

Set 1: thank, togeth, hope, trust, promis, futur, elect, opportun

Set 2: women, valu, famili, men, rais, woman, wage, leav

Set 3: saddam, hussein, osama, bin, laden, destruct, weapon, mass

Set 4: tax, incom, class, middl, relief, pay, rais, corpor

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AUDIENCE Senator Kerry, after talking with several co- workers and family and friends, I asked the ones who said they were not voting for you, “Why?” They said that you were too wishy- washy. Do you have a reply for them?

JOHN KERRY Yes, I certainly do. (LAUGHTER) But let me just first, Cheryl, if you will, I want to thank Charlie for moderating. I want to thank Washington University for hosting us here this evening. Mr. President, its good to be with you again this evening, sir. Cheryl, the president didnt find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, so hes really turned his campaign into a weapon of mass deception. And the result is that youve been bombarded with advertisements suggesting that Ive changed a position on this or that or the other. Now, the three things they try to say Ive changed position on are the Patriot Act; I havent. I support it. I just dont like the way John Ashcroft has applied it, and were going to change a few things. The chairman of the Republican Party thinks we ought to change a few things. No Child Left Behind Act, I voted for it. I support it. I support the goals. But the president has underfunded it by \$28 billion. Right here in St. Louis, youve laid off 350 teachers. Youre 150 — excuse me, I think its a little more, about \$100 million shy of what you ought to be under the No Child Left Behind Act to help your education system here. So I complain about that. Ive argued that we should fully funded it. The president says Ive changed my mind. I havent changed my mind; Im going to fully fund it. So these are the differences. Now, the president has presided over an economy where weve lost 1. 6 million jobs. The first president in 72 years to lose jobs. I have a plan to put people back to work. Thats not wishy- washy. Im going to close the loopholes that actually encourage companies to go overseas. The president wants to keep them open. I think Im right. I think hes wrong. Im going to give you a tax cut. The president gave the top 1 percent of income- earners in America, got \$89 billion last year, more than the 80 percent of people who earn \$100, 000 or less all put together. I think thats wrong. Thats not wishy- washy, and thats what Im fighting for, you.

MODERATOR Mr. President, a minute and a half.

GEORGE W. BUSH Charlie, thank you, and thank our panelists. And, Senator, thank you. I can — and thanks, Washington U. as well. I can see why people at your workplace think he changes positions a lot, because he does. He said he voted for the \$87 billion, and voted against it right before he voted for it. And that sends a confusing signal to people. He said he thought Saddam Hussein was a grave threat, and now he said it was a mistake to remove Saddam Hussein from power. No, I can see why people think that he changes position quite often, because he does. You know, for a while he was a strong supporter of getting rid of Saddam Hussein. He saw the wisdom — until the Democrat primary came along and Howard Dean, the anti- war candidate, began to gain on him, and he changed positions. I dont see how you can lead this country in a time of war, in a time of uncertainty, if you change your

mind because of politics. He just brought up the tax cut. You remember we increased that child credit by \$1, 000, reduced the marriage penalty, created a 10 percent tax bracket for the lower- income Americans. Thats right at the middle class. He voted against it. And yet he tells you hes for a middle- class tax cut. Its — youve got to be consistent when youre the president. Theres a lot of pressures. And youve got to be firm and consistent.

MODERATOR Mr. President, I would follow up, but we have a series of questions on Iraq, and so I will turn to the next questioner. The question is for President Bush, and the questioner is Robin Dahle.