

THIS IS A NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC TELEVISION SPECIAL PRESENTATION. THE NEW HAMPSHIRE POLITICAL LIBRARY AND THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL PRESENT POLITICS AND EGGS, THE 2007 CANDIDATE SERIES, WITH CONNECTICUT SENATOR CHRISTOPHER DODD WITH SUPPORT FROM BAE SYSTEMS, CLEAN HARBORS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, AND FIDELITY INVESTMENTS.

MICHAEL CHANEY/NH POLITICAL LIBRARY: GOOD MORNING. WELCOME TO ANOTHER INSTALLMENT OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE POLITICAL LIBRARY AND NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL'S POLITICS AND EGGS PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SERIES. WE ARE PLEASED TO CO-PRODUCE THIS EVENT WITH THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL.

AND THANKS ESPECIALLY TO JAMES BRETT, THE PRESIDENT, AND LARRY ZABAR THE VICE-PRESIDENT FOR A SEAMLESS PARTNERSHIP THAT BRINGS SEVERAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES TO NEW HAMPSHIRE OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS.

WE CANNOT DO THIS PROGRAMMING WITHOUT THE SPONSORS WHO SUPPORT EACH AND EVERY EVENT.

THEIR NAMES ARE ON THE TABLE CARDS IN FRONT OF YOU, AND THEIR BANNERS ARE FLYING THROUGHOUT THE ROOM.

WE'D LIKE TO ESPECIALLY WELCOME TO THE FAMILY THIS MORNING COMCAST AS A NEW SPONSOR, THANKS TO CHRIS HODGEN AND—THANKS ALSO TO MCGRAIN, GRAFF, AND ALSO TO NATIONAL GRID, BILL SHERRY IS HERE AS WELL.

THIS IS THE KIND OF CORPORATE COMMUNITY THAT VALUES SERIOUSLY THE OPPORTUNITY TO TALK ONE-ON-ONE TO PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES COMING THROUGH NEW HAMPSHIRE.

IT IS A REAL PLEASURE TO WELCOME THE SENIOR SENATOR FROM CONNECTICUT, A TRUE NEW ENGLAND SON.

HE COMES FROM A LARGE FAMILY, AND HIS FATHER, THOMAS J. DODD, WAS THE LEAD PROSECUTOR IN THE NUREMBERG TRIALS BEFORE A DISTINGUISHED CAREER IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE HIMSELF. IF ANY OF YOU WERE COMMUTING YESTERDAY, SENATOR DODD COULD BE HEARD ON AN OBLIGATORY APPEARANCE ON MSNBC'S IMUS IN THE MORNING.

DISHING IT OUT AS MUCH AS THE TALK SHOW HOST WAS GIVING GRIEF. IMUS IS OUT SICK THIS MORNING, SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS. [LAUGHTER]

BUT YOUR MENTION OF YOUR TRIP TO NEW HAMPSHIRE AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY WAS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED AND HEARD BY A GREAT MANY PEOPLE HERE.

YOU ARE A SENIOR STATESMAN, HAVING SERVED IN THE SENATE SINCE 1981.

YOU CHAIRED THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE IN THE MID 90'S.

AND PERHAPS YOU COULD LEND YOUR INSIGHT INTO THE CURRENT D.N.C.'S APPARENT DESIRE TO KEEP YOU CANDIDATES ON AIRPLANES DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY, AND MORE OVER THE SEEMING DESIRE TO HAVE EVERY OTHER STATE HOLD ITS PRIMARY, A TRUE NATIONAL PRIMARY ON FEBRUARY 5.

THIS IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF THING WE WERE CONCERNED ABOUT WHEN THE SCHEDULE BEGAN TO BE TINKERED WITH.

ALL WE CAN DO IS PROVIDE THAT WELCOME MAT TO THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES THAT COME THROUGH THE STATE AND PROVE TO THE COUNTRY THAT THIS IS WHERE TRUE DIALOGUE GOES ON WITH REAL PEOPLE AND REAL ISSUES.

[APPLAUSE]

SO THE SITUATION ISN'T GOOD FOR ANYONE.

NOT FOR US AND NOT FOR THE CANDIDATES.

SO WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT THE VALUE OF CAMPAIGNING IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. MARK HALPERIN AND HIS NOTE TAKERS AT ABC NEWS JOKED ABOUT OUR SECRETARY OF STATE BILL GARDNER'S HOLIDAY TOAST AT NEW YEARS WITH THE NATIONAL MEDIA. I THINK THE JOKE IS GOING TO GO FARTHER. THE HOLIDAYS ARE VERY SPECIAL IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

COLUMBUS DAY AND THANKSGIVING HOLD SPECIAL MEANING FOR A GREAT MANY OF US. [LAUGHTER]

SENATOR DODD, WE SINCERELY WELCOME YOU TO NEW HAMPSHIRE. YOUR BREADTH OF EXPERIENCE AND STATE OF POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES ARE VERY MUCH APPARENT, BOTH IN THE MEDIA AND OTHER PUBLICATION. OFTEN QUOTED AS SAYING "THE BEST SOCIAL PROGRAM IS A GOOD JOB," YOU ARE ALSO ON THE RECORD WITH GOOD WORK, LEGISLATION AND COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP.

A CHAIR OF THE BANKING, HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE YOU HAVE ADVOCATED A PRO-ACTIVE FEDERAL BUDGET POLICY.

COMPLEX ISSUES AROUND INVESTOR AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND THE NEED FOR TRANSPARENCY IN CORPORATE GOVERNANCE RINGS PARTICULARLY TRUE HERE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

YOU HAVE STATED THAT MAINTAINING A MANUFACTURING ECONOMY IN THE 21ST CENTURY IS NOT A CONTRADICTION IN TERMS.

AND THAT KIND OF ECONOMY IS SO VERY IMPORTANT HERE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

WORK IN THIS AREA INCLUDES ADVOCACY FOR JOB TRAINING, PERMANENT EXTENSION OF THE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT, INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS TO STAY ON AMERICAN SOIL, AND SEEKING TO PREVENT UNWARRANTED OUTSOURCING OF U.S. JOBS AND TECHNOLOGY.

AS A 25-YEAR MEMBER OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE YOU HAVE ADVOCATED FOR A STRONG MILITARY AND AN EFFECTIVE DIPLOMACY.

IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO WELCOME SENATOR CHRISTOPHER DODD, RECIPIENT OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL'S NEW ENGLANDER OF THE YEAR AWARD A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, AND AGAIN A TRUE NEW ENGLAND SON.

[APPLAUSE]

Sen. Christopher Dodd/(D) Presidential Candidate:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE.

AND THANK YOU, MICHAEL, VERY MUCH FOR THAT VERY GENEROUS, KIND AND THOUGHTFUL AND ACCURATE INTRODUCTION THERE.

I APPRECIATE IT.

[LAUGHTER]

THE KIND REMARKS.

I'M ALWAYS SKEPTICAL ABOUT INTRODUCTIONS.

SOMETIMES THEY CAN GO ON A LOT LONGER THAN MY REMARKS.

I THINK MY FAVORITE INTRODUCTION EVER GIVEN BY A PUBLIC FIGURE OF A PUBLIC FIGURE WAS GIVEN MANY YEARS AGO.

WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT WAS BEING HONORED AT THE WALDORF ASTORIA ONE NIGHT AT A BLACK TIE EVENT. THERE WAS A VERY COLORFUL MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE BY THE NAME OF CHAUNCEY DEPEW, WHO WAS SIMULTAINIOUSLY, THE SENATOR FROM NY AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE CENTRAL RAILROAD. HE

THOUGHT OF HIMSELF AS A GREAT WIT. SO HE INTRODUCED TAFT. WHO YOU MAY RECALL WAS NOT ONLY OF COURSE HISTORIC BECAUSE HE HAD HELD BOTH POSITIONS AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND ALSO CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT, THIS ONE WAS LIKELY RETIRED BUT PHYSICALLY LARGE.

6-FOOT 8 AND WEIGHED SOME 400 POUNDS.

HE CONCLUDED THE INTRODUCTION SAYING IT'S MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT A MAN BOTH PREGNANT WITH INTEGRITY AND PREGNANT WITH COURAGE.

THE CROWD ROARED WITH APPROVAL, GAVE TAFT THE STANDING OVATION. THIS GIANT OF A FIGURE SLOWLY MADE HIS WAY TO THE PODIUM. HE WAITED FOR THE NOISE TO SUBSIDE AND THE CROWD TO BE RECEDED.

HE SAID "IF IT IS A GIRL I SHALL CALL HER INTEGRITY.

AND IF IT IS A BOY I SHALL CALL HIM COURAGE.

BUT IF I SUSPECT IT'S NOTHING MORE THAN GAS I SHALL CALL IT CHAUNCEY DEPEW."

[LAUGHTER]

VERY VERY COLORFUL INTRODUCTION. SO I THANK YOU FOR THAT NICE INTRODUCTION.

IT'S NICE TO BE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AGAIN, BACK HERE.

JIM, GOOD TO BE WITH YOU AND NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL MEMBERS. AND POLITICS AND EGGS IS A GREAT GREAT TRADITION.

I CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR COMING OUT THIS MORNING TO GREET A FELLOW NEW ENGLANDER AND GIVE ME A CHANCE TO BE HEARD IN THIS PROCESS, A LONG PROCESS, ONE THAT'S BEGINNING A LOT EARLIER THAN MANY OF US WOULD HAVE ANTICIPATED FOR A NUMBER OF REASONS WHICH I'LL TOUCH UPON BRIEFLY IN SHORT REMARKS. MY INTENTION HERE IS TO SHARE A FEW OPENING THOUGHTS WITH YOU GENERALLY. WHAT I PREFER TO DO IS GET TO THE QUESTIONS. RATHER THAN TRY TO ANTICIPATE WHAT YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN TO WAIT AND HEAR YOUR QUESTIONS AS THEY COME UP.

IT'S WORTHWHILE TO NOTE AND TALK ABOUT IT CERTAINLY.

I APPRECIATE MICHAEL'S INVITATION TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE, THE FIRST IN THE NATION'S PRIMARY. I DON'T SAY IT REALLY BECAUSE I'M HERE.

BUT HAVING BEEN THROUGH THE PROCESS OVER THE YEARS, I BELIEVE THAT THIS STATE PROVIDES A VERY VERY VALUABLE FUNCTION FOR THE COUNTRY.

OPPORTUNITIES SUCH AS THIS WHERE YOU CAN SIT DOWN AND HAVE A BREAKFAST WITH A GATHERING OF PEOPLE WHO WILL ASK QUESTIONS THAT ARE NOT ONLY PAROCHIAL IN NATURE BUT NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL IN SCOPE REALLY IS A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR THE COUNTRY.

YOU IN A SENSE ARE SURROGATES FOR THE NATION BY GIVING US A CHANCE TO HAVE THE MORE DETAILED, INFORMED CONVERSATIONS WHICH ARE WATCHED.

THIS MORNING THIS CONVERSATION IS BEING WATCHED NOT JUST BY PEOPLE WHO WILL COVER THIS EVENT FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE BUT NATIONALLY AS WELL.

SO THEY GET A CHANCE TO SEE THOSE OF US WHO SEEK THE HIGHEST OFFICE IN THE LAND, TO GET TO KNOW US ON A LEVEL THAT WOULD NOT OTHERWISE BE PERMISSIBLE IF THIS WERE MERELY DONE AT A WHOLESALE LEVEL AT 35,000 FEET. SO I STAND HERE BEFORE YOU THIS MORNING, DEEPLY COMMITTED TO THE FIRST IN

THE NATION PRIMARY BEING IN THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. IT'S WHERE IT OUGHT TO BE.

[APPLAUSE]

AND I WANT YOU TO KNOW IT'S NOT JUST RHETORIC. WHEN THE ISSUES WERE RAISED KATHY SULLIVAN CALLED ME BACK LAST YEAR SOMETIME WHEN THIS WAS BEING RAISED AT THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE. I CALLED MY NATIONAL COMMITTEE PEOPLE TO ASK THEM TO JOIN WITH NEW HAMPSHIRE TO BE PART OF THAT TO MAKE SURE THIS WOULD BE PRESERVED TO ALL OF US. LET ME JUST TOUCH ON THIS BRIEFLY FOR YOU HERE.

I MENTIONED IT ALREADY BUT THE NOTION THAT THIS PROCESS ALLOWS SOMEONE LIKE ME TO BE CONSIDERED QUITE FRANKLY.

I DON'T THINK PEOPLE WANT TO BELIEVE THAT THIS RACE IS OVER WITH IN FEBRUARY OF 2007. THAT YOU GO ON TO SEE WHO THESE OTHER CANDIDATES ARE.

WHAT DO THEY STAND FOR, WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE IN.

WHAT WOULD THEY DO IF ELECTED TO THE PRESIDENCY.

HOW WOULD THEY LEAD THIS COUNTRY AND GET US BACK ON TRACK AGAIN. THIS IS OFFENSIVE TO PEOPLE IN A SENSE THEY LIKE TO SEE WHO ELSE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY.

YOU GIVE US THAT CHANCE. YOU GIVE SOMEONE LIKE ME, WHO IS NOT AS WELL-KNOWN AS OTHERS, A CHANCE TO BE HEARD TO TALK ABOUT THE THINGS I CARE ABOUT. SO I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE. I KNOW IOWA DOES THE SAME IN ITS CAUCUSES AND OTHER STATES PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO BE HEARD.

THEN THERE'S THE TIME FOR THE REST OF THE COUNTRY TO EXPRESS ITS OPINIONS AS WELL.

I TRULY DO LOOK FORWARD TO THE CHANCE TO BE UP HERE.

MY PLAN IS TO BE HERE QUITE FREQUENTLY.

JUST TO GIVE YOU SOME IDEA ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THE INEVITABILITY OF THESE DECISIONS BASED ON EARLY PREDICTIONS, SOMEONE THE OTHER DAY SENT ME POLLING DATA FROM 2001 AND 1991.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1991, THE PERSON WHO WAS IN 6TH PLACE 14-DAYS BEFORE THE CAUCUSES AND PRIMARIES AT 2% IN THE POLLS WAS A PERSON BY THE NAME OF WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON.

IN 2003 JOHN KERRY WAS I THINK AT 4% IN THE POLLS SOME FOUR WEEKS BEFORE THE FIRST CAUCUSES OR PRIMARIES. ONE POINT BEHIND AL SHARPTON IN THAT RACE.

SO PEOPLE WHO TELL YOU A YEAR AWAY THAT THIS RACE HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED, MY ADVICE IS GO BACK AND DO A LITTLE HISTORY AND YOU'LL DETERMINE, I THINK, THAT PEOPLE HAD A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW BY THE END OF THE PROCESS THAN THEY MAY HAVE HAD AT THE VERY VERY BEGINNING.

SO WITH THAT BACKGROUND, LET ME TELL YOU WHY I'M DOING THIS.

WHY DID I DECIDE AFTER 25-YEARS IN THE SENATE TO STEP FORWARD AND PLACE MY NAME FOR CONSIDERATION OF THIS NOMINATION OF THE PRESIDENCY.

LET ME STATE THE OBVIOUS I THINK TO MANY OF US HERE: I THINK THE STAKES HAVE NEVER BEEN HIGHER IN MY VIEW.

THERE'S SO MUCH AT RISK IN WHAT HAPPENS AT HOME OR AROUND THE WORLD, I THINK ALL OF US SENSE THAT TO ONE DEGREE OR ANOTHER. OBVIOUSLY THE DEBATES IN CONGRESS ON IRAQ AND IRAN ARE CERTAINLY A GREAT WORRY HERE AT HOME THAT WHILE THINGS ARE GOOD IN THE SHORT-TERM, THERE'S A SENSE THAT MAYBE IN THE LONGER TERM THE UNDERPINNINGS OF OUR ECONOMY COULD BE STRONGER. WHETHER WE'VE GOT THAT OPTIMISM IS RAISING LEGITIMATE CONCERNS OF WHAT WE NEED TO BE DOING AS A NATION.

I AM THE FATHER OF TWO VERY YOUNG CHILDREN. FIRST TIME FATHER. I HAVE A 5-YEAR-OLD AND 2-YEAR-OLD. I'M THE ONLY GUY I KNOW WHO GETS MAIL FROM AARP AND A DIAPER SERVICE. THAT'S A RESULT OF BEING A FATHER OF THESE YOUNG CHILDREN.

[LAUGHTER]

BUT THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS, OBVIOUSLY WHAT MOST OF US CARE ABOUT WHILE WE WORRY ABOUT OUR OWN LIVES IS WHAT KIND OF LIFE OR FUTURE ARE OUR CHILDREN GOING TO HAVE, WHAT KIND OF A NATION ARE WE GOING TO LEAVE THEM?

THIS IS OUR TURN, YOU AND I, WHETHER WE BE A BUSINESS LEADER OR UNITED STATES SENATOR, WE'RE GOING TO BE JUDGED COLLECTIVELY WHETHER WE WERE ABLE TO SUSTAIN AND PERPETUATE THIS WONDERFUL PLACE CALLED AMERICA. ITS ROLE HERE AT HOME AND ABROAD IS LARGELY GOING TO BE DETERMINED AROUND THE DECISIONS THAT YOU AND I MAKE AS A GENERATION.

SO IT'S VERY IMPORTANT, IT SEEMS TO ME, GIVEN THE SERIOUSNESS OF THIS TIME, HOW MUCH IS AT STAKE HERE, THE SENSE OF URGENCY. PEOPLE SAY, WHY DID THIS PRIMARY PROCESS START AS EARLY AS IT HAS? I THINK IT'S BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE SO UPSET AND NERVOUS ABOUT WHERE WE'RE GOING IN SOME DIRECTIONS THEY'RE BEGINNING TO SAY WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

I THINK THAT'S CONTRIBUTING TO THE FACT THERE'S ALREADY A HEIGHTENED DEGREE OF INTEREST IN THE PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS OF 2008.

I THINK THE ISSUES BASICALLY LOOKING AT THE CANDIDACIES ARE CERTAINLY GOING TO BE LEADERSHIP.

CAN THIS PERSON, WHOEVER IT'S GOING TO BE, LEAD US IN A DIRECTION AT HOME AND ABROAD THAT IT WILL GIVE US A SENSE OF OPTIMISM ABOUT OUR FUTURE. IS IT A PERSON IN PROVEN ABILITIES IN TERMS OF HOW TO COMING DO WE COME TOGETHER AS A PEOPLE. WE CAN'T SURVIVE 51-49 MUCH LONGER IN THIS ROOM TODAY. IF WE CONTINUE ON THIS ROAD OF BEING A DIVIDED PEOPLE, I THINK IT'S GOING TO BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR US TO REALLY STEP FORWARD TO MAKE THE KIND OF DECISIONS WE NEED TO DO ON SOME MAJOR MAJOR QUESTIONS THAT CONFRONT US AS A PEOPLE.

CERTAINLY THE DEBATE IN CONGRESS TODAY ABOUT THE IRAQ WAR. I'M SORT OF A MINORITY OF ONE. I SAY THIS WITH GREAT RESPECT FOR MY COLLEAGUES.

BUT THE IDEA OF SPENDING DAY AFTER DAY DEBATING OVER DEBATING ON A RESOLUTION THAT HAS NO LEGAL EFFECT WHATSOEVER IS A SOURCE OF TREMENDOUS FRUSTRATION FOR THE AMERICAN PUBLIC. WHATEVER YOUR VIEW MAY BE ON THE WAR IN IRAQ, WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION, IT SEEMS TO ME, TO START TO MAKE SOME DECISIONS ABOUT THIS RATHER THAN REALLY ARGUING WITH EACH OTHER OVER WHETHER OR NOT WE CAN PASS A RESOLUTION THAT HAS NO EFFECT WHATSOEVER LEGALLY.

THE PRESIDENT KNOWS WHAT HE WANTS TO DO.

I THINK THE AMERICAN PUBLIC HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF WHAT THEY'D LIKE TO SEE.

THOSE IN CONGRESS, IT SEEMS TO ME, NEED TO HAVE THAT KIND OF DEBATE AND COME TO SOME CONCLUSIONS ABOUT THIS. SOMETHING WITH TEETH IN IT, SOMETHING WITH SOME ACCOUNTABILITY IF WE'RE GOING TO MOVE FORWARD WITH ANY KIND OF CLARITY. THAT PROVEN ABILITY TO BE ABLE TO GET THINGS DONE. I THINK EXPERIENCE DOES MATTER. I THINK IT'S ALWAYS MATTERED. I THINK THIS TIME IT'S GOING TO MATTER EVEN MORE.

PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW YOU KNOW HOW TO DO THIS, YOU KNOW HOW TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO SOLVE PROBLEMS, COME UP WITH IDEAS THAT CAN DEAL WITH THE ECONOMIC AND INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS WE FACE. OVER THE YEARS I'VE DONE THAT. AS MEMBER OF A FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, BANKING COMMITTEE, LABOR COMMITTEE, THE FAMILY LEAVE ACT. IT TOOK SEVEN YEARS AND TWO PRESIDENTIAL VETOES TO CONVINCING MY COLLEAGUES AND AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT THAT PROVIDING PEOPLE WITH SOME RELIEF AT THE TIME OF FAMILY CRISIS, BIRTH OF A NEW CHILD, TO BE ABLE TO BE WITH THEM WITHOUT LOSING THEIR JOBS. THAT'S THE KIND OF DIRECTION I THOUGHT OUR COUNTRY NEEDED TO TAKE. YOU NEED LEADERSHIP TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO GET THAT DONE. I THINK LEADERSHIP, EXPERIENCE, CERTAINLY A SENSE OF CONFIDENCE AND OPTIMISM AND CLEARLY A VISION OF WHERE WE NEED TO BE GOING.

LET ME JUST MENTION IF I CAN VERY QUICKLY. ON THE WAR IN IRAQ, IT SEEMS TO ME HERE THAT WE NEED TO HAVE A NEW POLICY HERE. I SPENT TIME THERE. I HAVE GONE OVER A NUMBER OF TIMES OVER THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS. DIPLOMACY CLEARLY NEEDS, IN POLITICS, NEED TO BE BACK IN THE FOREFRONT OF ALL OF THIS. I WAS SITTING TALKING WITH JIM AND I USED THE WORDS AND HE DID ALSO A SURGE IN DIPLOMACY IS WHAT'S NECESSARY HERE.

IT'S DISAPPOINTING THAT TO ME THAT WE'VE ALLOWED THE WORD DIPLOMACY TO BECOME THAT THIS IS SOMEHOW A SIGN OF WEAKNESS TO REACH OUT TO THOSE WE HAVE SERIOUS DISAGREEMENTS WITH, TO FIND OUT IF THERE MIGHT NOT BE SOME COMMONALITY OF PURPOSE TO COME UP WITH AN ANSWER RATHER THAN BEING A REFEREE IN A CIVIL WAR IN IRAQ. THE IDEA OF PLACING 17,000 YOUNG AMERICANS IN LARGE URBAN CENTERS IN THE MIDDLE OF WHERE YOU HAVE 23 MILITIAS TODAY WE KNOW OF OPERATING, NOT TO MENTION THE VARIOUS INSURGENT GROUPS, BAATHISTS AND EXPECT THEM TO SORT OUT A CIVIL WAR IN THAT COUNTRY IS WAY WAY TOO MUCH IN MY VIEW. I DON'T THINK IT'S POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO PROVIDE THAT ISSUE. I THINK THEY COULD PROVIDE BORDER SECURITY, TRAINING FOR THESE IRAQIS, THEY NEED THE SKILL LEVELS TO PROVIDE IN THIS COUNTRY, DEAL WITH COUNTERTERRORISM.

GET SOME TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN WHICH WE CLEARLY NEED TO BE SUCCESSFUL AND NOT ALLOW THE TALIBAN TO COME BACK AND CONTROL THERE. BUT CLEARLY A DIFFERENT APPROACH. I'M NOT SUGGESTING THAT WE PACK UP EVERYBODY TOMORROW AND LEAVE. THERE ARE FUNCTIONS WE CAN PERFORM THERE. BUT THE HOUR HAS ARRIVED WHEN THE IRAQI PEOPLE THEMSELVES HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WANT TO BE A COUNTRY. THERE'S NOT A TREASURY DEEP ENOUGH OR AN ARMY BIG ENOUGH THAT'S GOING TO GUARANTEE THAT FOR THEM IF THEY DON'T DECIDE THEMSELVES THIS IS WHAT FUTURE IS GOING TO BE.

THAT'S THE MOMENT WE'VE ARRIVED AT TODAY, IT SEEMS TO ME. INSTEAD OF DIGGING THAT HOLE DEEPER AND DEEPER, WE CLEARLY NEED A NEW STRATEGY HERE TO START MOVING US IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.

AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT IRAN AND I'M WORRIED ABOUT SYRIA. BUT I ALSO KNOW THERE ARE INTERESTS THERE THAT WE HAVE IN COMMON.

WE OUGHT TO BE REACHING OUT TO SEE IF WE CAN'T ESTABLISH SOME WAY TO GET THEM INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL, DIPLOMATIC SOLUTIONS TO THAT REGION. I'M NOT SUGGESTING IT'S GOING TO HAPPEN OVERNIGHT BUT YOU HAVE TO BEGIN THAT PROCESS. JIM BAKER AND LEE HAMILTON, THE BAKER-HAMILTON REPORT PROVIDED THAT KIND OF LEADERSHIP TO THE COUNTRY LAST DECEMBER.

I THOUGHT IT WAS WRONG HEADED TO JUST NEGLECT AND IGNORE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF TEN SERIOUS AMERICANS WHO HAD SPENT THE LAST TEN MONTHS EVALUATING WHAT THE BEST COURSE OF ACTION WAS FOR US TO FOLLOW.

LASTLY I'LL JUST SAY THIS TO YOU, WHAT I ALLUDED TO AT THE OUTSET OF THESE REMARKS. THESE TWO YOUNG DAUGHTERS THAT I HAVE. GRACE WAS BORN TWO DAYS AFTER 9/11. IN FACT SHE WAS ALMOST DUE ON 9/11 IN WASHINGTON. SO SHE WAS NAMED GRACE FOR A COUPLE OF REASONS. FIRST OF ALL, BOTH OF HER GRANDMOTHERS WERE NAMED GRACE. WE THOUGHT THAT WAS A GOOD PLACE TO BEGIN. BUT ALSO WE THOUGHT THE WORLD COULD USE A LITTLE GRACE IN THE MIDST OF THAT EVENT THAT SO CHANGED THE LIVES OF ALL OF US AND PROBABLY HAS AND WILL FOREVER FOR US. BUT MY LITTLE DAUGHTER GRACE BACK SEVERAL MONTHS AGO ASKED ME THE FOLLOWING TWO QUESTIONS ONE MORNING AS SHE WAS GETTING READY TO GO OUT TO HER PRESCHOOL. SHE SAID, DADDY, WHAT KIND OF A DAY DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO HAVE AND I THOUGHT THAT WAS A BRILLIANT QUESTION. ALREADY HER APPLICATION AT HARVARD IS READY. THEN SHE ASKED ME ANOTHER QUESTION, DADDY, WHAT SORT OF A LIFE DO YOU THINK I'M GOING TO HAVE? AFTER I PICKED UP MY JAW OFF THE FLOOR WITH THAT KIND OF PROFOUND QUESTION FROM A 4 OR 5-YEAR-OLD, I'M SURE YOU'VE ASKED YOURSELVES OVER AND OVER AGAIN. WHAT SORT OF A LIFE ARE OUR CHILDREN GOING TO HAVE IN WHAT KIND OF RESPONSIBILITIES DO WE HAVE TO TRY TO GET THOSE RIGHTS FOR THEM?

AS THOSE DAUGHTERS OF MINE AND YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN WILL ASK YOU THE SAME QUESTIONS MINE DID.

WHAT DID YOU DO AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 21ST CENTURY TO GET US BACK ON TRACK. I WANT TO SEE OUR COUNTRY LEAD AGAIN IN THE WORLD. I THINK THE WORLD WANTS US TO LEAD AGAIN IN THE WORLD TO BECOME THE RESPONSIBLE VOICE, THE RESPONSIBLE SOURCE OF DIRECTION THAT WILL OFFER SOME REAL AND OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE.

I WANT TO SEE US CREATE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY FOR PEOPLE HERE AT HOME, WHERE YOU HAVE A CHANCE TO CRAWL UP THAT LADDER.

I APPRECIATE MICHAEL MENTIONING THE THING I'VE SAID A MILLION TIMES IN MY OWN STATE, THERE'S NO BETTER SOCIAL PROGRAM IN THE WORLD THAN A DECENT PAYING JOB THAT OFFERS PEOPLE THAT SENSE OF INDEPENDENCE, THAT COHESIVENESS AND A SENSE OF OPPORTUNITY AND OPTIMISM ABOUT THEIR FUTURES. THAT OUGHT TO BE OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY TO GET THIS RIGHT FOR THEM.

SO WHEN THAT JUDGMENT IS RENDERED WHEN THEY LOOK BACK ON US AND SAY, IN A DIFFICULT TIME, A BROKEN TIME, THAT GENERATION OF AMERICANS LEFT US IN AS GOOD A SHAPE AS THE COUNTRY THEY INHERITED WHEN THEY ASSUMED THE RESPONSIBILITY.

SO AGAIN I APPRECIATE IMMENSELY THE POLITICS AND EGGS, THE POLITICAL LIBRARY, MICHAEL, AND THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL FOR INVITING ME TO COME BY THIS MORNING.

I PLAN ON BEING HERE MANY MANY TIMES OVER THE COMING 10 OR 11 MONTHS AND I THINK NEW HAMPSHIRE WILL GIVE A GUY FROM CONNECTICUT A DECENT CHANCE.

THANKS FOR LISTENING THIS MORNING.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

THANK YOU.

NOW SOME QUESTIONS, IF YOU'VE GOT THEM HERE THIS MORNING. WHO'S THE FIRST BRAVE SOUL HERE?

YES, SIR.

AUDIENCE MEMBER/QUESTION: WILL YOU TALK MORE ON [INDISCERNIBLE]

Sen. Christopher Dodd/(D) Presidential Candidate:

THE QUESTION IS WHAT ARE THE THOUGHTS ON IRAN? I'M WORRIED ABOUT THEM OBVIOUSLY HERE. THE POTENTIAL OBVIOUSLY OF ACCUMULATING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IS A SERIOUS ISSUE. THEY'VE CLEARLY BEEN INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE IN THE WAR ON IRAQ. I'M SURE YOU KNOW THAT OVER THE YEARS DURING THE SADDAM HUSSEIN REGIME, MANY IRAQIS WERE LIVING IN IRAN. THESE RELATIONSHIPS GO BACK SOME TIME.

I WAS BRIEFED BACK IN 2005 ABOUT THESE I.E.D.'S THAT WERE COMING OUT OF IRAN.

THIS WAS NOT NEWS IN MANY WAYS. IN FACT, THE MILITARY SHOWED US WHAT WAS COMING AND HOW MUCH MORE LETHAL THEY WERE THAN THE ONES THAT WERE HOMEGROWN IN IRAQ AT THE TIME. SO I'M WORRIED ABOUT WHERE IRAN IS GOING.

BUT I ALSO HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT THE ONLY CENTER OF POWER IS NOT PRESIDENCY OF THAT COUNTRY. YOU'VE GOT OTHER POWERS THAT ARE MUCH MORE INFLUENTIAL.

ONE OF THE THINGS YOU HAVE GOING FOR US IN IRAN, IT'S ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD WHERE THE SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION HAPPEN TO SUPPORT AND LIKE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THAT'S NOT AN INSIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN TERMS OF OUR ABILITY TO DEAL WITH THAT COUNTRY. AGAIN THERE ARE A LOT OF DIFFERENCES WE HAVE TO GRAPPLE WITH HERE.

CERTAINLY THE RHETORIC THEY'VE USED IN TALKING ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST AND OTHERS ARE HORRIFYING.

IN MY VIEW IT'S WORTH THE EFFORT TO START TO EXPLORE WHETHER OR NOT THERE'S SOME COMMON INTEREST TO HAVE A STABLE SITUATION IN IRAQ.

I DISAGREE AND I WAS DISAPPOINTED THEY WERE JUMPING ON THESE REPORTS ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF THESE I.E.D.'S AS NECESSARILY COMING FROM THE HIGHEST LEADERSHIP IN THE COUNTRY.

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WAS BEGINNING TO RAISE A DRUM BEAT FOR THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE IN IRAN. IF THAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN, I THINK CONGRESS OUGHT TO INSIST UPON AN AUTHORIZATION COMING OUT OF THE PRESIDENCY AND APPROVAL BY CONGRESS BEFORE WE GO FORWARD HERE. THAT WOULD NOT EVER SUGGEST TO YOU THAT WE EXCLUDE THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AT ALL.

BUT DRAWING THAT ARROW OUT OF OUR QUIVER PREMATURELY I THINK COULD BE DANGEROUS AND FURTHER INFLAME A REGION THAT'S ALREADY POSING SERIOUS ISSUES FOR US. SO I WOULD AGAIN LIKE US TO EXPLORE THE OPPORTUNITIES TO FIND OUT WHETHER THERE IS SOME COMMONALITY OF PURPOSE HERE THAT COULD BRING US SOME SUPPORT. IRAN WAS VERY HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH AFGHANISTAN AND THE TALIBAN. THIS IS A SHIITE COUNTRY. THEY'RE VERY NERVOUS ABOUT

HAVING SUNNI DOMINANCE IN IRAQ. SO THEY'RE ANXIOUS TO HAVE SOME STABILITY THERE AS WELL. BUT YOU'RE ONLY GOING TO FIND THAT OUT IF YOU BEGIN A PROCESS HERE TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT SOMETHING COULD BE CHANGED HERE. DIPLOMACY IS NOT A FAVOR TO ANYONE. THIS IS NOT A GIFT TO ANYONE. GOOD SOLID ROBUST DIPLOMACY CAN REALLY ADVANCE THE INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY. I THINK BAKER AND HAMILTON WERE RIGHT IN SUGGESTING THE ADMINISTRATION OUGHT TO BE MORE FORTH COMING IN PURSUING THAT AVENUE.

OKAY.
WHAT ELSE?
YES, SIR.

AUDIENCE MEMBER/QUESTION: FIRST OF ALL, FORGIVE ME. [INDISCERNIBLE] YES. HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO GET A SENATOR ELECTED THESE DAYS. [INDISCERNIBLE] SO MANY MIDDLE CLASS FAMILIES FEEL LIKE THE PROCESS HAS BEEN HIJACKED BY THE [INDISCERNIBLE] THE SAME QUESTION WE ASKED JOHN KERRY THREE YEARS AGO, HOW ARE YOU PART OF THE SOLUTION TO REALLY SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS [INDISCERNIBLE]

Sen. Christopher Dodd/(D) Presidential Candidate:

IT'S NOT JUST HAVE YOU BEEN THERE, WHAT DID YOU DO WHILE YOU WERE THERE IN A SENSE. IF IT'S JUST LOOKING AT WHAT OFFICE YOU'VE HELD THAT DOESN'T INSTRUCT VERY MUCH IT SEEMS TO ME.

AGAIN I MENTIONED TO YOU I THINK EXPERIENCE DOES MATTER HERE IN MANY MANY WAYS.

NOT JUST GOING THROUGH A BRIEFING BOOK BUT ACTUALLY HAVING BEEN THROUGH THE PROCESS AND KNOWING HOW TO MAKE THINGS MOVE AND HAPPEN ARE VERY VERY IMPORTANT.

ON EVERY MAJOR PIECE OF LEGISLATION I'VE BEEN INVOLVED, LANDMARK LEGISLATION, I'VE ALWAYS HAD REPUBLICAN COUNTERPARTS ON EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM.

THE FAMILY LEAVE ACT WAS DAN COATS AND—I DID—CHILDCARE LEGISLATION OR IN HATCH OF UTAH. WHEN I DID THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT I DID IT WITH MITCH MCCONNELL.

THESE WERE ISSUES THAT WERE CUTTING EDGE IN SOME WAYS. WHEN I STARTED THE FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE I HAD FOUR OR FIVE VOTES. IT TOOK SEVEN YEARS AND TWO PRESIDENTIAL VETOES TO BUILD THE MAJORITIES FOR IT. I THINK THAT KIND OF LEADERSHIP IS GOING TO BE CRITICAL IN THE COMING YEARS. IF WE'RE GOING TO DEAL WITH BIG TICKET ISSUES, NOT THE SMALL POLITICS THAT HAVE CAUSED A LOT OF THE FRUSTRATION THAT PEOPLE FEEL, IT'S GOING TO TAKE THAT KIND OF ABILITY TO BRING ELEMENTS TO GO.

I SAY THIS TO YOU AS AN EXAMPLE. IF I'M ELECTED AND SWORN IN ON JANUARY 20, 2009, THE NEXT NIGHT I MAY INTERVIEW JOHN WATER AND MITCH MCCONNELL AND TED KENNEDY AND—HARKIN TO COME DOWN FOR DINNER AT THE WHITE HOUSE. I'M NOT DEALING WITH THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME.

I WORKED WITH THEM FOR A QUARTER OF A SEN TERRORIST I THINK THAT'S GOING TO BE CRITICAL TO START TO GET THINGS DONE HERE THAT PEOPLE WANT TO SEE. SO THE IDEA BECAUSE OF THE JOB I'VE HELD OVER THE YEARS—I WOULD ARGUE AS WELL WE'VE HAD PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN SENATORS, CERTAINLY HARRY TRUMAN, LYNDON JOHNSON, RICHARD NIXON IN HIS FIRST TERM WHO DEMONSTRATED WHY THEY DIDN'T DIRECTLY COME OUT OF THE SENATE CERTAINLY USED THAT EXPERIENCE TO DO THINGS THAT WERE VERY SIGNIFICANT DURING THEIR TERMS OF OFFICE IN THE PRESIDENCY.

SO THE IDEA THAT YOU'VE HELD ONE OFFICE BEFORE I DON'T THINK IN ANY WAY OUGHT TO—BECAUSE HISTORY DIDN'T COME RIGHT OUT OF THE SENATE OUGHT TO INDICT YOU IN ANY SENSE AT ALL.

FRANKLY THIS TIME AROUND I THINK INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ARE GOING TO BE CRITICAL.

THIS IDEA OF STOVE PIPING ISSUES DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN ARE OVER WITH. YOU TALK ABOUT ENERGY POLICY. IS THAT A DOMESTIC ISSUE OR INTERNATIONAL ISSUE?

IS A QUALITY EDUCATION IN THIS COUNTRY A LOCAL ISSUE OR IS IT AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE?

IS A KID IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, THE CHILD GROWING UP HERE, GOING TO BE COMPETING WITH A KID IN HARTFORD OR BRIDGEPORT OR IS HE GOING TO BE COMPETING WITH A CHILD IN JOHANNESBURG AND BEIJING AND MOSCOW AND SYDNEY? THE REALITIES ARE IT'S GOING TO BE MUCH BROADER THAN ANY OF US CAN IMAGINE. IT ALREADY IS.

IN FACT THAT WINDOW IS CLOSING VERY QUICKLY.

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES STUDY ABOUT MATH AND SCIENCE, WE DON'T HAVE A LOT F A TIME. I SAID AT THE OUTSET HERE, THE STAKES ARE HIGH.

THAT'S NOT JUST RHETORIC.

I BELIEVE IT VERY VERY DEEPLY. WE HAVE A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME TO GET THIS RIGHT, MY FRIENDS. AND IF WE DON'T, THIS COUNTRY WILL CHANGE DRAMATICALLY BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES.

READ THAT REPORT BY THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES. THAT'S THEIR LANGUAGE. THE CHANGE WILL BE A MOVE AGGRESSIVELY TO START TO MOVE ON THESE ISSUE OF EDUCATION, ENERGY POLICY, HEALTHCARE AND THE LIKE. SO I THINK WHERE YOU COME FROM IS INTERESTING.

BUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE IN THE JOB YOU'VE HELD IS GOING TO BE A MORE IMPORTANT TEST.

YES, SIR.

AUDIENCE MEMBER/QUESTION: FED CHAIRMAN WEEK ON CRIME IN MORTGAGE LENDING.

WHY IS THAT SUCH AN IMPORTANT ISSUE, THE IMPLICATIONS OF THAT? DO YOU THINK A YEAR FROM NOW IT WILL BE ON THE FRONT PAGES OF THE NEWSPAPERS AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE WILL BE BRAGGING THAT LENDING COMPANIES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT DOWN AND BRING CHARGES AGAINST THEM?

Sen. Christopher Dodd/(D) Presidential Candidate:

I WON'T GO THAT FAR YET BUT IT'S AN IMPORTANT ISSUE. I'M A GREAT ADVOCATE OR SUBPRIME LENDING.

I THINK THERE'S A DANGER HERE PEOPLE WILL ASSOCIATE THAT LANGUAGE WITH PREDATORY LENDING. THERE ARE VERY DIFFERENT THINGS HERE. IT'S IMPORTANT.

I KNOW MANY OF YOU HERE ARE IN THE FINANCIAL SERVICES INDUSTRY. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THAT I UNDERSTAND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO HERE, BETWEEN SUBPRIME LENDING AND PREDATORY LENDING.

THERE'S A DIFFERENT REGULATORY SCHEME IN A SENSE HERE THAT HAPPENS WITH SUBPRIME LENDING AND PREDATORY LENDING.

I'VE WRITTEN BACK MONTHS AGO ALONG WITH A BIPARTISAN GROUP ON THE BANKING ECONOMY, AGAIN AN EXAMPLE OF BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO THE

RESPECTIVE FEDERAL AGENCIES ASKING THEM WHAT THEY'RE DOING ABOUT THIS INEQUALITY, IF YOU WILL, OF A REGULATORY SCHEME HERE.

AND THE ANSWER WE GOT BACK, BY THE WAY, TWO DAYS AGO, WAS "WE'RE THINKING AN ABOUT IT." WELL, CHAIRMAN BERNANKE, THAT'S NOT A VERY SATISFACTORY ANSWER YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT IT AT A TIME LIKE.

THIS I'D RATHER HAVE THE REGULATORS DO SOMETHING AND STEP UP ABOUT THIS RATHER THAN TRYING TO LEGISLATE IN THIS AREA. THE DANGER IS THE FOLLOWING. WE'RE TOLD THERE MAY BE AS MANY AS 2 OR 2.5 MILLION HOMEOWNERS THAT ARE GOING TO BE FORECLOSED OUT OF THEIR RESIDENCES BECAUSE OF THESE OUTRAGEOUS SECOND MORTGAGES OR FIRST MORTGAGES THAT THEY'VE ACQUIRED AS A RESULT OF PREDATORY PRACTICES. WHERE THOSE BROKERS ARE ACTING AS IF THEY WERE FINANCIAL ADVISORS TO THE CUSTOMER—OR THE BORROWER.

WHEN IN MANY CASES THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT DOING THAT. OF COURSE WHEN THESE ARE BUNDLED AND SECURITY ADVERTISED THAT LENDING INSTITUTION IS BASICALLY OUT OF IT AFTER THE ABOUT 10 OR 12 WEEKS.

THE CONSUMER IS IN MANY CASES HOLDING A MORTGAGE THAT IS IN EXCESS OF THEIR INCOME.

THEY PREY ON PEOPLE WHO ARE RETIRED OR ARE GIVEN HIGH RATINGS.

I'M VERY INTERESTED IN HAVING THE FEDERAL AGENCIES LOOK AT THIS AND AGAIN MAKING IT POSSIBLE FOR SOME SORT OF A REGULATORY PRACTICE HERE THAT WOULD HAVE AN EQUAL TO LEVEL PLAYING FIELD.

THE SUBPRIME LENDER IS GOING TO BE HURT BY THIS IF SOMETHING ISN'T DONE SOON.

AGAIN I EMPHASIZE THE SUBPRIME LENDING THAT IS BEEN TERRIFIC. WITH ALMOST 70% OF AMERICANS OWNING THEIR OWN HOMES TODAY. THAT'S AN INCREDIBLE PIECE OF GOOD NEWS FOR THE COUNTRY. AND WE OUGHT TO CELEBRATE THAT. I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE GET DAMAGED AND HURT BY A PRACTICE THAT'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THEM. OKAY.

WHAT ELSE?

DON'T MISS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PICK ON THE SENATOR, YOU KNOW?

YES, SIR.

AUDIENCE MEMBER/QUESTION: THE SECOND HALF OF THE NATIONAL NEWS OVER THE LAST THREE OR FOUR WEEKS, THE [INDISCERNIBLE] STUDENT LOANS, STUDENT AID IS ONE. I HEARD RECENTLY THE V.A. BENEFITS WERE BEING CURTAILED OR REDUCED. THEN I READ THAT [INDISCERNIBLE] DO THESE CUTS IN DOMESTIC ISSUES REPRESENT [INDISCERNIBLE] MONEY WE'RE SPENDING IN IRAQ?

Sen. Christopher Dodd/(D) Presidential Candidate:

IN PART, CERTAINLY. THE MONEY IN IRAQ IS BEING SPENT OFF BUDGET. THIS IS AN OUTRAGE. IT'S AN EMERGENCY SPENDING SO WE HAVEN'T HAD A DEBATE IN CONGRESS ON THE BUDGET ISSUES. ONE OF THE THINGS I HOPE WE DO IS GET THIS BACK ON BUDGET SO WE HAVE A DEBATE ABOUT THIS. YOU'RE UNDERWRITING AND

FINANCING THIS IN THE WAY IT SHOULDN'T BE DONE. HARRY TRUMAN WOULD BE HORRIFIED OF THE FACT YOU ASK PEOPLE TO SUPPORT SOMETHING THEN DON'T HAVE A PROCESS IN PLACE THAT ALLOWS THEM TO BE HEARD ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT THEY WANT TO CONTINUE FUNDING LEVELS ALONG THOSE LINES.

WE HAVE SOME SERIOUS DEBATE OCCURRING BECAUSE OF THE SIZE OF THE DEFICIT NOW. AGAIN, THE ASSUMPTION THAT REPUBLICAN ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE IS CERTAINLY BEING DEBUNKED HERE.

WE ACTUALLY HAD A DEBATE BACK IN 2001 ON THE SENATE BANKING COMMITTEE ABOUT THE NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS OF RETIRING THE NATIONAL DEBT.

SOUNDS QUAIN, I SUPPOSE, TO PEOPLE HERE. BUT THERE ACTUALLY WAS A DISCUSSION. ALAN GREENSPAN CAME AND TALKED TO US ABOUT THE NEGATIVE POSSIBLE FALLOUT OF RETIRING THE NATIONAL DEBT HERE.

HERE WE'RE NOW TALKING ABOUT IN THE TRILLIONS OF DOLLARS. WE'VE ACCUMULATED MORE DEBT IN THE LAST SIX YEARS THAN ALL THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATIONS COMBINED OVER THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY.

AND THOSE CHILDREN OF MINE OR YOURS OR YOUR GRANDCHILDREN, THAT'S A BIRTH TAX ON THEM THAT THEY'LL BE ASKED TO PAY. NOT TO MENTION THE FACT A LOT OF THIS DEBT IS BEING BOUGHT OFFSHORE BY PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE THE INTEREST IN THE UNITED STATES.

SO I'M DEEPLY TROUBLED THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS DUG SUCH A DEEP HOLE FOR US FISCALLY, THAT IT WILL TAKE A LONG LONG TIME FOR TO US COME OUT OF THIS. SO CLEARLY IN THE PROCESS OF HOW WE BALANCE THESE INTERESTS WILL BE IMPORTANT.

I HAPPEN TO SUPPORT A PAY AS YOU GO PROCESS AND HAVE FOR MANY YEARS.

I OFFERED A PAY AS YOU GO BUDGET SOME 23 YEARS AGO ON THE UNITED STATES SENATE.

I GOT 23 OR 25 VOTES FOR IT DURING THE TIME. DURING THE REAGAN ADMINISTRATION, BY THE WAY. I DON'T WANT TO HOLD IT SO RIGIDLY THAT YOU CAN'T DO THINGS YOU MAY NEED TO DO HERE. THE IDEA THAT YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR THINGS YOU WANT TO DO IS SOMETHING THAT I THINK OUGHT TO BE VERY MUCH A PART OF THE BUDGETARY PROCESS HERE. I'M HOPEFUL THAT WILL COME IN SHORT ORDER. OBVIOUSLY THESE OTHER ISSUES LIKE EDUCATION AND HEALTHCARE WILL BE IMPORTANT.

MY HOPE IS THAT WE'LL FIND THE MEANS OR THE ABILITY CREATIVELY TO BE ABLE TO BE FAR MORE SUPPORTIVE OF SUPPORTING THESE CRITICAL ELEMENTS OF COMMISSION GROWTH, EDUCATION BEING A CRITICAL ONE IN MY VIEW. AND GIVEN THE RISING COST OF EDUCATION AT THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS THIS IS GOING TO BE A MAJOR MAJOR ISSUE FOR US, TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T DISCRIMINATE AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE DONE EVERYTHING RIGHT AND ARE PREPARED TO GO ON AND ONLY DON'T DO SO BECAUSE OF THE FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS.

LAST YEAR I'M TOLD SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 200 AND 250,000 STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL, ACCEPTED TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING, AND DID NOT GO BECAUSE OF THE COST.

THAT CANNOT CONTINUE TO HAPPEN. IF THIS COUNTRY BELIEVES IT'S GOING TO GROW AND BE STRONGER IN THE 21ST CENTURY AND NOT HAVE A WELL-EDUCATED POPULATION WE ARE DELUDING OURSELVES.

JEFFERSON SAID SOME 200 YEARS AGO, "ANY NATION THAT EXPECTS TO BE IGNORANT AND FREE EXPECTS WHAT CAN NEVER POSSIBLY BE."

IF THAT WAS TRUE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 18TH CENTURY IT'S MORE TRUE NOW.

SO I'M HOPEFUL WE'LL FIND CREATIVE WAYS TO DEAL WITH THESE ISSUES. BUT THE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY IS MAKING IT VERY VERY DIFFICULT FOR US. APPRECIATE YOU RAISING IT.

YES, SIR, WAY IN THE BACK.

AUDIENCE MEMBER/QUESTION: [INDISCERNIBLE] NATIONAL DEBT. [INDISCERNIBLE] AND WARNING THAT WE WERE HEADED FOR A FINANCIAL FISCAL TRAIN WRECK IF WE DIDN'T TAKE ACTION NOW TO ADDRESS THE NATIONAL DEBT.

WHAT DIRECT ACTIONS WOULD YOU PROPOSE TO ADDRESS THAT? HE CLEARLY STATED THAT THE ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM WERE THE PROBLEMS— [INDISCERNIBLE]

Sen. Christopher Dodd/(D) Presidential Candidate:

AS I MENTIONED ONE THING. OBVIOUSLY THE PAY AS YOU GO APPROACH MAKES SOME SENSE. TO PUT SOME DISCIPLINE IN THE PROCESS HERE ALONG THE WAY SO YOU GET REAL ACCOUNTABILITY. I THINK THAT'S A GOOD PLACE TO BEGIN.

HAD WE DONE THAT A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO I THINK WE WOULD BE IN A VERY DIFFERENT POSITION. WE'LL HAVE THOSE DEBATES ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANT TO PURSUE VARIOUS POLICIES KNOWING YOU HAVE TO PAY FOR THEM ALONG THE WAY.

I DON'T DISAGREE IN THE ENTITLEMENT ISSUES.

CLEARLY SOME THINGS NEED TO BE DONE, MEDICARE, SOCIAL SECURITY. WE HAVE TO MANAGE SO THOSE PROGRAMS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR YOU DOWN THE ROAD.

CERTAINLY ON SOCIAL SECURITY, SOME INCOME LEVELS DON'T NEED THE KIND OF DRACONIAN SUGGESTIONS TO HAVE IT AVAILABLE BY 2045 OR 2050.

IT'S NOT SOMETHING OCCURRING TOMORROW BUT I DON'T DISAGREE. IT'S ALWAYS WISE TO BEGIN THE PROCESS TO WORK FORWARD. THE REASON WHY WE DID THAT WE HAD AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT AND FIGURED THEY'D DO SOMETHING. A GUY NAMED RONALD REAGAN AND TIP O'NEIL WHO SAT DOWN AND SAID LET'S DO WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO INJECT SOME SANITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN THE PROCESS. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT HERE.

YOU NEED TO HAVE A WILLINGNESS TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER TO SIT DOWN AND COME UP WITH THE ANSWERS HERE.

AND CERTAINLY YOU CAN ARGUE ABOUT VARIOUS FORMULATIONS IN HOW YOU DO THAT IN THE MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAM. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF IDEAS THAT DON'T INVOLVE PRIVATIZATION OF THE PROGRAMS.

WE OUGHT TO BE ENCOURAGING, IN MY VIEW, CERTAINLY MORE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SECURITY. I OFFERED INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNT LEGISLATION AGAIN MORE THAN 20-YEARS AGO.

AND PEOPLE WHO ARE POOR WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT IF YOU PROVIDE THE INCENTIVES FOR THEM TO DO SO.

MERRILL LYNCH DID A STUDY YEARS AGO AS A RESULT OF ONE OF THE I.R.A. BILLS WE PUT IN PROVE THAT PEOPLE IN INCOMES OF 20,000 A YEAR WOULD TAKE OUT AN I.R.A. ON APRIL 14.

WITH THAT TAX INCENTIVE THEY WERE CONTRIBUTING TO THEIR LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SECURITY. WE NEED TO DO MORE OF THAT IN MY VIEW TO SUPPLEMENT THESE PROGRAMS THAT ARE NOT GOING TO BE AS STRONG OR VIABLE MAYBE IN SOME WAYS AS WE MIGHT LIKE THEM TO BE DOWN THE ROAD.

SO THOSE ARE VARIOUS THINGS I THINK WE COULD DO TO ANSWER THE QUESTION.

YES, SIR, OVER HERE.

AUDIENCE MEMBER/QUESTION: SENATOR, WHEN I HEAR YOU SPEAK,

Sen. Christopher Dodd/(D) Presidential Candidate: YOU GET EXCITED AND YOU WANT TO SUPPORT ME.

[LAUGHTER]

[APPLAUSE]

AUDIENCE MEMBER/QUESTION:

IN ADDITION TO THAT, WHEN I HEAR YOU SPEAK AS I DID IN NASHUA TWO WEEKS AGO, YOU PROJECT A SENSE OF OPTIMISM FOR THE COUNTRY THAT IS NOT NECESSARILY SCARCE BUT DOESN'T SEEM PERHAPS -- [INDISCERNIBLE] SO I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR REACTION TO THAT IS.

Sen. Christopher Dodd/(D) Presidential Candidate:

LOOK. I WISH MORE OF MY COLLEAGUES, NOT THAT I SUGGEST EVERYONE RUN FOR PRESIDENT. I MEAN, I REALIZE THAT WOULD OVERWHELM A PLACE LIKE NEW HAMPSHIRE, I SUPPOSE.

BUT IT'S A WONDERFUL THING TO GET OUT AROUND THE COUNTRY. WE DON'T DO IT AS OFTEN AS WE SHOULD TO ACTUALLY MEET PEOPLE ALL ACROSS THIS NATION OF OURS. WHEN YOU DO YOU COME AWAY WITH AN INCREDIBLE SENSE OF OPTIMISM. THERE'S INCREDIBLE STRENGTH IN THIS COUNTRY.

I MENTIONED THE DIFFICULTIES. YOU COULD RECITE A LIST PROBABLY LONGER THAN I HAVE TO YOU THIS MORNING ABOUT THE REASON TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT WHERE THINGS ARE HEADED.

BUT I HAPPEN TO BELIEVE THAT IF YOU REALLY LISTEN CAREFULLY TO WHAT PEOPLE ARE SUGGESTING, THEIR IDEAS, THEIR SENSE OF HOPE, YOU CAN'T HELP BUT BE MORE OPTIMISTIC AND CONFIDENT. I OFTEN SAY TO PEOPLE WHO ARE RUNNING FOR OFFICE, WHETHER LOCAL OR NATIONAL.

THERE'S A QUESTION THAT PEOPLE ASK US ALL THE TIME THAT THEY NEVER REALLY ARTICULATE. IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION THAT SOMEONE RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE EVER GETS.

THE ANSWER TO THE QUESTION LARGELY DETERMINES WHETHER OR NOT THEY'LL SUPPORT YOU. AND THE QUESTION IS, NOT, WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON HEALTHCARE OR EDUCATION OR FISCAL POLICY, AS IMPORTANT AS THEY ARE.

I DON'T MINIMIZE IT. THE QUESTION IS THE FOLLOWING: MR. AND MRS. CANDIDATE, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME? DO YOU KNOW WHAT I'M GOING THROUGH? DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO RAISE A FAMILY, TO WORRY ABOUT WHETHER YOU HAVE A JOB THE NEXT DAY? DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF WHO I AM? ARE YOU PAYING ANY ATTENTION TO ME? THEY DON'T ASK THE QUESTION DIRECTLY BUT THAT IS THE QUESTION. THERE'S A GREAT ANECDOTE I LEARNED YEARS AGO WHEN I FIRST RAN FOR CONGRESS.

I'VE TOLD THE STORY A NUMBER OF TIMES.

I OFTEN SAID AT THE END OF MY PUBLIC LIFE IF THIS COULD BE SAID ABOUT ME IT WOULD BE THE BEST MONUMENT I COULD EVER RECEIVE.

IT'S THE STORY OF FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT'S CASKET BEING CARRIED DOWN PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE IN APRIL OF 1945. AND THERE'S A CROWD OBVIOUSLY SEVEN DEEP, TEN DEEP. A REPORTER COVERING THE EVENT IS INTERVIEWING PEOPLE ON THEIR RECOLLECTIONS AND MEMORIES OF FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT. ONE INDIVIDUAL SEEMS MORE GRIEF-STRICKEN THAN THE REST. SO THE REPORTER ASSUMES HE KNEW PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

HE WALKED UP AND ASKED HOW DO YOU KNOW PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT. HE SAID I DIDN'T KNOW HIM AT ALL. HE SAID WHY DO YOU SEEM MORE GRIEF-STRICKEN THAN THE REST? HE SAID I DIDN'T KNOW HIM, HE KNEW ME.

AND I THOUGHT THAT WAS INCREDIBLE, HE KNEW WHO HE WAS. THIS GUY FROM HYDE PARK WHO HAD A LIFE VERY VERY DIFFERENT THAN THE PEOPLE HE TRIED TO LEAD IN THE GREAT DEPRESSION AND THE SECOND WORLD WAR.

I SAID IF THAT COULD BE SAID ABOUT ANYBODY IN PUBLIC LIFE IT'S A TESTIMONY TO YOUR SERVICE. SO IF YOU LISTEN TO PEOPLE IT'S A PRIMAL RESPONSE IN MANY WAYS. AND IF YOU DECIDE THAT I AM LISTENING TO YOU, THEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE INTERESTED IN WHAT PROGRAMS I MIGHT HAVE TO GET US MOVE MOVING IN A DIFFERENT DIRECTION.

AS I HEAR PEOPLE IN THIS COUNTRY, I HEAR A VOICE OF OPTIMISM AND CONFIDENCE. I HEAR PEOPLE WORRIED ABOUT WHERE WE'RE GOING BUT A VOICE THAT THINKS WE CAN GET THINGS RIGHT. I WORRY TERRIBLY ABOUT WHERE WE'RE GOING AS A COUNTRY. IN MICHAEL'S INTRODUCTION I DON'T KNOW IF HE MENTIONED THE FACT THAT BACK IN THE 1960'S WHEN I FINISHED PROVIDENCE COLLEGE I WENT OFF AND JOINED THE PEACE CORE, LATIN AMERICA, SERVED IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLICAN ON THE HAITIAN BORDER.

I'VE BEEN ASKED A MILLION TIMES WHY I DID IT. SOMEONE ASKED ME TO, A GENERATION OF US TO BE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING LARGER THAN OURSELVES.

SO AS A RESULT OF THAT REQUEST, THAT CHALLENGE, MANY OF US WENT OFF AND DID DIFFERENT THINGS AND CAME BACK CHANGED PEOPLE AS A RESULT OF THAT EXPERIENCE.

I MEET WITH PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS EVERYWHERE I GO AS I TRAVEL. I OFFER THEM FOOD AND MEALS. THEY COME OUT.

THEY DON'T WANT TO SEE A SENATOR BUT THEY'RE HUNGRY SO I FEED THEM. THEY HAVE VERY LITTLE INCOMES. WE HAVE PEACE CORPS COUNTRIES ONLY IN THE—TWO ARAB COUNTRIES IN JORDAN AND MOROCCO.

I'M TRYING TO GET ONE IN EGYPT AND OVER—AND ELSEWHERE. I THINK WE NEED TO BECOME MORE FAMILIAR WITH THE MUSLIM WORLD, MORE ARABIC SPEAKERS, MORE PEOPLE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT THAT PART OF THE WORLD.

NONETHELESS I MET WITH 20 PEACE CORPS WORKERS IN JORDAN A FEW YEARS AGO.

ALL OF THEM HAD POSITIVE EXPERIENCES, 13 OF THEM GOING ON TO GRADUATE SCHOOL WHEN THEY COME BACK. BUT I ASKED THEM THE QUESTION ALL OF YOU WOULD HAVE ASKED. HOW ARE WE DOING?

WHAT DO PEOPLE THINK ABOUT THE UNITED STATES?

THESE ARE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT DIPLOMATS.

THEY'VE BEEN SERVING IN VILLAGES IN IMAN AND ELSEWHERE.

I EXPECTED THEM TO SAY, YOU'RE IN DEEP TROUBLE HERE.

THE UNITED STATES IS DESPISED AND HATED BECAUSE OF PALESTINIAN ISSUES OR THE WAR ON IRAQ. THE ANSWER UNANIMOUSLY AMONG THEM WAS, NO, NO, THERE'S STILL GREAT HOPE. THERE'S GREAT GREAT ADMIRATION FOR THE UNITED STATES.

I WISH YOU COULD HAVE HEARD THEM COMING BACK. THAT WE'RE NOT A LOST CAUSE AT ALL. YES, WE'RE DISAPPOINTED. YES, WE HAVE SERIOUS PROBLEMS. YES, PEOPLE ARE ANGRY OVER CERTAIN POLICIES.

BUT I BELIEVE VERY DEEPLY THE WORLD WANTS TO SEE THE UNITED STATES LEAD AGAIN. WE JUST NEED TO GET OUT THERE AND START DOING IT. BEING CONSTRUCTIVE. NOT TO BE LOVED EVERYWHERE BUT START REBUILDING THOSE RELATIONSHIPS. START RE-ESTABLISHING THOSE RULES OF INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR THAT WE AUTHORED, WE WERE THE ARCHITECTS OF AFTER WORLD WAR II.

I MENTIONED NUREMBERG. MY FATHER WAS AT THE NUREMBERG TRIALS OF ROBERT JACKSON. I GREW UP AT A DINING ROOM TABLE WITH MY FIVE SIBLINGS WHERE I HEARD ALL ABOUT THE RULE OF LAW GROWING UP AND HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS.

MY FATHER BELIEVED AS I DO THAT CERTAINLY WHILE A MILITARY BUILDUP CONTRIBUTED TO THE FALL OF THE SOVIET UNION, IT WAS THE ABSENCE OF THE RULE OF LAW IN THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAD MUCH TO DO WITH THE COLLAPSE OF EASTERN EUROPE AND THE SOVIET UNION. PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THOSE COUNTRIES HAD AS MUCH TO DO WITH THE UNDOING THE SYSTEM AS ANY EXTERNAL THREAT THEY FACED AT ALL. TO WATCH THE UNITED STATES TODAY BEGIN TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE RULE OF LAW.

THE VOTE THAT WE TOOK LAST FALL ON THIS MILITARY COMMISSIONS ACT, TO WALK AWAY FROM HABEUS CORPUS, TO WALK AWAY FROM THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS, TO SUGGEST THAT TORTURE COULD BE A PERMISSIBLE MEANS BY WHICH WE EXTRACT INFORMATION WAS A DARK DARK DAY IN MY VIEW.

WE BELONG TO A MUCH BETTER COUNTRY THAN THAT. WE OUGHT TO STAND UP FOR THE CONSTITUTION. WE OUGHT TO STAND UP FOR THE RULE OF LAW AND BE HEARD ON THESE ISSUES.

[APPLAUSE]

THANKS AGAIN. AND YES. I WOULD THANK YOU AGAIN. BUT I BELIEVE THAT OPTIMISM IS THERE. WE JUST NEED TO TAP INTO IT. I GET WOUND UP ON SOME OF THESE.

[LAUGHTER]

YES. I LIKE THAT DODD BUT JUST WANTED TO ADVERTISE THAT.

[LAUGHTER]

AUDIENCE MEMBER/QUESTION: YOU CAME BY MY HIGH SCHOOL ON THE MORNING OF THE 2004 ELECTIONS ON YOUR WAY TO THE POLLS BECAUSE WE LIVE IN THE SAME TOWN BACK IN CONNECTICUT. AND I ALWAYS REMEMBERED THAT. AND I THOUGHT IT WAS VERY SINCERE. AND I ENJOYED YOUR REMARKS THEN. I'VE ENJOYED THEM THIS MORNING. BUT MY QUESTION FOR YOU IS, YOU MENTION YOUR SUPPORT OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FIRST IN THE NATION PRIMARY. BUT HILLARY HAS SAID THAT SHE WILL CONTINUE TO CAMPAIGN IN NH REGARDLESS OF THE D.N.C. RULES. WILL YOU CAMPAIGN?

Sen. Christopher Dodd/(D) Presidential Candidate:

ABSOLUTELY.

YOU'RE GOING TO BE SO SICK OF ME.

[APPLAUSE]

LISTEN, I ENJOY IT. THIS IS A REMARKABLE PROCESS TO GO THROUGH. BUT IT CAN BE TIRING AND EXHAUSTING BUT IT'S EXHILARATING AS WELL. THERE ARE GOOD PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT THE COUNTRY. IN MY OWN STATE OF CONNECTICUT, I WAS LITERALLY OVER THE YEARS HAVE SPOKEN AT EVERY SINGLE PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN MY STATE. JUNIORS AND SENIORS GET A CHANCE TO SEE AN UNITED STATES SENATOR AND ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT TALK. THE PEOPLE WHO COME FROM SMALLER STATES THE IDEA OF RETAIL POLITICS IS SOMETHING WE'RE FAMILIAR WITH. I'VE ENJOYED IT IMMENSELY. YOUNG MAN WENT TO EAST HADDAM SCHOOL. I LIVE IN AN OLD SCHOOL HOUSE ON THE BANKS OF THE CONNECTICUT RIVER. ABOUT A HOUR AND A HALF TO GET THERE SO IT'S EASY TO GET THERE.

AUDIENCE MEMBER/QUESTION: YOU NEED THE VOICE OF A WOMAN.

[LAUGHTER] WOULD YOU SUPPORT PUBLIC FINANCING TO BEGIN WITH

[INDISCERNIBLE]

Sen. Christopher Dodd/(D) Presidential Candidate:

YES, THERE IS. IN FACT, WE HAVE A PROGRAM FOR PRESIDENTIAL RACES. I KNOW PEOPLE ARE OPTING OUT OF IT RIGHT AND LEFT AND THERE'S A SUGGESTION ABOUT GETTING SOME MORE RESOURCES BACK.

I WOULD TELL YOU. THIS IS SO TROUBLING TO ME ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENING AND THE COST OF CAMPAIGNS. AND IT ISN'T JUST OBVIOUSLY THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE OR STATEWIDE RACES. BUT IT'S IN EFFECT LIMITING THE POOL OF PEOPLE WHO MIGHT STEP FORWARD. I'M VERY WORRIED.

THE DAYS OF THE FOUNDING OF OUR REPUBLIC WHERE YOU HAD TO BE A WHITE MALE TO OWN PROPERTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS OF THE NATION IS OBVIOUSLY LONG OVER WITH. BUT IN SOME WAYS WE'RE GETTING BACK TO A DE FACTO SITUATION WHERE ONLY THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE PERSONAL WEALTH THEMSELVES OR ACCESS TO IT, THE QUESTION WAS RAISED EARLIER ABOUT THE INTEREST THAT CAN OVERWHELM A SYSTEM IS SOMETHING I'VE WORRIED ABOUT ALL THE TIME THE I'VE BEEN AN ADVOCATE OF PUBLIC FINANCING OF CAMPAIGNS. CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION IF YOU HAVE TO IN SOME WAYS.

THE IDEA THAT MONEY IS SPEECH I THINK IS ONE OF THE WORSE DECISIONS WE REACHED IN THE SUPREME COURT. I THINK MONEY ALLOWS YOU TO HAVE A BIGGER VOICE BOX. AND AS AN ADVOCATE OF FREE SPEECH THE IDEA THAT WE LIMIT OR DON'T LIMIT THE ABILITY OF PEOPLE TO HAVE SOME CONTROL OVER THIS PROCESS IS DEEPLY WORRYING TO ME.

IT JUST ISN'T STATEWIDE OFFICES. THE COST OF RUNNING FOR A LOCAL OFFICE IS GETTING OVERWHELMING. I'M WORRIED WE'RE EXCLUDING A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM BEING A PART OF IT. SO I'M A STRONG ADVOCATE OF FINDING SOME WAYS HERE TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE ONCE AGAIN FOR PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROCESS.

AND HOPEFULLY THAT WILL COME.

YES, SIR.

AUDIENCE MEMBER/QUESTION: SENATOR, I THINK A LOT OF US THINK ABOUT [INDISCERNIBLE] WE MAY LOVE YOU HERE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, BUT THE QUESTION IS WILL THEY LOVE YOU IN NEW MEXICO OR NEVADA OR SOUTH DAKOTA OR SOUTH CAROLINA. YOU MIGHT NOT WANT TO SHOW YOUR HAND. BUT WHAT'S YOUR STRATEGY FOR SELLING YOURSELF IN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY?

Sen. Christopher Dodd/(D) Presidential Candidate:

YOU KNOW, I'M 62-YEARS OF AGE. THIS IS NOT A WARMUP FOR SOME FUTURE RUN HERE FOR ME.

[LAUGHTER]

[APPLAUSE]

I AM WHO I AM OUT HERE. I'M NOT GOING TO GO THROUGH SOME METAMORPHOSIS FOR YOU IN THE PROCESS. AND SO I DON'T GIVE A DIFFERENT SPEECH IN DIFFERENT PLACES. AND I DON'T THINK PEOPLE WANT TO HEAR IT. I THINK THE WORD AUTHENTICITY HAS BEEN USED A LOT OVER THE YEARS TO TALK ABOUT THIS. BUT I THINK IT STILL RINGS TRUE IN A SENSE. THE ANSWER "I DON'T KNOW" IS NOT A BAD ANSWER. I KNOW PEOPLE DON'T LIKE TO GIVE IT. OR THAT WE DISAGREE IS OKAY, TOO, IN A WAY. WE'RE NOT ALL GOING TO AGREE ON THINGS AT ALL.

IN FACT, THE ISSUES THAT I MAY CONFRONT AS YOUR AS YOUR PRESIDENT SOME DAY ARE THINGS WE CAN'T IMAGINE HERE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

SO YOU MAKE THE DECISION ABOUT CHARACTER, WHETHER THE PERSON HAS THE EXPERIENCE, THE BACKGROUND, THE PROVEN ABILITY AND THE SENSE OF

JUDGMENT THAT WILL BE IN THAT SEAT MAKING DECISIONS THAT AFFECT OUR COUNTRY AND THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE.

SO AS I GO AROUND TO ALL THE STATES, I FIND THAT COMING FROM NEW ENGLAND THIS IDEA IS NOT, I DON'T THINK IT'S A LIABILITY. I THINK PEOPLE COULD CARE LESS WHERE YOU'RE FROM IN A SENSE. THIS NOTION THAT SOMEHOW THAT BECAUSE YOU ARE FROM A CERTAIN PART OF THE COUNTRY, ANYONE WHO HAS EVER LOOKED AT AN ELECTION AND SAY WHY DID SO-AND-SO LOSE, IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF WHERE THEY CAME FROM. IT'S WHETHER THEY CONNECTED WITH PEOPLE.

THAT THEY WERE SINCERE AND HELD VIEWS—EVEN WHEN YOU DISAGREED I THINK IS WHAT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO PEOPLE. IN THE PAST I THINK THAT'S BEEN THE REASON WHY WE'VE SUCCEEDED OR FAILED AS CANDIDATES FROM THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OR THE REPUBLICAN PARTY FOR THAT MATTER.

I ALWAYS SAY DEMOCRATS NEVER UNDERSTOOD RONALD REAGAN TERRIBLY WELL. ONE OF THE REASONS THE COUNTRY SUPPORTED HIM AS OFTEN AS THEY DID, EVEN WITH PEOPLE WHO DISAGREED WITH THEM FUNDAMENTALLY ON ISSUES, WHEN THEY ASKED HIM AND THEM ON THEIR ISSUES HE DID WELL.

ONE BECAUSE RONALD REAGAN HAD A WONDERFUL SENSE OF CONFIDENCE AND OPTIMISM AND SECONDLY HE HAD A SENSE OF DIRECTION. HE'D SAY TO PEOPLE, I'M GOING OUT THAT DOOR. I MAY GO ALONE BUT THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO COME ALONG I'D LIKE TO HAVE YOUR COMPANY. BUT THAT'S A VERY REASSURING QUALITY OF PEOPLE IN PUBLIC LIFE IN MY VIEW, THAT YOU HAVE AN SENSE OF DIRECTION, A SENSE OF PURPOSE, A SENSE OF INVESTIGATION AND A SENSE OF GOALS.

YOU'D LIKE TO ACHIEVE FROM THE CONSTITUENCY YOU NEED TO REPRESENT.

I'M NOT WORRIED AT ALL. I THINK I CAN DO FINE IN THESE OTHER STATES. I DON'T THINK THEY'RE ANY DIFFERENT THERE THAN NEW HAMPSHIRE. PEOPLE WANT TO KNOW WHERE YOU STAND, WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN AND WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE THEM AS A COUNTRY. I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN THAT TO PEOPLE.

[APPLAUSE]

HOW ARE WE DOING HERE? LISTEN, I'LL STAY FOR LUNCH IF YOU'D LIKE. [LAUGHTER]

WELL, THANK YOU ALL VERY VERY MUCH.

YOU'VE BEEN VERY GENEROUS WITH YOUR TIME AND YOUR QUESTIONS. AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU IN THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS. THANK YOU VERY VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

James Brett\New England Council:

SENATOR, WE JUST WANT TO THANK THE SENATOR FOR STOPPING BY AND GIVING HIS CANDID AND YET PASSIONATE REMARKS ON HOW HE FEELS ABOUT THE ISSUES. NEEDLESS TO SAY, YOU KNOW WHY THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL DECIDED TO GIVE HIM NEW ENGLANDER OF THE YEAR, BECAUSE OF HIS ADVOCACY ON THESE SO IMPORTANT ISSUES ON BEHALF OF NEW ENGLAND.

THAT'S WHAT WE ENJOYED WORKING WITH THE SENATOR, THAT HE HAS THE PERSPECTIVE ON WORKING ON BEHALF OF ALL OF NEW ENGLAND DAY IN AND DAY OUT. AS YOU GO THROUGH YOUR JOURNEY HERE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AND SPENDING DAY AND NIGHT HERE, YOU MAY NEED A LARGE CUP OF COFFEE. HERE IS A MUG.

WE'RE GOING TO GET A MUG SHOT VERY SHORTLY. BUT WE WANT TO THANK YOU, SENATOR, FOR ALL THAT YOU DO ON BEHALF OF NEW ENGLAND. WE WISH YOU LUCK IN YOUR JOURNEY. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC TELEVISION IS PROUD TO BE A PRODUCTION PARTNER OF THIS POLITICS AND EGGS WEBCAST AND THE VIDEO ARCHIVES PROJECT. POLITICS AND EGGS IS A PROJECT OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE POLITICAL LIBRARY AND THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL WITH SUPPORT FROM BAE SYSTEMS, CLEAN HARBORS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, AND FIDELITY INVESTMENTS.