

Set 1: saddam, hussein, osama, bin, laden, destruct, weapon, mass

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

Set 3: thank, togeth, hope, trust, promis, futur, elect, opportun

Set 4: abort, life, woman, aid, research, law, allow, ban

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AUDIENCE President Bush, 45 days after 9/11, Congress passed the Patriot Act, which takes away checks on law enforcement and weakens American citizens rights and freedoms, especially Fourth Amendment rights. With expansions to the Patriot Act and Patriot Act II, my question to you is, why are my rights being watered down and my citizens around me? And what are the specific justifications for these reforms?

GEORGE W. BUSH I appreciate that. I really dont think your rights are being watered down. As a matter of fact, I wouldnt support it if I thought that. Every action being taken against terrorists requires court order, requires scrutiny. As a matter of fact, the tools now given to the terrorist fighters are the same tools that weve been using against drug dealers and white- collar criminals. So I really dont think so. I hope you dont think that. I mean, I — because I think whoever is the president must guard your liberties, must not erode your rights in America. The Patriot Act is necessary, for example, because parts of the FBI couldnt talk to each other. The intelligence- gathering and the law- enforcement arms of the FBI just couldnt share intelligence under the old law. And that didnt make any sense. Our law enforcement must have every tool necessary to find and disrupt terrorists at home and abroad before they hurt us again. Thats the task of the 21st century. And so, I dont think the Patriot Act abridges your rights at all. And I know its necessary. I can remember being in upstate New York talking to FBI agents that helped bust a Lackawanna cell up there. And they told me they could not have performed their duty, the duty we all expect of them, if they did not have the ability to communicate with each other under the Patriot Act.

MODERATOR Senator Kerry, a minute and a half.

JOHN KERRY Former Governor Racicot, as chairman of the Republican Party, said he thought that the Patriot Act has to be changed and fixed. Congressman Jim Sensenbrenner, he is the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, said over his dead body before it gets renewed without being thoroughly rechecked. A whole bunch of folks in America are concerned about the way the Patriot Act has been applied. In fact, the inspector general of the Justice Department found that John Ashcroft had twice applied it in ways that were inappropriate. Peoples rights have been abused. I met a man who spent eight months in prison, wasnt even allowed to call his lawyer, wasnt allowed to get — finally, Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois intervened and was able to get him out. This is in our country, folks, the United States of America. Theyve got sneak- and- peek searches that are allowed. Theyve got people allowed to go into churches now and political meetings without any showing of potential criminal activity or otherwise. Now, I voted for the Patriot Act. Ninety- nine United States senators voted for it. And the presidents been very busy running around the country using what I just described to you as a reason to say Im wishy- washy, that Im a flip- flopper. Now thats not a flip- flop. I believe in the Patriot Act. We need the things in it that coordinate the FBI and the CIA. We need to be stronger on terrorism. But you know

what we also need to do as Americans is never let the terrorists change the Constitution of the United States in a way that disadvantages our rights.

MODERATOR Senator Kerry, the next question is for you, and it comes from Elizabeth Long.

AUDIENCE Senator Kerry, thousands of people have already been cured or treated by the use of adult stem cells or umbilical cord stem cells. However, no one has been cured by using embryonic stem cells. Wouldnt it be wise to use stem cells obtained without the destruction of an embryo?

JOHN KERRY You know, Elizabeth, I really respect your — the feeling thats in your question. I understand it. I know the morality thats prompting that question, and I respect it enormously. But like Nancy Reagan, and so many other people — you know, I was at a forum with Michael J. Fox the other day in New Hampshire, whos suffering from Parkinsons, and he wants us to do stem cell, embryonic stem cell. And this fellow stood up, and he was quivering. His whole body was shaking from the nerve disease, the muscular disease that he had. And he said to me and to the whole hall, he said, “You know, dont take away my hope, because my hope is what keeps me going.” Chris Reeve is a friend of mine. Chris Reeve exercises every single day to keep those muscles alive for the day when he believes he can walk again, and I want him to walk again. I think we can save lives. Now, I think we can do ethically guided embryonic stem- cell research. We have 100, 000 to 200, 000 embryos that are frozen in nitrogen today from fertility clinics. These werent taken from abortion or something like that. Theyre from a fertility clinic. And theyre either going to be destroyed or left frozen. And I believe if we have the option, which scientists tell us we do, of curing Parkinsons, curing diabetes, curing, you know, some kind of a, you know, paraplegic or quadriplegic or, you know, a spinal cord injury, anything, thats the nature of the human spirit. I think it is respecting life to reach for that cure. I think it is respecting life to do it in an ethical way. And the president has chosen a policy that makes it impossible for our scientists to do that. I want the future, and I think we have to grab it.

MODERATOR Mr. President, a minute and a half.