

Set 1: record, vote, oppos, senat, financ, fought, parti, reform

Set 2: congress, night, littl, control, program, industri, interest, run

Set 3: debt, trillion, pay, share, grow, money, segment, build

Set 4: invest, econom, economi, growth, grow, creat, unemploy, trickl

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GEORGE H. W. BUSH I assume she was supportive of the decision on McDonnell Douglas, I assume she was supporting me on the decision to sell those airplanes. I think its a good decision– took a little heat for it, but I think it was the correct decision to do. And we worked it out, and indeed were moving forward all around the world in a much more peaceful way. So that one we came away with in creating jobs for the American people. I would simply say to her, look, take a look at what the president has proposed on job retraining. When you cut back on defense spending, some people are going to be thrown out of work. If you throw another 50, 000 kids on the street because of cutting recklessly in troop levels, youre going to put a lot more out of work. I would say to them, look at the job retraining programs that were proposing. Therein is the best answer to her. And another one is; stimulate investment and savings. I mean, weve got big economic problems, but we are not coming apart at the seams; were ready for a recovery. With interest rates down and inflation down, the cruelest tax of all, caught up in a global slowdown right now, that that will change if you go with the programs Ive talked about and if you help with job retraining and education. I am a firm believer that our America 2000 education problem is the answer– a little longer run; its going to take awhile to educate. But it is a good program. So her best help for short term is job retraining, if she was thrown out of work at a defense plant. But tell her its not all that gloomy; were the US, we faced tough problems before. Look at the misery index when the Democrats had both the White House and the Congress. It was just right through the roof. Now, we can do better. And the way to do better is not to tax and spend but to retrain, get that control of the mandatory spending programs. Im much more optimistic about this country than some. (APPLAUSE)

MODERATOR Mr. Perot? Mr. Perot, you have one minute, sir.

ROSS PEROT Defense industries are going to have to convert to civilian industries. Many of them are. And the sooner they start, the sooner theyll finish. And there will be a significant transition. And its very important that we not continue to let our industrial base deteriorate. We had someone who Im sure regrets said it in the presidents staff said he didnt care whether we made potato chips or computer chips. Well, anybody that thinks about it cares a great deal. Number one, you make more making computer chips than potato chips; and, number 2, 19 out of 20 computer chips that we have in this country now come from Japan. Weve given away whole industries. So as we phase these industries over, theres a whole of intellectual talent in these industries. A lot of these people in industries can be converted to the industries of tomorrow, and thats where the high- paying jobs are. We need to have a very carefully thought through phase- over. Now, see, we practice 19th century capitalism. The rest of the world practices 21st century capitalism. I cant handle that in a minute, but I hope we can get back into it later. In the rest of the world, the countries and the businesses would be working together to make this transition in an intelligent way.

MODERATOR Governor Clinton, you have one minute, sir.

BILL CLINTON We must have a transition plan to plan to convert from a defense to a domestic economy. No other nation would have cut defense as much as we already have without that. There are 200, 000 people unemployed in California alone because we have cut defense without planning to retrain them and to reinvest in the technologies of the future here at home. That is what I want to do. This administration may say they have a plan, but the truth is they have not even released all the money, the paltry sum of money, that Congress appropriated. I want to take very dollar by which we reduce defense and reinvest it in technologies for the 21st century— in new transportation, in communication, in environmental clean- up technologies. Lets put the American people to work, and lets build the kind of high- tech, high- wage, high- growth economy that the American people deserve.

MODERATOR All right. The next question goes to Mr. Perot for a 2- minute answer. It will be asked by Ann. Ann?Mr. Perot, you talked a minute ago about rebuilding the job base. But is it true what Governor Clinton just said, that that means that unemployment will increase, that it will slow the economy? And how would you specifically use the powers of the presidency to get more people back into good jobs immediately?

ROSS PEROT Step one, the American people send me up there, the day after election, Ill get with congressional— we wont even wait till inauguration, and Ill ask the president to help me and Ill ask his staff to help me. And we will start putting together teams to put together— to take all the plans that exist and do something with them. Please understand. There are great plans lying all over Washington nobody ever executes. Its like having a blueprint for a house you never built. You dont have anywhere to sleep. Now our challenge is to take these things, do something with them. Step one, we want to put America back to work, clean up the small business problem, have one task force at work on that. The second, youve got your big companies that are in trouble, including the defense industries— have another one on that. Have a 3rd task force on new industries of the future to make sure we nail those for our country and they dont wind up in Europe and Asia. Convert from 19th to 21st century capitalism. See, we have an adversarial relationship between government and business. Our international competitors that are cleaning our plate have an intelligent relationship between government and business, and a supportive relationship. Then have another task force on crime because, next to jobs, our people are concerned about their safety. Health care, schools— one on the debt and deficit. And finally in that 90- day period before the inauguration, put together the framework for the town hall and give the American people a Christmas present. Show them by Christmas the first cut at these plans. By the time Congress comes into session to go to work, have those plans ready to go in front of Congress. Then get off to a flying start in 93 to execute these plans. Now, there are people in this room and people on this stage whove been in meetings when I would sit there and say, “Is this the one were going to talk about or do something about?” Well, obviously, my orientation is lets go do it. Now, put together your plans by Christmas, be ready to go when Congress goes, nail these things. Small business— youve got to have capital, youve got to credit, and many of them need mentors or coaches. And we can create more jobs there in a hurry than any other place.

MODERATOR Governor Clinton, one minute.

BILL CLINTON This country desperately needs a jobs program, and my first priority would

be to pass a jobs program, to introduce it on the first day I was inaugurated. I would meet with the leaders of the Congress, with all the newly elected members of the Congress and as many others with whom I could meet between the time of the election and the inauguration, and we would present a jobs program. Then we would present a plan to control health care costs and phase in health care coverage for all Americans. Until we control health care costs, were not going to control the deficit. It is the number one culprit. But first we must have an aggressive jobs program. I live in a state where manufacturing job growth has far outpaced the nation in the last few years, where we have created more private sector jobs since Mr. Bush has been president than have been created in the entire rest of the country, where Mr. Bushs labor secretary said job growth has been enormous. Weve done it in Arkansas. Give me a chance to create these kind of jobs in America. We can do it. I know we can. (APPLAUSE)

MODERATOR President Bush, one minute.

GEORGE H. W. BUSH Weve got the plan announced for what we can do for small business. Ive already put forward things thatll get this country working fast, some of which have been echoed here tonight— investment tax allowance, capital gains reduction, more on research and development, tax credit for first- time home buyers. What Im going to do is say to Jim Baker when this campaign is over, all right, lets sit down now, you do in domestic affairs what youve done in foreign affairs, be kind of the economic coordinator of all the domestic side of the House, and that includes all the economic side, all the training side, and bring this program together. Were going to have a new Congress, and were going to say to them, youve listened to the voters the way we have. Nobody wants gridlock anymore, and so lets get the program through. And I believe itll work because, as Ross said, we got the plans. The plans are all over Washington. And Ive put ours together in something called the Agenda for American Renewal, and it makes sense, its sensible, it creates jobs, it gets to the base of the kind of jobs we need. And so Ill just be asking for support to get that put into effect.

MODERATOR All right. The next question goes to Governor Clinton for 2 minutes. It will be asked by Sandy. Governor Clinton, when a president running for the first time gets into the office and wants to do something about the economy, he finds in Washington theres a person who has much more power over the economy than he does; the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, accountable to no one. That being the case, would you go along with proposals made by Treasury Secretary James Brady and Congressman Lee Hamilton to make the Federal Reserve Board chairman somehow more accountable to elected officials?

BILL CLINTON Well, let me say that I think that we might ought to review the terms, the way it works. But frankly, I dont think thats the problem today. We have low interest rates today. At least we have low interest rates that the Fed can control. Our long- term interest rates are still pretty high because of our deficit and because of our economic performance. And there was a terrible reaction internationally to Mr. Bush saying he was going to give us 4 more years of trickle- down economics— another across- the- board tax cut and most of it going to the wealthy, with no real guarantee of investment. But I think the important thing— the important thing— is to use the powers the president does have on the assumption that, given the condition of this economy, were going to keep interest rates down if we have the discipline to increase investment and reduce the debt at the same time. That is my commitment. I think the American people are ready for action. I think Congress is hungry for someone who will work with them instead of manipulate them. Someone who will not veto

a bill that has an investment tax credit, middle class tax relief, research and development tax credits as Mr. Bush has done. Give me a chance to do that. I dont have to worry in the near term about the Federal Reserve. Their policies so far, it seems to me, are pretty sound.

MODERATOR President Bush you have one minute.

GEORGE H. W. BUSH I dont think the Fed ought to be put under the Executive Branch. There is a separation there. I think thats fine. Alan Greenspan is respected. Ive had some arguments with him about the speed in which we might have lowered interest rates, but Governor Clinton, he talks about the reaction to the markets. There was a momentary fear that he might win and that the markets went phwee, down like that. So I dont think we can judge on, the stock market has been strong. Its been very strong since Ive been president. And they recognize we got great difficulties, but theyre also much more optimistic than the pessimists we have up here tonight. In terms of vetoing tax bills, youre darn right. I am going to protect the American taxpayer against the spend and tax Congress. And Im going to keep on vetoing them, because I dont think were taxed too little. I think the governments spending too much. So Governor Clinton can label it tax for the rich or anything he wants. Im going to protect the working man by continuing to veto, and to threaten to veto until we get this new Congress, and then were going to move forward on our plan. Iâ€™ve got to protect them.

MODERATOR Mr. Perot, one minute.

ROSS PEROT Keep the Federal Reserve independent, but lets live in a world of reality. We live in a global economy, not a national economy. These interest rates we have now dont make any sense. We have a four trillion dollar debt, and only in America would you finance seventy percent of it five years or less. So seventy percent of our debt is five years or less. Its very interest sensitive. We have a four percent gap between what we pay for treasuries, and what Germany pays for one to five year treasuries. That gap is going to close, because the Arabs, the Japanese and folks in this country are going to start buying German treasuries because they can get more money. Every time our interest rates go up one percent, that adds 28 billion dollars to the deficit or to the debt. Whichever place you put it. We are sitting on a ticking time bomb folks, because we have totally mismanaged our country, and we had better get it back under control. Just think in your own business, if you had all of your long term problems financed short term. Youd go broke in a hurry.