

Set 1: gun, polic, crime, assault, law, ban, check, death

Set 2: african, citi, inner, communiti, racial, race, terribl, realli

Set 3: abort, life, woman, aid, research, law, allow, ban

Set 4: administr, action, vice, discrimin, upon, subject, feel, strong

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GEORGE W. BUSH Im not for gay marriage. I think marriage is a sacred institution between a man and a woman. And I appreciated the way the administration signed the Defense of Marriage Act. I presume the Vice President supported it when the President signed that bill and supports it now. But I think marriage is a sacred institution. Im going to be respectful for people who may disagree with me. Ive had a record of doing so in the State of Texas. Ive been a person that had been called a uniter, not a divider, because I accept other peoples points of view. But I feel strongly that marriage should be between a man and a woman.

MODERATOR Vice President Gore?

AL GORE I agree with that, and I did support that law. But I think that we should find a way to allow some kind of civic unions, and I basically agree with Dick Cheney and Joe Lieberman. And I think the three of us have one view and the Governor has another view.

MODERATOR Is that right?

GEORGE W. BUSH Im not sure what kind of view hes describing to me. I can just tell you, Im a person who respects other people. I respect their — I respect — on the one hand he says he agrees with me and then he says he doesnt. Im not sure where hes coming from. But I will be a tolerant person. Ive been a tolerant person all my life. I just happen to believe strongly that marriage is between a man and a woman.

MODERATOR Do you believe in general terms that gays and lesbians should have the same rights as other Americans?

GEORGE W. BUSH Yes. I dont think they ought to have special rights, but I think they ought to have the same rights.

AL GORE Well, theres a law pending called the Employment Non- Discrimination Act. I strongly support it. What it says is that gays and lesbians cant be fired from their job because theyre gay or lesbian. And it would be a federal law preventing that. Now, I wonder if the — its been blocked by the opponents in the majority in the Congress. I wonder if the Governor would lend his support to that law.

MODERATOR Governor?

GEORGE W. BUSH The question —

MODERATOR Well, but its a logical response.

GEORGE W. BUSH Well, I have no idea. I mean, he can throw out all kinds — I dont know the particulars of this law. I will tell you Im the kind of person, I dont hire or fire somebody based upon their sexual orientation. As a matter of fact, I would like to take the issue a little further. I dont really think its any of my — you know, any of my concerns what

— how you conduct your sex life. And I think thats a private matter. And I think thats the way it ought to be. But Im going to be respectful for people, Ill tolerate people, and I support equal rights but not special rights for people.

MODERATOR Special rights, how does that affect gays and lesbians?

GEORGE W. BUSH Well, it would be if theyre given special protective status. That doesnt mean we shouldnt fully enforce laws and fully protect people and fully honor people, which I will do as the President of the United States.