

Set 1: debt, trillion, pay, share, grow, money, segment, build

Set 2: invest, econom, economi, growth, grow, creat, unemploy, trickl

Set 3: social, secur, trust, surplus, fund, promis, benefit, retir

Set 4: trade, agreement, export, market, free, sell, japan, product

ROSS PEROT Well, everybodys nibbling around the edges. Lets go to the center of the bulls- eye, the core problem. And believe me, everybody on the factory floor all over this country knows it. You implement that NAFTA, the Mexican trade agreement, where they pay people a dollar an hour, have no health care, no retirement, no pollution controls, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, and youre going to hear a giant sucking sound of jobs being pulled out of this country right at a time when we need the tax base to pay the debt and pay down the interest on the debt and get our house back in order. Weve got to proceed very carefully on that. See, theres a lot I dont understand. I do understand business. I do understand creating jobs. I do understand how to make things work. And I got a long history of doing that. Now, if you want to go to the core problem that faces everybody in manufacturing in this country, its that agreement thats about to be put into practice. Its very simple. Everybody says itll create jobs. Yes, itll create bubble jobs. Now, you know, watch this — listen very carefully to this. One- time surge while we build factories and ship machine tools and equipment down there. Then year after year for decades, they will have jobs. And I finally — I thought I didnt understand it — called all the experts, and they said, oh, itll be disruptive for 12 to 15 years. We havent got 12 days, folks. We cannot lose those jobs. They were eventually saying, Mexican jobs will eventually come to \$7. 50 an hour, ours will eventually go down to \$7. 50 an hour. Makes you feel real good to hear that, right? Lets think it through here. Lets be careful. Im for free trade philosophically, but I have studied these trade agreements till the world has gone flat, and we dont have good trade agreements across the world. I hope well have a chance to get into that tonight, because I can get right to the center of the bulls- eye and tell you why were losing whole industries in this country.

MODERATOR Just for the record, though, Mr. Perot, I take it, then, from your answer, you do not have a position on whether or not enforcing the CAFE standards will cost jobs in the auto industry?

ROSS PEROT Oh, no, it will cost jobs, but thats not — let me say this. Id rather, if you gave me 2 bad choices —

MODERATOR Okay.

ROSS PEROT Id rather have some jobs left here than just see everything head south, see?

MODERATOR So that means — in other words, you agree with President Bush; is that right?

ROSS PEROT No, Im saying our principal need now is to stabilize the tax base, which is the job base, and create a growing, dynamic base. Now please, folks, if you dont hear anything else I say, remember where the — millions of people at work are our tax base. Jim, one quick point. If you confiscate the Forbes 400 wealth, take it all, you cannot balance the budget

this year. Kind of gets your head straight about where the taxes, year in and year out, have gotta come from. Millions and millions of people at work.

MODERATOR Yes, sir.