



SUSAN RIDOLE, THE WHITE HOUSE

breakdowns in the families and I just really worry about abortions where a child can get an abortion without parental consent when that child can't even get an aspirin in some schools without parental consent. So I have a very clear view in my mind, and you're probably right; it's not a popular position. But in this office from which I'm speaking to you, you have to make decisions that aren't popular. And so I don't know whether my position will help or hurt in the final analysis, but it comes from the heart and it comes from watching in horror the numbers of abortions that are being performed....

Q: If you had to outline the differences — you've outlined several here in terms of talking about the difference between yourself and Governor Clinton — what do you offer the 18-to-24-year-old market that Bill Clinton does not?

A: Well, I'd say one: most 18-to-20-year-olds have heretofore been very much concerned about nuclear war. I think that particular

group over the ages — literally over the last decades — have been more worried about that than any other group because it's their planet, their life as they look at it. And I would say because of our leadership, the fear of nuclear war is far less than it was. I also think there's a keen interest in the future, and I think our environmental policy and our education policies will resonate out there once people understand we've got them. I also think when I talk about family values and strength of American families — families free from crime in the neighborhood or families free to choose where they want their kids to go to school or families free to choose child care for their kids or families that are going to see a welfare reform program — all of these things designed to strengthen the family. I think young people have an interest in that. I think they are quite family-oriented and so when I talk about those kinds of changes, which would result in safer neighborhoods and sounder family practices, I believe that will have a strong appeal. But the biggest one — the biggest one of all — is what I was talking about in terms of jobs and that's where we get back into our education, our job retraining. And I would just ask that everybody take a hard look at the differences on my training program on whether taxing and spending is the way to create jobs in the private sector, or whether less government spending and less taxes is the way to provide jobs. I happen to think we need more capital and investment in the private sector. And you don't get it by taxing people more. So we got some fundamental differences on that one.

Q: If I could just get a quick one-word answer about two things and...

A: You mean my answers are too long? Come on.

surface of what we can do with solar, with wind power, with methane, with ethanol. There's all kinds of alternative power sources that we need to look at. I think we need to... achieve at least European levels of energy efficiency in our factories and office buildings. At home I would work on fuel efficiency, natural gas, alternative energy and conservation. Globally, that would give us, if we did that, the leverage to take some real initiatives to reduce global warming. I agree with Senator Gore that the number one problem for the world is the global warming problem, and it's a big problem here at home. The second thing to follow through on is the management of all kinds of wastes and plain old garbage — just solid waste is a big part of it. We're going to have to find ways to deal with this; if you have hazardous waste or toxic waste, then the opposition builds up even more. So it is clear that we ought to invest a lot of money and provide a lot of tax incentives for people to come up with technologies that reduce the production of waste products in the first place and that recycle more of it. And that will provide a ton of new jobs for high-wage, high-skilled workers.

Q: Those are a lot of plans, a lot of them involve a lot of money and I'm just interested...

A: I disagree. Most of that will be done in the private sector. What we want to do is provide market incentives for the private sector to do this and we want to provide joint research and development funds. I'd flow some of that money in from the defense cuts into commercial research and development. But most of this work is going to be done in the private sector. And keep in mind, most of this will be job-generating work.

Q: Abortion is an important issue, especially this year to the college audience with the majority of that audience being pro-choice. Do you believe, as Barbara Bush does, that abortion should be a private issue and not a political one?

A: Yeah. I support the pro-choice position, but I think that's hardly a fair question for you to ask in the way you ask it since George Bush and Dan Quayle have supported a Republican platform which calls for a constitutional amendment to ban all abortions. And you know, they can't have it both ways. They can't go around and basically take this anti-choice position for their political purposes and then do interviews and say they're pro-choice. So I think they want it both ways. Let me say, I am pro-choice; I am unequivocally supportive of Roe v. Wade. I do think there are too many abortions in America and I think we ought to make an effort to reduce them. So if the people who care about this issue, who

are pro-choice should vote for me because the other side is on record as wanting to repeal Roe v. Wade. Yeah, I agree with Barbara Bush, but she doesn't control their position. Their position is either a constitutional amendment to ban all abortions or repeal Roe v. Wade and let the states do it.

Q: Do you think that a college education should be as much a right as a K through 12 education?

A: Yes.

Q: So, do you think states should fund students' education at in-state colleges and universities in the same ways as the K through 12 public education and put them on a level playing field with Japan and Germany?

A: Well, I think access to a college education should be universal, basically so people have the requisite credentials to get into college. I don't think the money should keep them from getting in and staying in. Now, there is not enough money today to pay for all the costs the way we do for K through 12. So what I want to do is to continue to increase the scholarship funds as much as we can through the Pell grants federally and take a lot of the operating pressure off the states so they can put more money into scholarships by setting up this national service trust I've talked about, which would work very differently than the way the present student loan system works. Under the National Service Trust, you could borrow the money you need to go to college and then your loan repayment would be structured based on a maximum percentage of your income after you go to work. Under our system, if you repaid it that way, it would max out as a certain percentage of your income. And then we would give students the option of

"You are addressing yourself to a very important audience... and thanks for giving me this opportunity."

make businesses partners in environmental protection, not obstacles. I believe that we can have both environmental protection and economic growth. We've set aside certain environmentally sound offshore tracks for offshore drilling, and yet I think that we can do some offshore drilling and land drilling that's compatible with a sound environment.

So my view for the future is keep building on this record, set aside a certain amount of public lands, and we've, as I say, done more than I believe any other administration on that. But work compatibly with the market. We're faced now with a decision on the endangered species. Well, I'm also faced with problems that American families are having making ends meet. And I'm trying to find a balance between sound environmental practice and not throwing a lot of American families out of work, for example, on behalf of the spotted owl. So, I guess the answer is — in the future build on what we've done and continue to be the global leaders and then be sure that your environmental decisions are based on sound science.

Q: Mr. President? Abortion is another important issue to college students. With the majority of Republicans saying they're pro-choice, do you believe your stance on this issue can hurt you in November?

A: I don't know the answer to that. The most recent survey I saw had abortion issue number 20 in terms of how people decide what their futures are. The [issues] you've been asking me about have all preceded abortion in terms of how people vote, so that's the first point. Secondly, I may have taken an unpopular position, but I take it out of conscience. And I have to do what I think is right and I am appalled at the million-five abortions every year. I'm appalled at the

"I'm really concerned about the things affecting young people... I think my generation owes you better than you've been gettin'."



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