Text 2

Jackson: Sen McCain, I want to know, we saw that Congress moved pretty fast in the face of an economic crisis I want to know what you would do within the first two years to make sure that Congress moves fast as far as environmental issues, like climate change and green jobs?

McCain: Well, thank you Look, we are in tough economic times; we all know that And let's keep – never forget the struggle that Americans are in today But when we can – when we have an issue that we may hand our children and our grandchildren a damaged planet, I have disagreed strongly with the Bush administration on this issue I have disagreed strongly with the Bush administration on this issue I traveled all over the world looking at the effects of greenhouse gas emissions, Joe Lieberman and I And I introduced the first legislation, and we forced votes on it That's the good news, my friends The bad news is we lost But we kept the debate going, and we kept this issue to – to posing to Americans the danger that climate change opposes Nuclear power Now, how – what's – what's the best way of fixing it? Sen Obama says that it has to be safe or disposable or something like that Look, I – I was on Navy ships that had nuclear power plants Nuclear power is safe, and it's clean, and it creates hundreds of thousands of jobs And – and I know that we can reprocess the spent nuclear fuel The Japanese, the British, the French do it Sen Obama has opposed that We can move forward, and clean up our climate, and develop green technologies, and alternate – alternative energies for – for hybrid, for hydrogen, for battery-powered cars, so that we can clean up our environment and at the same time get our economy going by creating millions of jobs We can do that, we as Americans, because we're the best innovators, we're the best producers, and 95 percent of the people who are our market live outside of the United States of America

Brokaw: Sen Obama?

Obama: This is one of the biggest challenges of our times And it is absolutely critical that we understand this is not just a challenge, it's an opportunity, because if we create a new energy economy, we can create five million new jobs, easily, here in the United States It can be an engine that drives us into the future the same way the computer was the engine for economic growth over the last couple of decades And we can do it, but we're going to have to make an investment The same way the computer was originally invented by a bunch of government scientists who were trying to figure out, for defense purposes, how to communicate, we've got to understand that this is a national security issue, as well And that's why we've got to make some investments and I've called for investments in solar, wind, geothermal Contrary to what Sen McCain keeps on saying, I favor nuclear power as one component of our overall energy mix But this is another example where I think it is important to look at the record Sen McCain and I actually agree on something He said a while back that the big problem with energy is that for 30 years, politicians in Washington haven't done anything What Sen McCain doesn't mention is he's been there 26 of them And during that time, he voted 23 times against alternative fuels, 23 times So it's easy to talk about this stuff during a campaign, but it's important for us to understand that it requires a sustained effort from the next president One last point I want to make on energy Sen McCain talks a lot about drilling, and that's important, but we have three percent of the world's oil reserves and we use 25 percent of the world's oil So what that means is that we can't simply drill our way out of the problem And we're not going to be able to deal with the climate crisis if our only solution is to use more fossil fuels that create global warming We're going to have to come up with alternatives, and that means that the United States government is working with the private sector to fund the kind of innovation that we can then export to countries like China that also need energy and are setting up one coal power plant a week We've got to make sure that we're giving them the energy that they need or helping them to create the energy that they need