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09/20/2004 - Ask President Bush, Derry, New Hampshire [767609]

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Barcode Scanning SheetCollection Code: **SECLOG**Staff Name: **PRESIDENT**Document Date: **9/20/2004**

Correspondent:

Subject/Description: **PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: ASK PRESIDENT BUSH -
DERRY, NEW HAMPSHIRE SEP 20 04**SCANNED
BY
ORM

Acknowledgments

- Mrs. Laura Bush (not present)
- Vice President Dick Cheney (not present)
- Governor Craig Benson (R-NH) (will introduce you)
- Congressman Jeb Bradley (R-NH)
(This event is in his district.)
- Congressman Charlie Bass (R-NH) ~~(NY)~~
- Other state and local officials

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN

9/20/04

- Paul Needham, former Derry Town Councilor (D),
Democrats for Bush Member (Note: He is a former
John Edwards for President Co-Chair.)
- Londonderry High School Band (performed during
pre-program)
- Grassroots activists

* RAY WIZORECK
("the wiz")

- Safer world, more hopeful America ... Win NH in Nov.

Our economy has faced challenges

- stock market down in 2000, recession in 2001, 9/11, war, uncovered corporate scandals.

We acted:

- Tax relief – child credit, marriage penalty relief, 10% bracket, phase-out death tax, small business

Economy today is getting stronger.

- Added about 1.7 million jobs since August '03
- Added over 100,000 manufacturing jobs since Jan.
- Unemployment rate is 5.4% (was 6.3% in June '03)
 - Lower than 1970's, 1980's, and 1990's
- Economy growing at rates as fast as any in 20 years
- Inflation and interest rates low; farms strong
- NH – added 11,500 jobs since January
 - State unemp. rate is 3.7% (was 4.9% in June '02)

More to do to further strengthen economy:

- Taxes Low Tax relief permanent; tort reform; regulatory reform; energy plan; open foreign markets
- Health care – More Affordable and More Accessible
 - Small Business/Families – HSA's, association health plans, med. liability, generics, health IT
 - Safety Net – Medicare, SCHIP, community health centers

Changing World – Reform our systems to empower individuals and create an ownership society

"My opponent wants government to dictate. I want you to decide."

- Health care accounts – take from job to job
- Social Security – allow younger workers to set up personal retirement accounts
- Flex-time, Comp-time – give workers more control over their schedule, more family-friendly workplace
- Job Training – Community colleges (train for jobs of 21st century)
- Education – No Child Left Behind, high schools – help prepare students for jobs of the 21st century
- Homeownership – at all-time high
 - Set new goal to increase supply of affordable housing by 7 million homes over next 10 years.

War on terror

- Afghanistan – Taliban; al-Qaida
- Pakistan; Saudi Arabia; Libya
- Iraq – I had a choice to make after 9/11
- Military – \$87 billion ... "complicated" matter
- Spread peace & freedom; freedom is God's gift ...

Handwritten notes:
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w/te

Participants
Kathy Helm (Tax Family)

- (lives in Deerfield, NH)
- Kathy is a stay-at-home mom. Her husband Tom is the Audio Visual (A/V) Manager at Southern New Hampshire University.
- 3 children: Thomas (5), Steven (2), and Lauren (4 weeks).
- Total household income of about \$50,000.
- Refinanced their home about 1½ years ago and were able to reduce their interest rate (saving about \$200 per month).
- Used their child tax check to purchase a new dining room table for family.
- Tax Savings: Saved about \$1,700 in 2003; will save about \$2,200 in 2004 (increased child tax credit, marriage penalty relief, and rate relief). If tax relief isn't made permanent, their tax burden will increase by about \$1,000 in 2005.

Jim Bell (Small Business Owner)

- President and CEO, EPE Corporation (Manchester, NH)
- S Corp.
- EPE, a manufacturer of electronic assemblies for military, medical, computer, and industrial companies, was started in 1955 by Jim's father. (Jim's son, J.D., is a co-owner. Jim hopes to keep the business in the family, and he is a strong supporter of eliminating the death tax.)
- 70 employees; hired 17 so far in 2004; has plans to add about 5 more this year.
- About \$10.5 million in revenues in 2003. Revenues increased by about 10% in 2003; projected revenues for 2004 are \$12 million.
- Invested about \$100,000 in 2003; has plans to invest about \$200,000 in 2004.
- Married with 6 grown children.
- Tax Savings: If Jim invests \$200,000 in 2004, he will save about \$34,000 (increased small business expensing).

Jen Brier (Job Training Graduate)

- Registered Nurse, Southern New Hampshire Medical Center (Nashua, NH)
- Used to work at a catalog company making \$9/hour. Enrolled in the Registered Nurse's (RN) program at New Hampshire Community Technical College in the fall of 2001 (used federal student loans to pay for school).
- After 2 years, Jen was certified as a Licensed Nurse's Assistant and began working at the medical center, making \$10.55/hour.
- Received her RN degree in May and was hired as a full-time registered nurse in June, making about \$22/hour (and has health insurance and the ability to enroll in a 401(k) plan).
- Taking classes part-time at the University of New Hampshire to get her master's degree; she hopes to become a Licensed Nurse Practitioner (her employer pays \$2,000/year of her tuition).
- Total household income of about \$48,000 in 2003.
- Tax Savings: She and her husband saved about \$1,100 in 2003; will save a similar amount in 2004 (marriage penalty relief and rate relief). If tax relief isn't made permanent, their tax burden will increase by about \$275 in 2005.

Ken Holmes (Association Health Plan Supporter)

- Principal and General Manager, North Branch Construction (Henniker, NH)
- North Branch Construction is a general contractor and construction managing company.
- S Corp.; \$45 million in projected revenues for 2004; about 56 full-time employees.
- Ken has been with the company for 15 years.
- 46 of 56 full-time employees are enrolled in the company's health insurance.
- Company pays 100% of its employees' monthly premiums and 30% of the employees' dependents' coverage.
- Costs to pay these premiums have increased by about 10 to 15% each year for the past 5 years. For 2004, the company will pay about \$170,000 in health care premiums (employees pay an additional \$70,000 in premiums for the portion of dependent coverage not paid by the company.).
- In the 15 years he has been with the company, it has always covered the employees' healthcare, and he does not want to see that change.
- (Note: Married with 2 children.)

Today, my opponent continued his pattern of twisting in the wind, with new contradictions of his old positions on Iraq. / He apparently woke up this morning and has now decided no, we should not have invaded Iraq – after just last month saying he still would have voted FOR using force even knowing everything we know today. / Incredibly, he now believes our national security would be stronger with Saddam Hussein in power, not in prison. / Today he said, and I quote: “We have traded a dictator for a chaos that has left America less secure.” / My opponent is saying he prefers the stability of a dictatorship to the hope and security of a democracy.

I couldn't disagree more -- and not too long ago, so did my opponent. Last December he said, and I quote: “Those who doubted whether Iraq or the world would be better off without Saddam Hussein, and those who believe we are not safer with his capture, don't have the judgment to be President or the credibility to be elected president.” I couldn't have said it better myself.

CRITICAL

My opponent has also changed his mind and decided that our efforts in Iraq are now a distraction from the war on terror, when he earlier acknowledged that confronting Saddam Hussein was central to the war on terror. And he is criticizing our reconstruction efforts – when he voted against the money to pay for reconstruction.

43 days before the election, my opponent has suddenly settled on a proposal for what to do next – and it is exactly what we are currently doing: working with international partners, training Iraqi troops, reconstructing the country and preparing for elections.

Our work in Iraq is hard

This is hard work, and it is absolutely essential work for America's future security. For our children and grandchildren to grow up in a safer world, we must defeat the terrorists and insurgents and complete our mission of rebuilding Iraq as a stable democracy.

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Preservation Copy - George W. Bush Handwriting

During the next few days, I will meet in New York with our allies and with the new leader of Iraq, Prime Minister Allawi. He is a strong and determined leader who has a plan to bring stability to his country, and understands the stakes in this battle. I hope the American people will listen carefully to his assessment of the situation in his country. We must show resolve and determination. Mixed signals are the wrong signals to send to our troops, to our allies, to the Iraqi people and most of all, to our enemies.

✓ *terrorists are trying to shake our confidence*

✓ *free societies*

✓ *c*

9/20/04

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*Revised and
Replaced.*

Value

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*he believes our national
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Let me remind my opponent of one of his own previous statements. I quote: "Those who doubted whether Iraq or the world would be better off without Saddam Hussein, and those who believe we are not safer with his capture, don't have the judgment to be President or the credibility to be elected president." That was Senator Kerry, and I couldn't have said it better myself.

*Sam
Kerry
Wof
Paz*

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Since these efforts began in 1996, poor countries with the heaviest debt burdens have received more than 30 billion dollars of relief. And to prevent the build up of future debt, America and other nations are increasingly providing new aid in the form of grants rather than loans.

The Security Council adopted a new Resolution that authorizes an expanded African Union security force to prevent further bloodshed ... and that bans flights by Sudanese military aircraft in Darfur. We congratulate the members of the Council on this timely and necessary action. And I call on the government of Sudan to honor the cease-fire it signed, and to stop the killing in Darfur.