



President Bush shakes hands and greets campaign volunteers and small-business owners at the end of Friday's rally.
Jared Paben
Editor in Chief

BUSH

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"We continue to raise the bar," Bush said. "We continue to use a system that works."

Bush's speech focused on economic development: He said the work of farmers, ranchers and entrepreneurs, with the help of the Bush administration's tax cut, has created 1.5 million new jobs and reduced unemployment in Oregon from 8.4 percent to 6.7 percent.

"The economy is strong and getting stronger," Bush said.

On the stage with Bush were four small-business owners, including George Fuentes, owner of a Salem tortilla factory, who has been helped by the tax cut. Fuentes said the tax relief has helped his business expand by letting him invest in new equipment and hire more workers.

"We've hired 34 new employees this year," Fuentes said.

Bush said every time a small-business owner buys new equipment or expands his or her business, new jobs are created.

Also on stage was Kathy LeCamp, owner of a tree-growing business, who said the tax cut helped her build a new warehouse for her business. Bush said this further stimulates the economy because LeCamp had to hire workers for that as well.

"The role of government is not to create wealth," Bush said. "The government's job is to stimulate the economy."

Bush said Kerry's \$2.2 trillion tax

increase would land mostly on America's small-business owners, which hurts the economy.

"Why would you want to tax the job creators of America?" Bush said, adding that small business create most new job in America.

Bush also spoke on the topic of health care for small-business owners and workers. He said America must allow small businesses to pool insurance risks across state lines in order to compete with larger companies.

Bush urged small-business owners to look into Health Care Savings Accounts for their employees. These accounts allow workers to put money into a savings account specifically for health care needs that allows workers to carry their health care from job to job and to make better health decisions because they will always know exactly how much coverage they have.

LeCamp said she supports Health Care Savings Accounts and has one of her own.

Bush said America needs health-care reform. He said he is working for drug-discount cards for seniors and more preventative screenings.

"It makes no sense to have a system that pays \$100,000 for heart surgery and not one dime for the drugs to help prevent it," Bush said.

Bush also said America needs medical liability reform, pointing out a difference between himself and John Kerry.

"You cannot be pro-doctor, pro-patient and pro-lawyer at the same time," Bush said. "My opponent has already made his choice and put

him on the ticket."

Bush ended his speech with talk of security. He said he did not ask to be a war president, but that he would not hesitate from taking action against terrorists or the states that harbor them before they hurt America again.

Bush called the war "new and different," and said its enemy is patient and will hide and wait until America lets down its guard.

"These are cold-blooded killers," Bush said. "You cannot negotiate with them."

Bush admitted that no weapons of mass destruction have been found in Iraq, but said America was justified in its action against Saddam Hussein.

"Knowing what I know today, I would make the same decision," Bush said.

Bush said American soldiers will remain in Iraq until the mission is complete and Iraq is a free country that can defend itself against regional and international threats.

"Free societies do not export terrorism," Bush said.

Bush said Kerry's plan to significantly reduce the number of troops in Iraq in six months will send a bad message to both the Iraqis and their enemies.

After the speech, Bush spent several minutes working his way through the crowd shaking hands and talking to supporters who continued to chant "four more years!" After the rally, Bush headed north to continue campaigning.

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