

Set 1: congress, night, littl, control, program, industri, interest, run

Set 2: republican, democrat, togeth, commiss, polit, done, bipartisan, senat

Set 3: presidenti, candid, debat, univers, welcom, tonight, commiss, nomine

Set 4: sir, minut, pleas, respond, goe, sorri, ask, statement

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MODERATOR All right, Mr. Perot, the question is for you. You have a 2- minute answer, and it will be asked by Susan Rook. ROok; Mr. Perot, youve talked about going to Washington to do what the people who run this country want you to do. But it is the presidents duty to lead, and often lead alone. How can you lead if you are forever seeking consensus before you act?

ROSS PEROT Youre talking about 2 different subjects. In order to lead, you first have to use the White House as a bully pulpit and lead; then you have to develop consensus or you cant get anything done, and thats where we are now. We cant get anything done. How do you get anything done when youve got all of these political action committees, all of these thousands of registered lobbyists — 40, 000 registered lobbyists, 23, 000 special interest groups — and the list goes on and on and on. And the average citizen out here is just working hard every day. Youve got to go to the people. I just love the fact that everybody, particularly in the media, goes bonkers over the town hall. I guess its because you will lose your right to tell them what to think. The point is, theyll get to decide what to think. (Laughter and applause) I love the fact that people will listen to a guy with a bad accent and a poor presentation manner talking about flip charts for 30 minutes, because they want the details. See, all the folks up there at the top said the attention span of the American people is no more than 5 minutes, they wont watch it. Theyre thirsty for it. You want to have a new program in this country. If you get grassroots America excited about it, and if they tap Congress on the shoulder and say do it, Charlie, itll happen. And thats a whole lot different from these fellows running up and down the halls whispering in their ears now and promising campaign funds for the next election if they do it. Now, I think thats going back to where we started. Thats having a government from the people. I think thats the essence of leadership, rather than cutting deals in dark rooms in Washington. (APPLAUSE)

MODERATOR Governor Clinton, 1 minute.

BILL CLINTON Well, I believe in the town hall meetings; they started with my campaign in New Hampshire. And I think Ross Perot has done a good job in having them. And I, as you know, pushed for the debate to include the 209 American citizens who were part of it in Richmond a few days ago. Ive done a lot of them, and Ill continue to do them as president. But Id also like to point out that I havent been part of what were criticizing in Washington tonight. Of the 3 of us, I have balanced a government budget 12 times, I have offered and passed campaign finance reform, offered, pushed for and passed in public referendum lobbyist restrictions, done the kinds of things you have to do to get legislators together not only to establish consensus but to challenge them to change. And in 12 years as governor I guess Ive taken on every interest group there was in my state at one time or another to fight for change. It can be done. Thats why I tried to be so specific in this campaign to have a mandate, if elected, so that Congress will know what the American people have voted for.

(APPLAUSE)

MODERATOR President Bush, 1 minute.