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McCain: Well, thank you, Tom Thank you, Belmont University And Sen Obama, it's good to be with you at a town hall meeting And, Alan (ph), thank you for your question You go to the heart of America's worries tonight Americans are angry, they're upset, and they're a little fearful and they're a little fearful It's our job to fix the problem Now, I have a plan to fix this problem and it has got to do with energy independence We've got to stop sending \$700 billion a year to countries that don't want us very – like us very much We have to keep Americans' taxes low All Americans' taxes low Let's not raise taxes on anybody today We obviously have to stop this spending spree that's going on in Washington Do you know that we've laid a \$10 trillion debt on these young Americans who are here with us tonight, \$500 billion of it we owe to China? We've got to have a package of reforms and it has got to lead to reform prosperity and peace in the world And I think that this problem has become so severe, as you know, that we're going to have to do something about home values You know that home values of retirees continues to decline and people are no longer able to afford their mortgage payments As president of the United States, Alan, I would order the secretary of the treasury to immediately buy up the bad home loan mortgages in America and renegotiate at the new value of those homes – at the diminished value of those homes and let people be able to make those – be able to make those payments and stay in their homes Is it expensive? Yes But we all know, my friends, until we stabilize home values in America, we're never going to start turning around and creating jobs and fixing our economy And we've got to give some trust and confidence back to America I know how the do that, my friends And it's my proposal, it's not Sen Obama's proposal, it's not President Bush's proposal But I know how to get America working again, restore our economy and take care of working Americans Thank you

Brokaw: Senator, we have one minute for a discussion here Obviously the powers of the treasury secretary have been greatly expanded The most powerful officer in the cabinet now Hank Paulson says he won't stay on Who do you have in mind to appoint to that very important post? Sen McCain?

McCain: Not you, Tom

Brokaw: No, with good reason

McCain: You know, that's a tough question and there's a lot of qualified Americans But I think the first criteria, Tom, would have to be somebody who immediately Americans identify with, immediately say, we can trust that individual A supporter of Sen Obama's is Warren Buffett [chairman of Berkshire Hathaway] He has already weighed in and helped stabilize some of the difficulties in the markets and with companies and corporations, institutions today I like Meg Whitman [former CEO of eBay and current McCain campaign adviser], she knows what it's like to be out there in the marketplace She knows how to create jobs Meg Whitman was CEO of a company that started with 12 people and is now 1.3 million people in America make their living off eBay Maybe somebody here has done a little business with them But the point is it's going to have to be somebody who inspires trust and confidence Because the problem in America today to a large extent, Tom, is that we don't have trust and confidence in our institutions because of the corruption on Wall Street and the greed and excess and the cronyism in Washington, DC

Brokaw: All right Sen McCain – Sen Obama, who do you have in mind for treasury secretary?