

Set 1: love, experi, children, faith, daughter, man, part, person

Set 2: mistak, serious, tri, wrong, mayb, charact, seem, disagree

Set 3: campaign, word, apolog, anyth, fact, never, foreign, week

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

---

MODERATOR All right. Now were going to bring in 3 other journalists to ask questions. They are Susan Rook of CNN, Gene Gibbons of Reuters and Helen Thomas of United Press Intl. You thought youd never get in here, did you?

GEORGE H. W. BUSH Uh- uh. Uh- uh. (APPLAUSE)

MODERATOR ok were going to continue on the subject of leadership and the first question goes to Gov Clinton for a 2- minute answer. It will be asked by Helen Thomas. Helen? Governor Clinton, your credibility has come into question because of your different responses on the Vietnam draft. If you had it to do over again, would you put on the nations uniform, and if elected, could you in good conscience send someone to war?

BILL CLINTON If I had it to do over again I might answer the questions a little better. You know, Id been in public life a long time and no one had ever questioned my role and so I was asked a lot of questions about things that happened a long time ago and I dont think I answered them as well as I could have. Going back 23 years, I dont know, Helen. I was opposed to the war. I couldnt help that. I felt very strongly about it, and I didnt want to go at the time. Its easy to say in retrospect I would have done something differently. President Lincoln opposed the war and there were people who said maybe he shouldnt be president, but I think he made us a pretty good president in wartime. Weve had a lot of other presidents who didnt wear their countrys uniform who had to order our young soldiers into battle, including President Wilson and President Roosevelt. So the answer is I could do that. I wouldnt relish doing it but I wouldnt shrink from it. I think that the president has to be prepared to use the power of the nation when our vital interests are threatened, when our treaty commitments are at stake, when we know that something has to be done that is in the national interest, and that is a part of being president. Could I do it? Yes, I could.

MODERATOR A reminder now. Were back on the St. Louis rules, which means that the governor had his answer and then each of you will have 1 minute to respond. Mr. President.

GEORGE H. W. BUSH Well, Ive expressed my heartfelt difference with Governor Clinton on organizing demonstrations while in a foreign land against your country, when young ghetto kids have been drafted and are dying. My argument with him on — the question was about the draft — is that theres this same pattern. In New Hampshire Senator Kerrey said you ought to level, you ought to tell the truth about it. On April 17 he said hed bring out all the records on the draft. They have not been forthcoming. He got a deferment or he didnt. He got a notice or he didnt. And I think its this pattern that troubles me, more than the draft. A lot of decent, honorable people felt as he did on the draft. But its this pattern. And again, you might be able to make amendments all the time, Governor, but youve got to, as president, you cant be on all these different sides, and you cant have this pattern of saying well, I did this or I didnt, then the facts come out and you change it. Thats my big difference with him on the draft. It wasnt failing to serve.

MODERATOR Your minute is up, sir.

GEORGE H. W. BUSH Yes, sir. Helen?

MODERATOR Mr. Perot, 1 minute.

ROSS PEROT Ive spent my whole adult life very close to the military. I feel very strongly about the people who go into battle for our country. I appreciate their idealism, their sacrifices. Appreciate the sacrifices their families make. Thats been displayed again and again in a very tangible way. I look on this as history. I dont look on it personally as relevant, and I consider it really a waste of time tonight, when you consider the issues that face our country right now.