

Set 1: welfar, budget, capit, veto, educ, gain, child, centuri

Set 2: saddam, hussein, osama, bin, laden, destruct, weapon, mass

Set 3: republican, democrat, togeth, commiss, polit, done, bipartisan, senat

Set 4: gun, polic, crime, assault, law, ban, check, death

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MODERATOR Mr. President, new question, two minutes. You said that if Congress would vote to extend the ban on assault weapons, that youd sign the legislation, but you did nothing to encourage the Congress to extend it. Why not?

GEORGE W. BUSH Actually, I made my intentions — made my views clear. I did think we ought to extend the assault weapons ban, and was told the fact that the bill was never going to move, because Republicans and Democrats were against the assault weapon ban, people of both parties. I believe law- abiding citizens ought to be able to own a gun. I believe in background checks at gun shows or anywhere to make sure that guns dont get in the hands of people that shouldnt have them. But the best way to protect our citizens from guns is to prosecute those who commit crimes with guns. And thats why early in my administration I called the attorney general and the U. S. attorneys and said; Put together a task force all around the country to prosecute those who commit crimes with guns. And the prosecutions are up by about 68 percent — I believe — is the number. Neighborhoods are safer when we crack down on people who commit crimes with guns. To me, thats the best way to secure America.

MODERATOR Senator?

JOHN KERRY I believe it was a failure of presidential leadership not to reauthorize the assault weapons ban. I am a hunter. Im a gun owner. Ive been a hunter since I was a kid, 12, 13 years old. And I respect the Second Amendment and I will not tamper with the Second Amendment. But Ill tell you this. Im also a former law enforcement officer. I ran one of the largest district attorneys offices in America, one of the ten largest. I put people behind bars for the rest of their life. Ive broken up organized crime. I know something about prosecuting. And most of the law enforcement agencies in America wanted that assault weapons ban. They dont want to go into a drug bust and be facing an AK- 47. I was hunting in Iowa last year with a sheriff from one of the counties there, and he pointed to a house in back of us, and said, “See the house over? We just did a drug bust a week earlier, and the guy we arrested had an AK- 47 lying on the bed right beside him. “Because of the presidents decision today, law enforcement officers will walk into a place that will be more dangerous. Terrorists can now come into America and go to a gun show and, without even a background check, buy an assault weapon today. And thats what Osama bin Ladens handbook said, because we captured it in Afghanistan. It encouraged them to do it. So I believe Americas less safe. If Tom DeLay or someone in the House said to me, “Sorry, we dont have the votes,” Id have said, “Then were going to have a fight. “And Id have taken it out to the country and Id have had every law enforcement officer in the country visit those congressmen. Wed have won what Bill Clinton won.