had a productive meeting it, means it didn't go very well.

What I am trying to say on the immigration issue is I would say to president Calderone, I would say you know, Mr. President, give jobs to your people so they don't have to come over. Do something about poverty. At the least, stop handing out maps for the easiest place to cross.

And last, you know, and my last point because, because you don't want to leave me off the hook. What do you do with the \$12 million (immigrants)? That's, that's the question. They are everywhere. And so you can't sweep it under the rug the way the congress has done. We're not going to deal with it because it's too difficult. Number two, with the congress passed two years ago, the, the house, they said, we're going to deport them. We're going to, to take their citizenship away. We're going to fine them. We're going to make them felons. 12 million people, you are going to deport them? Where are they? It's not going to work. Who is going to pay for it? The cost is huge.

So the last alternative is, is what John McCain, you know, senator McCain, who did the right thing with Ted Kennedy, combined in a compromise, and by the way, McCain, you know, is catching enormous grief over this here in New Hampshire and Iowa, and I am saying, McCain did the right thing. And McCain is saying, Richardson, shut up. Don't say nice things about me, but I will. But you know, they came up with a plan that this -- you are not going to get citizenship to the 12 million. You are not going to get amnesty. But you get a pass to legalization. You can stay in the country if you fulfill the following conditions. One, you learn English. You pay back taxes. You pay a fine. We are coming here illegally. You have to pass a background check. And then you go behind those that are trying to come here legally.

Now, is what I said messy? Yes. Is it going to be more costly and more bureaucracy? Yes. Is someone in Washington going to find a way to screw it up? Probably. But it's far better than the alternative. I think leadership is about taking tough decisions and not postponing them, and pacing them and trying to do the best you can. Anyway, I think that Jim is having a fit, so I'm going to stop.

James Brett:

I just want to thank the Governor for finding time in his very busy schedule to stop by "Politics & Eggs." Wish him much success in his journey through the cities and towns and villages here in New Hampshire, but we also want to give him a memento of your visit here. (presents a coffee mug) Maybe we can get a mug shot, so we want to thank you and wish you much success. Thank you.