



GREENBERG MILLENNIAL PROJECT

FOCUS GROUP #9
WHITE, EVANGELICALS, MIXED GENDER
DENVER, CO
DECEMBER 5, 2007

MODERATOR: INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS.

I'm Kelsey. I have been married for 7 years. I live [Broomfield], got two kids 11 and 5 and I stay at home.

I'm Amanda. I live in Westminster. I baby-sit part time right now.

My name is Josh. I live in Lakewood. I am a full time student and work full time at a picture printing shop.

I'm Bob.

I'm Ryan. I live in Aurora. I am married, have a 5-year-old and work for an airline.

I'm Josh. I live in Aurora, own a private investigation company, 3-year-old, not married but committed.

I'm Connor. I live in Lakewood and I work security.

I'm Kim. I live in Westminster. I've got three kids, married and I do lighting design.

I'm Stephanie, live in Aurora, married. I work at the University of Colorado Hospital in rehab.

My name is Sara. I live Castle Rock and I work a TV company.

I'm John. I live in Parker. I work construction. I have three dogs.

MODERATOR – THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING OUT TONIGHT. AS I SAID I AM GOING TO TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THIS CONCEPT OF GENERATION AND ALL OF YOU BEING YOUNG AMERICANS AND IN A CERTAIN AGE GROUP. WHEN WE TALK ABOUT AMERICAN HISTORY WE OFTEN TALK ABOUT GENERATIONS, BABY BOOMERS, GENERATION X, THE IDEA BEING THAT PEOPLE OF A SIMILAR AGE HAVE SIMILAR EXPERIENCES, SIMILAR ATTITUDES AND BELIEFS BASED ON THOSE EXPERIENCES. WHEN YOU LOOK AT AMERICANS UNDER 30 DO YOU THINK YOU ARE A GENERATION THAT YOU HAVE THOSE THINGS IN COMMON

THAT MAKES YOU UNIQUE FROM OTHER GENERATIONS THAT HAVE GONE BEFORE?

I guess that we have been privy to certain nationwide circumstances that I think have escalated more-so than previous generation. The war in Iraq and the economy and things like that.

I see us more at the generation that is not really like you have the baby boomers, the generation right after the war, then you have the war generation, the [greatest] generation, then you have the Vietnam era, like when I'm older I don't think I am going to label myself as the Iraq War generation. I see myself more as the computer age generation and Nintendo and stuff like that.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK? DO YOU SEE YOURSELF AS A GENERATION OR DO YOU SEE YOURSELF AS A COHERENT GROUP THAT HAS CERTAIN THINGS IN COMMON?

I think back south because I'm from North Carolina so I lived in a small town my entire life, I could probably, even days I am almost remember if I was in the third grade but you know we have one gas station and I came out here there it has been a big transition for me and I kind of agree with him, I really don't see that impact like I hear from my father and things from my grandfather that it is really something that they carry on. I don't if it is going to change if it keeps going you know whatnot but I don't mean 9/11 and whatnot, I mean that definitely affected us but it is not something that I didn't have anyone personally involved in that. You know I know friends and whatnot that have been but I kind of agree with him I think it is almost the more I see us evolving I see more good things that we're doing more than I see the war. I see gas prices going up. I mean that is the biggest thing that I realize. That is something that I see more than anything (inaudible) actively in the military or anything like that. We are not getting drafted yet.

MODERATOR – HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU?

I think we are a softer generation.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY SOFTER?

Everything is more concentrated on the PC and allowing things to be said or done. TV we are accepting more language, nudity or whatever. I think that we are allowing a lot more and then kind of slapping the hands of the older generations that were more strict and had their guidelines. Softer military, softer everything.

I would agree with John, I think we definitely are kind of that softer generation is what he calls it. It seems like we are more laid back to me, you know we are having computers doing a lot more of our work kind of adding to that softer generation.

I think we are less family oriented because of the computers and cell phones and stuff like that too. People are like a lost generation. I'm kind of like the 90's generation myself but like the 2000 that is what we are kind of. Kind of independent I guess.

MODERATOR – DO YOU SEE THE TECHNOLOGY HAVING AN IMPACT?

Yeah, like the turn of the century kind of changed a lot I think.

MODERATOR – AND YOU SAID INDEPENDENT?

Yeah I think we are more independent, which is not really a good thing but it is not bad.

MODERATOR – WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

Well I kind of disagree with that as far as independent. I think we are more dependent on technology (interrupted).

That's what I meant.

(Inaudible) sorry.

Like we don't have to go out and to help and we don't want help from people I think. We're kind of enclosed within ourselves I think.

Less human contact.

Yes.

Communication.

MODERATOR – CONNOR WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY?

Just what they said, just everything now is pretty much technology base.

MODERATOR – HOW HAS THE TECHNOLOGY, I MEAN YOU GUYS HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GROW UP TO A GREATER EXTENT THAN ANY OTHER GENERATION WITH ALL THE INTERNET AND CELL PHONES AND ALL THIS PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY, HOW HAS THAT SHAPED YOUR GENERATION.

I don't talk on the phone anymore, I just text. That's like so minute but it does mean a lot. I will just text where there is no voice to voice. I will just text, abbreviate. I don't even take the time, I don't even think half, you know, sometimes I catch the RT and the bus and I see kids and it is like wow how [alliterate] like to just hear them it is like imagining, I go from one part of time there are kids it is like one o'clock in the afternoon catching the bus to go another school, they

are not even out of school yet to hang out, it is like, it just blows my mind. It is like wow, I don't even know if this kid can read. I mean I think if you could read and talk a little bit (interrupted)

MODERATOR – WHAT DO THE OTHERS OF YOU THINK? HOW HAS THE TECHNOLOGY SHAPED YOUR GENERATION?

I think the technology has taken away from the employment for people too.

MODERATOR – HOW SO?

Just because now they got computers. I don't know computers do a lot more than I don't know how to say it.

Check out at Saveway.

(Inaudible).

MODERATOR – WHAT ELSE IS UNIQUE ABOUT YOUR GENERATION?

I think anyone can do anything that they want because of the computer generation and stuff like that. You could be your own movie, film maker. You can get famous from Utube, which is very weird. You know it is cool.

I think we might have more invasion of our privacy.

Yeah.

MODERATOR – HOW SO?

You can find out anything about anybody on the computer (interrupted)

And it gets to you like in 2 seconds.

...yeah, I don't think anything is really protected anymore. I don't think you feel a sense of security. I mean your phone calls can be overheard, people can spy on you, I mean just find out stuff, your background and I don't know.

I think there is a lot of negative impacts on technologies but there are also positive ones like in the medical arena and paperless charting so you like Joshua if you get your medical records from when you were a kid on starting now at the hospital they are just now turning to that instead of you say you are trying to enter a college and they turn you away because you don't have your medical records from your shots or whatever or having to get additional shots, things like that.

MODERATOR – WHAT ELSE?

I think we rely on technology too much.

MODERATOR – HOW SO?

There is just no backup. I mean if everything were to crash what would we do? We wouldn't know what to do, our generation. We grew up with technology. For most of us I don't think we really had many hardships like the previous generations. We don't really know what it is like to struggle like they did. The Iraq War I don't think it is anything like the World Wars or, kind of like a spoiled generation. I don't know, I think the next generation, we're not going to be as bad as they will but there is no, I don't know, I think sometimes you need to go back to your roots and learn how to do things without technology as well as with technology. We just rely on computers too much.

And going on about spoiled I think we are very materialistic. (Interrupted)

Right.

Yes.

...I mean I see everybody with a cell phone, I mean even people up the street. It is just (interrupted)

All about the new TV, (inaudible) car. We are just very spoiled and it causes a lot of financial issues too. I think a lot of people, I don't know they are in debt. They don't know how to manage their money. They take advantage of a lot of things that have been given to them or opportunities and things like that and I know it is going to get worse because my son is 11 and he wants a cell phone because everybody has a cell phone, everybody has an Ipod, everybody's got electric scooters and, I mean it is just bad.

It is like a popularity contest.

It is almost like a security blanket for us to have a cell phone by your ear. It kind of keeps people away when you want to be left alone too I think.

Well even in the market, the housing market, I mean that is prime example, what is going on, how we don't, (inaudible) I mean it is just not us our generation, it is (many people talking) generations, the foreclosure because it is, it is all about materialistic wanting things that we really can't afford. I mean that's not just our generation and how we were raised and not being able to handle stuff. I mean that is the government, I mean that is everything in whole but.

MODERATOR - WHAT ELSE IS UNIQUE ABOUT YOUR GENERATION?

I think we are kind of a lazy generation because of all the shortcuts. There are a lot of shortcuts. You don't have to work as hard anymore to get something and get where you want to be. You

may have to work a little bit better to stick on and whatnot, it only takes a couple jokes, a crack, a lot of shortcuts.

MODERATOR - THOSE THAT JUST SAID INSTANT GRATIFICATION DO YOU AGREE (INAUDIBLE)?

Yeah, if your computer doesn't pop up the page in like a second it is not good enough, fast enough.

The same with cars too. You have to drive really fast and have really nice cars in Denver.

The newest and the greatest things to come around. You need to do Iphone, you need to whatever the newest thing is you got to have it.

But that is good too because I like new technology too so that is one good thing, easy access to stuff.

I think all of it is good, it is just getting greedy with it or pushing it too far or you know what I mean, the web is great because you can learn so much. You can use it for hospitals but then you can pull up porn (interrupted)

And you have kids and they jump on it.

...Right. Kids I mean it can be horrible for them because it is not as interesting to look up their book report as to, you know what some stupid idiot with a doll getting blown up or something like that but I think we are focusing on a lot of negative. I think there is still a lot of positive. When I said getting softer, we are also becoming more caring, not necessarily towards each other but as a whole or wanting to try to act like we are supporting something, supporting the soldiers, which was never done before so now we are falling back and supporting other vets from other wars or putting in the coin slots for the homeless people and you know doing stuff to take care of other people, not necessarily getting the door for somebody when they are walking in out of the rain or something like that but I think there is positive as well as the negative. I don't think that (interrupted)

MODERATOR - WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK? IS THERE AN IMPULSE TOWARDS SELFLESSNESS, TOWARD WORKING FOR THE GREATER GOOD RATHER THAN JUST YOURSELF?

I think it's a façade. I think it is about the way you look and the way people see you and it is I give money here, well I give this money or I did this or look what I did. I don't think it is necessarily genuine all the time.

Not if you don't go.

Yeah, yeah, absolutely.

I watch guys that I work with getting doors for ladies and stuff, which went out a long time ago or buying somebody a sandwich that they could use it. That is what I was saying. I don't think that we can [caught] it all by saying it is a façade. You can definitely but like if you look a little bit deep and you see some people that do reach out and the don't turn around and say see what I just did.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK IS THERE AN IMPULSE THE GREATER GOOD AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE OF IS IT MOSTLY ME, ME, ME?

I think it is mostly me, me, me. When I think of an American I think of me, me, me but I'll think of America wanting to help your neighbor, wanting to help somebody else.

I think that is true but I also think that we are also more self aware. I think we know that there are problems with the world, there are problems with the environment, there are problems with the government, there are problems with lots of stuff so I think we are self aware that this generation will be the leaders of the country in 20 years, 30 years, so it will be interesting to see how we deal with the problems now.

MODERATOR - WHERE DOES THAT SELF AWARENESS COME FROM?

From technology I think and an understanding better of how the world works and how the environment works and you know I am by no means a tree hugger but I understand that we have to change things or my daughter's kids' kids may not have a world to grow-up in. They might all have to live in a bubble or something.

I think it is more confusing. There is so much mistrust out there. You don't know. There is so much from technology, reports and media and all the different ways to get information that it is almost overwhelming and you don't know who to believe that media is going to say this and the vets that do come home and stuff are going to say this and it is just, you know you don't know who to trust, you don't know who to believe. You can gather bits and pieces here so as far as you know me, me, me, well on one side yes I can say the government is just corrupt and you can go that route but on the other hand what we're doing over in Iraq that is for them so it's, I don't know, it's.

I think of an example of one of my patients who was a firefighter on 9/11 and is now severely disabled still waiting for his pension. I mean so like what a better prime example you have then those who have served our country but aren't benefiting from whatever is the cost to them health-wise or otherwise, what's due to them but they are not getting it.

MODERATOR - WHAT ARE THE EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE KIND OF SHAPED YOUR GENERATION?

A lot of the stuff that we just mentioned, the war, both wars.

MODERATOR - HOW HAS THE CURRENT WAR IN IRAQ SHAPED YOUR GENERATION? WHAT DO YOU THINK HAS BEEN THE CONSEQUENCE OF IT?

To get [right] to shoulder to shoulder now.

MODERATOR - HOW SO?

Just they are more like the (inaudible) like the trust.

The difference is it has infiltrated the country. I think in the past in the previous generations have experiences, you know the threats have been towards are country but they haven't been like right next door. I think it is just getting closer and closer to home. I mean you've got people who are U.S. citizens who are blowing themselves up and crashing planes and it can happen right here. It is just not a distant threat that we are going to bomb your country, it is right here in the neighborhood and you don't know. I mean it could be anybody.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK? WHAT HAS BEEN THE IMPACT OF THE WAR IN IRAQ ON YOUR GENERATION?

I don't think it is necessarily the War in Iraq. I think that is way too early to see how that is going to impact generations to come. I think it is more 9/11 she was kind of getting at. I think it is the war on terrorism as a whole and radicals and the whole world coming here now bringing their radicalism here and trying to make us feel pain and suffering so I think that is what's affecting our generation more than the War in Iraq. I think the War in Iraq is a sub-factor of the war on terrorism and radical Islam and radicals in general.

I think we grew up and we were sheltered and we didn't, you know it was always, oh that is over there and we didn't really care much and now that it hip home it is kind of a rude awakening and I don't think just for our generation. I think it is for several.

Even small stuff. You have 12-year-olds that can't get on airplanes because they are on a list of terrorists. That's just, I couldn't believe that when I'd seen that, 8-year-olds and 12-year-olds that are on a list that are supposedly terrorists because of their name.

But you never know. I mean they've got these boys over in Iraq being raised to kill people. I mean kids, you can't just dismiss it just because they're kids. Not there are certain individuals but the ones that they where bringing, I don't know all of it but they're the examples that they brought to the court that we've seen are not those kids. These are 11-year-old regular kids with their parents that were raised here that names were not worth anything here. The John Smith that were on these lists and that is just holding us back on stuff that because we are actually so paranoid because it slept on it so long. Like you said they think, they think, now we are all paying for it because they're so (inaudible) now.

MODERATOR - WHAT ARE THE VALUES OR WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT MOTIVATE YOUR GENERATION?

Money.

Success.

Lack of morals I think.

And for our children's future.

Yeah.

MODERATOR - WHAT ELSE?

Money, sex, drugs.

Lack of discipline. Taking the discipline out of the homes. I don't remember whether they were talking about it on the radio in South Dakota or somewhere where they were going to make it illegal to spank your kids and then they talked to however many people got spanked and they respect it (inaudible) and making everything really soft. I wife worked CSD and in Colorado if you spank your kids and you get reported three times or something you can get in trouble or something. I got spanked more than three times. (Laughter). And trying to control that and so they put the handcuffs on the parents and then you got kids running around you know throwing some stupid stuff threw (interrupted)

MODERATOR - HOW ABOUT YOU GUYS PERSONALLY, WHAT ARE THE (INAUDIBLE) VALUES, (INAUDIBLE) YOU?

Family.

I'm worried about education for my daughter. My daughter's mom works in DPS and she is a third grade math teacher and they had an hour long thing in the day about hugging in school, third grade. They have a time limit. They are suppose to watch third graders how long that they hug. It is suppose to be a five second thing or they are suppose to pull them apart. Third grade, I was like, for an hour. I meant it is like wow for folks, can they read, can they add (interrupted).

MODERATOR - WHAT ELSE?

Healthcare.

MODERATOR - HOW SO?

I am just amazed on how much is denied. You pay so much money for health coverage and you get nothing and it is such a fight to get anything covered anymore and it has become prohibitively expensive to even take care of yourself to stay healthy.

I have In Network it is the most ridiculous thing ever.

Yeah, deductibles and, everything has gotten so expensive but yet we are not getting paid enough and it is a serious problem for our generation. Where are we going to be when we are 60, 70, how are we going to retire? I mean it takes everything just to make ends meet. It is not like back in the days where they got compensated where healthcare and different things worked out a little better. Housing, I mean look at the price of a home and then look at the average person what their salary is. We'll all be living in town homes, \$200,000.00.

MODERATOR - WHAT ELSE? WHAT MOTIVATES YOU GUYS? WHAT ARE THE VALUES THAT KIND OF DRIVE YOU?

Just that personal drive that you want. I really want success in my life so it is money that drives or you want to impress somebody.

Family. I think my family just, I don't know making sure that we stay connected to each other and not let the outside stuff affect our family unit.

Jobs, you know getting that higher education and the jobs that go along with that.

You want to do something that you want to do not what you have to do?

Exactly, something that you enjoy. You don't want to be stuck in a job that you hate for the rest of your life.

MODERATOR - (INAUDIBLE) EARLIER IS THERE A REAL IMPULSE TOWARD THE GREATER GOOD, TOWARDS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD, IMPACTING OTHERS OR ARE YOU MOSTLY FOCUSED ON YOURSELVES AND YOUR HOUSEHOLD AND YOUR FAMILY AND YOU KNOW VERY, VERY CLOSE TO HOME RIGHT NOW?

I think that's it. We need to do something. We need to make a change in order for us to survive at 50, 60 and I think if we don't do something and I think that is where our family comes in, we're protective of our family but that is kind of the greater good, we need to step up and do something about the way that the world is going.

I think it is definitely more concentrated on your own family instead of the greater good.

I think we can break a [mold]. I know that will spend \$10.00 extra dollars at the gas station in the morning, buy coffee for people that he is not going to see and he doesn't sit there and wait for them, he just buys their coffee and stuff. Like I was saying, just like little stuff, getting a door, that is an easy one but maybe saying hi to somebody or excuse me, sorry, just like little stuff, saying something funny to somebody, make them smile, just concentrating less on yourself and more on other people. I think that is a big thing that I see that.

MODERATOR - YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE 80'S AND THE 90'S WERE CALLED THE ME GENERATION. THEY WERE VERY FOCUSED ON THEMSELVES. DO YOU THINK THAT ALSO APPLIES TO YOUR GENERATION OR IS THERE A BETTER LABEL?

I think it is that time two maybe.

MODERATOR - REALLY, YOU THINK YOU GUYS ARE EVEN WORSE?

I think so, yeah.

I think it is a me generation but I think like everybody stated it is more of a technology generation. I mean pagers and cell phones and the internet, I mean all that was created since we've been born. I don't know, I just think that is the biggest thing of our generation.

I think everybody relies on technology too much today because older people who don't know technology they struggle because they don't know that you can get things off of ATM's instead of banks sometimes. Just some things are about technology instead of it being both, old fashion and technology.

MODERATOR - IN TERMS OF LABELS, A LOT OF TIMES WHEN PEOPLE TALK ABOUT A [BED] OF VALUES AND ABOUT LABELS, PARTICULARLY IN A POLITICAL CONTEXT, YOU ALWAYS HEAR THEM TALK ABOUT THERE IS LIBERAL, THERE IS CONSERVATIVE. THE IDEA IS THIS TWO CONVENTIONAL LINE. YOU GOT LIBERAL ON ONE SIDE AND CONSERVATIVE ON THE OTHER AND EVERYBODY FITS SOMEWHERE ALONG THIS. YOU KNOW WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT YOUR OWN VALUES DO YOU THINK THAT YOU FIT SOMEWHERE ON THAT LINE BETWEEN LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE OR DO YOU THINK THAT SCALE DOESN'T REALLY CAPTURE YOUR OWN VALUES AND YOUR OWN BELIEFS?

I think I fit on the scale. I am definitely conservative but I think I am somewhere on that scale.

MODERATOR - OKAY, THAT YOU WOULD CALL YOURSELF A CONSERVATIVE?

Yes.

MODERATOR - AND WHAT WOULD THAT MEAN TO YOU?

I think it means to me that I am more like the previous generations where values are important to me, religion is important to me, making sure my son opens the doors for ladies and has respects, respect for adults is a huge thing so I would say a more conservative that way.

I would label myself conservative too on the spectrum. Not far right but definitely way on the conservative side and I would say that is because of my belief that I think that I should go to work everyday and work for what I get and that I shouldn't be handed anything. Not to say that we can't help people that are down but I just see a lot of people nowadays in the government like

let's just give everybody and healthcare is a big issue right now and since I've been working I've always had healthcare because I've always had to pay for it myself. It sucks. It is a little more expensive than I think it should be but I don't think that everybody in the United States should just have healthcare provided by the government just because. Why go to work?

I think everybody should have healthcare. It doesn't matter if you are poor or if you have a job. I mean you should have motivation to get a job but there should be something where it is more even ground for healthcare so that you don't go in debt just to save your father's life or something or your husband's life. You know what I mean?

MODERATOR - HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU, HOW WOULD YOU LABEL YOUR OWN BELIEFS AND VALUES?

I think I would label myself more liberal giving people the choice to choose what they want to do, having the choice to choose or actions that they take and not having someone else tell them what they can do and not do. I think that is part of our generation that you should be able to do what you want to do and how you want to do it not have someone else tell you how to do it.

MODERATOR - AND IS THAT WHAT LIBERAL MEANS TO YOU?

I guess very (inaudible), yeah.

MODERATOR - HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU, HOW WOULD YOU LABEL YOURSELVES?

Conserva-liberal.

Me too.

You got to be able to go to both sides. Like with you, yeah you should be able to make the decisions that you want but if there are repercussions that you are aware of then you are going to be handed that. With our government I think that we were able to see that there were some definite chinks in our armor and you know this big you know this thing where we thought the government was always right whether it was a democrat or a republican. Whose right? Well you know you are both right. And to be able to, you're not going to be able to please everybody but you definitely can find one common ground and democrats don't have all the answers, republicans don't have all the answers and it is being able to be open-minded to change because we are changing and we are a different generation than the one before us and we are becoming more open but we don't want to become too open.

I kind of agree with a little bit of what you were saying Joshua. As far as something that affects me directly and being able to make your own choices and stuff like that, we've been trying to move out of state for about a year and my son's father doesn't want us to so the courts are going to decide and the judge is going to decide the fate of our family. You know my husband has been working down there in Texas and can provide a better quality of life of us and our children

and be able to afford a home and it is up to the judge. I can't make that decision and that is a scary thing.

MODERATOR - I SAW A FEW OF YOU AGREEING WITH WHAT [JOHN] SAID, CONSERVA-LIBERAL. OKAY YOU WANT PIECES OF BOTH ENDS OF THE SPECTRUM. IS THERE ANOTHER TERM THAT IS NOT ONE OF THOSE TWO THAT BETTER REPRESENTS WHAT YOU THINK AND WHAT YOU BELIEVE?

Maybe independent.

I guess what I am looking for is like a leader who looks acts the part, looks the part and talks the part and things like that. I'm kind of looking out for the environment and things like that. That is something that I am really looking for. I guess I am more of a liberal in that sense. I like Al Gore.

MODERATOR - ANYONE ELSE, ANY OTHER TERMS THAT ARE BETTER THAN LIBERAL AND CONSERVATIVE? ANYTHING ELSE THAT BETTER DESCRIBES IT? (NO RESPONSE). I WANT YOU TO THINK FOR A MINUTE ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP IN OUR COUNTRY AND I AM NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT PRESIDENT BUSH. I AM TALKING ABOUT THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP ACROSS THE SPECTRUM. I AM TALKING ABOUT CORPORATE LEADERS, LARGE ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTIONS, YOU KNOW WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE LEADERSHIP ACROSS OUR COUNTRY HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE LEADERSHIP IN THIS COUNTRY THESE DAYS? DO YOU THINK IT IS SERVING OUR COUNTRY WELL OR NOT SERVING OUR COUNTRY? I SEE HEADS SHAKING THERE.

It's (inaudible) in the country (inaudible).

MODERATOR - WHY ARE YOU SHAKING YOUR HEAD?

Because the rich is getting richer and the poor is, there is no middle class (inaudible – throat clearing), there, you know it is hard to find the middle class anymore. It is you either make it rich our you're struggling, which is poor. (Agreement). We are fooling ourselves with material things, trying to think that we're middle class but if it comes down to going over the budget and stuff, it's rich/poor, I don't know and that's big companies, the gasoline, that's them. They are making megabucks and jacking the prices up to the government where the government, I don't even know what to believe anymore with the government. I think our generation you know has kind of pulled out of the politics, pulled out of educating ourselves well on that so we are just kind of skating by.

Survival.

Yeah.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK OF OUR COUNTRY'S LEADERSHIP THESE DAYS?

I think it is a tough job.

Yeah.

I think it is a really tough job.

I think she is right. It is a tough job. It doesn't matter. You can have the most charismatic, best leader come in there but they are so on both sides. If they are republican they are going to be hated by the liberals and the democrats just because of that word and if they're democrats it is going to be the same way. You'd have to be an Abraham Lincoln or a Roosevelt or something right now to bring this country back together where you are going to get people from one side liking you and people from the other side liking you. You are just going to have to be an extraordinary person. You know as far as politics I don't see that person out there and the government as a whole I don't see that person out there right now. I don't know.

I think it is hard for me to place judgment upon our government because like you were saying I don't think I am educated enough to make that judgment and I guess that's a personal choice I just haven't chosen to educate myself.

I think she feels that way because we don't know the truth of anything really. They just don't tell us anything I guess, like the media, like our leaders of states and governments and stuff like that.

MODERATOR - KIM WAS MAKING THE CASE LIKE WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE CORPORATE LEADERS BUT I GUESS ALSO THE GOVERNMENT THAT THEY ARE KIND OF SERVING THEIR OWN SELF INTERESTS. THE CORPORATIONS ARE TRYING TO MAKE AS MUCH MONEY AS THEY CAN REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES. DO THE REST OF YOU AGREE WITH THAT, THAT YOU CAN SEE THE LEADERS KIND OF LOOKING OUT FOR THEMSELVES RATHER THAN AGAIN THIS QUESTION OF THE GREATER GOOD?

Well that is what a corporation is supposed to do. If you look at the corporations now, you know it goes unnoticed but WalMart and Target all those companies gives tens of millions if not hundreds of millions to nonprofit organizations and environmental organizations because there is even in the corporate world now that self awareness that they need to give something back or there won't be a corporation to have in 100 years. It just gets overlooked because they are huge and they just see that the CEO of that company made \$200 million, you know. The Disney CEO make \$200 million but he probably gave \$20, \$30 million of that aware and Disney probably gave \$50 million to some charity organization so I think that is what corporations do. I own stock. I want that corporation to do well so that I can retire with my 401k.

But I think that is a very small percentage of corporations that do do that and have that awareness and are out for the greater good.

Is that for taxes or.

Save face.

But what does it matter. That is a lot of money.

But they are not taking care of their employees.

And I think of healthcare as well obviously but you should (inaudible – stumbling words) into any healthcare provider to receive help but it is just a business, it is not a corporation if you will and if you don't have insurance then I'm sorry I can't stay you have to go home. (Interrupted).

[Impersonal].

...It is just sickening.

Same with government, law enforcement, everything.

Pharmaceutical. They are making billions of dollars just giving you drugs that are tearing you liver apart, eventually give you a heart attack.

I love those commercials. Help your breathing but may cause. Yeah I can breathe now but I can't sit down.

MODERATOR – WHEN YOU LOOK OUT THERE ARE THERE ANY LEADERS OR ORGANIZATIONS THAT YOU COULD POINT TO AND SAY THAT IS THE MODEL OF LEADERSHIP THAT WE NEED IN THIS COUNTRY, THAT IS WHAT I WANT TO SEE MORE OF IN THIS COUNTRY?

Christine [Preg-or-are] in Washington.

MODERATOR - WHY?

She is really positive and she seems really truth in what she believes in.

MODERATOR - ANYONE ELSE?

I don't know, this is kind of just a (inaudible) spin on it. Do we want someone like Bill Gates who is determined what he needs, new great technologies but then gives so much at the same time. He has billions and billions of dollars and he can afford it but it is a fact that he is actually doing it. He is not a Martha Stewart or whatever robbing his company. I think he is actually for

the greater good. He may have some wild ideas about how to go about finding them, maybe some people might view it as unfair but I would say he is a pretty standup guy.

If his role would be just in computers I would be frustrated because (many people talking).

I think the government is too corrupt. I mean I think you can find good aspects if you have a good democrat, good republican both working, whatever but you know this senator wants something and he is not going to get votes or money or something like that unless he gets what he wants. I mean Clinton he was doing great for the economy, had a little sexual problem going on under the table if you will. Bush he, his dad was a president, he had that going for him and then the whole war thing broke out and now I don't know the exacts of it but a lot of his family's companies and people that his family is in business with they are making a crap ton of money and we're losing soldiers, I mean it becomes like a personal agenda in any cabinet of the (interrupted)

MODERATOR - OKAY, ANYONE ELSE, OTHER LEADERSHIP EXAMPLES YOU CAN POINT TO?

You own parents.

My parents are still married, not been divorced. That is a rarity. I mean I myself has been divorced and everybody I know it is in their family some way, shape or form, whether they were a product of it or currently.

MODERATOR - WHEN YOU LOOK AT THE POLITICAL DEBATE IN OUR COUNTRY AND POLITICAL LEADERSHIP ARE THEY FOCUSED ON THE ISSUES THAT THEY SHOULD BE FOCUSED ON? DO YOU THINK THEY ARE DEALING WITH THE REAL CHALLENGES THAT ARE FACING THE COUNTRY?

Well they talk about it (many people talking), they talk about it but we'll see if they are really going to be focused on it when somebody gets elected.

They are trying right now to narrow down and target what we want to hear so that they can get elected and that goes for both sides.

MODERATOR - WE HAVE PEOPLE OUT THERE RIGHT NOW WHO ARE ELECTED OR GETTING PAID TAXPAYER MONEY TO DO A JOB. WHAT I AM ASKING IS ARE THEY DOING IT?

Hillary stood up to the plate when someone took over one of her camps and held them all hostage. Nice enough of her to show up there for that. That was a pretty good publicity for her. That's is rare that that ever happened you are running for a campaign and well and behold you got a crisis situation that you can be on national news and show up for it. That is pretty convenient. You got the Obama girl that is always popular. Good character [isn't] involved in this.

MODERATOR - THE REST OF YOU WHAT DO YOU THINK THE OVERALL POLITICAL ISSUE IS?

I think that it is amazing that we are the most wealthiest nation, you know country (interrupted)

And we're so far behind.

...and look at our deficit. I mean I don't think they are doing anything about that. I don't think it's that important to think their focus is elsewhere. They talk about it you know.

(Many people talking).

Like the democrats got in they are going to bring home all the soldiers and that was a big thing so that got voted in and all of a sudden like well wait you know we are turning their country upside down and we just can't back out now. I think that a lot of it, it is not getting done. It is to get a vote you will say what the people want to hear whether it is a firm hand or a soft heart to get the vote and then after that it just becomes more of an agenda for their own campaign.

Tearing peoples' lives apart.

I think they are just surviving. They are just trying to talk about the issues that come up and whatever is on the forefront.

Do we know anything though that is good that people have done? I mean really like healthcare or anything? I don't know of anything.

I don't know.

You know the only thing positive I read lately is Colorado from its lottery has set aside 138,000 acres that will be preserved so I thought that was kind of cool that we were using money that so many other times might get wasted on something else to actually do something that is going to impact generations for hundreds of years probably and save species of fish or birds or whatever you know, that is really, I mean, and the national government I don't think they have passed any bills that are going to significantly change or fix any of the problems that we have right now. I mean all the major issues that I hear about are the war in Iraq, illegal immigration, healthcare and nothing has, they have been talking about those three main issues to me for the last 2, 3, 4 years and nothing has really been down about any of those problems.

MODERATOR - SOMETHING ELSE THAT WE HEAR A LOT AT ELECTION TIME AT LEAST IS WHAT A LOT OF PEOPLE CALL THE SOCIAL ISSUES, ABORTION, GAY MARRIAGE, THOSE KINDS OF ISSUES (INTERRUPTED)

Stem cell research.

MODERATOR - ...STEM CELL RESEARCH ALSO TIED INTO THAT. IS THAT SOMETHING THAT THEY SHOULD BE TALKING ABOUT? IS THAT SOMETHING THEY SHOULD BE DOING SOMETHING ABOUT? I MEAN WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT AS PART OF THE POLITICAL DEBATE?

I don't think that is important now.

Yeah.

I think we got bigger issues than whether a gay couple is getting married. I mean can we worry about something else.

Why don't we allow stem cell research? Why do other countries have it and it is illegal here? I don't know.

I think there is a misconception to educate because my sister-in-law actually [does] some stem cell research. It is not illegal. It is the government, the federal government says that you cannot destroy anymore stem cell to do more research. The stem cells that are out there you can have federal funding for and like California passed a law. California's state government gives money to fund new stem cell research. It is not illegal whatsoever but there is a debate whether you are destroying a life or not. It almost goes back to the abortion debate, so.

MODERATOR – OKAY, BUT SHOULD THOSE ISSUES BE AS CENTRAL AS THEY ARE TO THE POLITICAL DEBATE?

I think those are secondary issues these days. (Interrupted).

They're important.

...They're important to me. I definitely have strong feelings on all three of those things that you named but the first three things that I named I think are more important to me right now. I want to see them resolved.

MODERATOR – THINGS ABOUT IRAQ, HEALTHCARE AND IMMIGRATION

You know healthcare definitely what I said earlier I think everybody should work and be able to make a living so that they can provide their own healthcare. There are major problems with the healthcare and the affordability now and everything. I think it needs a total overhaul. I think the whole immigration thing needs a total overhaul and I don't have that much, I know that there are major issues with Iraq right now and Afghanistan and stuff but those first two things are my major problem right now.

I agree. I think healthcare is up there. I think terrorism. I don't know, immigration, I don't know.

MODERATOR – WE WILL GET TO ACTUALLY TALKING ABOUT ONE OF THOSE IMPORTANT ISSUES IN A MINUTE BUT BEFORE WE DO I AM NOT HEARING A LOT OF POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM YOU GUYS ABOUT THE LEADERSHIP THAT IS OUT THERE. WE'VE ALL HEARD THE SAME, IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DONE RIGHT YOU GOT TO DO IT YOURSELF. BRIAN MADE A COMMENT EARLIER, IN 20 OR 30 YEARS FROM NOW WHEN YOUR GENERATION IS IN POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IS THERE ANY REASON WHY YOUR GENERATION CAN'T EXHIBIT THAT LEADERSHIP NOW, CAN'T TRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON SOME OF THESE ISSUES AND TRY TO CREATE SOME PROGRESS NOW?

Well the difference we're going to make because none of us are going to get elected president is to go and vote.

And against (inaudible). (Laughter).

Just write your governors, write, just make a voice for yourself.

You can definitely change it. I just don't hear anything positive going on right now.

We just need leaders. That is the problem. We need to find some (interrupted)

A bigger voice that knows what they're doing.

Somebody who had educated themselves on (many people talking).

MODERATOR – SARA THINKS THAT YOUR GENERATION IS A LITTLE APATHETIC. WHAT DO YOU THINK? WHEN WE TALKED IN THE BEGINNING HERE YOU GUYS DID SAY THAT YOU WERE FOCUSED ON MONEY OR ON PROFESSIONAL GOALS AND A LOT OF STUFF THAT WAS VERY SELF-CENTERED. NOT NECESSARILY SAYING THAT IN A NEGATIVE WAY BUT YOU WERE KIND OF FOLKS THAT WERE NOT LOOKING AS MUCH AT MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD OR STUFF LIKE THAT. DO YOU THINK THAT YOU SHOULD BE MORE FOCUSED ON THOSE THINGS OR?

It would be nice to be in the position to. Again I'm not, like she said there are two classes. I'm not up here. Each moment I have is very precious. I mean all I can do is maybe make it possible that maybe my daughter could be in that position.

Well we might have some leaders it is just that I don't have any friends in that field.

Yeah so you don't know and you won't know until that time comes so for us all we could do is vote and write your congressman and (interrupted)

Take care of your family.

You can stand for what you believe in too even in the court system and the school system and healthcare and just fighting for what your rights are.

I think you have to do individual things to start out with like I didn't like the people that were running my [HOA] so I went and got elected to the [HOA]. You know stuff like that or I don't like my city councilman or let's vote a different city councilman in or something like that. I didn't like the mayor so let's start out that way and work our way up.

I think employers should be one of the first people to tell their employees what they can do and what they should do because my employer (inaudible) me, they want me to donate, they want me to give to people, which is the only place that I have ever given money is at work you know so I think employers would be a really good (interrupted)

They are influential.

... Yeah, so I think we think we are too busy to busy sometimes to even do anything like when we are by ourselves. I think we need someone to kind of push us along.

MODERATOR – WHAT WERE YOU GOING TO SAY JOHN?

I agree with Ryan but that is like the laziness that we talked about earlier. Like I hate my [HOA], not dislike, I hate them (laughter) like I am way too lazy to go down and become a part of it but also like when I was younger I wanted to be in politics because I wanted to make a difference and then like you look around and it is just like then I would be the one with my own agenda, like I have to please all these people otherwise my life is completely miserable and how am I going to do my job when I am miserable (many people talking – laughing) but I think that is like the laziness. I mean (interrupted).

MODERATOR – SO WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO PUSH PEOPLE OF YOUR GENERATION TO TAKE SOME KIND OF AN ACTION?

Leadership.

Educate them on what they need to do.

I think education is a big part of it.

I think if there was more positive too about things because I think everybody hears so much negative that nobody wants to step up because everybody is getting pinpointed about all the negative thing too.

(Inaudible) to deal with it.

Well it is the thing like what you were saying you become a leader for what, for everybody to criticize you say what a bad job you're doing and just all that negativity around you, you don't feel like you are doing anything good.

I think once a person is affected by the problem that is going to push them to do whatever it is that is necessary. You know your [HOA] gives you a ticket for something then you are actually going to kick into high gear, you know join that [HOA] and see the issued you want addressed addressed.

There has to be some type of catalyst, something for everybody to rally behind and get behind.

MODERATOR – SO IT IS LEADERSHIP AND THEN IT IS ALSO GIVING THEM A STAKE IN IT THAT YOU GOT TO [HAVE].

Yeah, positive reinforcement like when we said instant gratification, so it is like you do something well and you get a little doggy treat or whatever. You (inaudible) any complaints for your [HOA], just an example, you don't have to pay June's [HOA] or whatever or if you haven't had any health issues, you haven't come in everyday for something or whatever then the hospital can lower rates or whatever.

(Many people talking).

Or something like that, if you spend five years without making a visit (interrupted) something that they can give back to other people.

MODERATOR – WELL THAT IS A FAIR POINT. PEOPLE HAVE TO SEE SOME KIND OF A BENEFIT. IT IS NOT LIKE, LIKE YOU GUY ARE LESS LIKELY TO GO AND DO SOMETHING FOR WORLD PEACE. YOU KNOW YOU ARE NEVER GOING TO SEE A TANGIBLE RESULT BUT IF THERE IS SOME KIND OF A SHORT TERM BENEFIT THAT YOU CAN SEE, SOMETHING THAT SHOWS SOME PROGRESS YOU ARE MORE LIKELY TO DO IT, IS THAT FAIR?

Definitely.

I see it as you got to take care of your home before you can take care of others so I don't know, I think we need to take care of us before we start adopting a kid and sending that whatever that commercial is.

(Many people talking).

I think it is hard to think about outside of your family, thinking about what is going on and helping and making a difference when you are struggling, living paycheck to paycheck and you are focused on just trying to survive and you don't even have the time of the energy to think about what is going on and by home I mean our country what is going on here because you know

how many kids are suffering and struggling here, how many kids here don't have a Christmas. You know that is what I mean by take care of the home before we start helping everybody else.

They do. There are lots of programs that help. We have a lot of opportunity here I think too.

But as far as donating and helping (interrupted – inaudible) lets help here before we start going, you know adopting overseas and, well that's the thing there is opportunity but I don't know that a lot of those people are aware of those opportunities and they are just so quick to go to China and adopt kids or give aid to other country.

(Many people talking).

There are probably a lot of great people out there but it is almost (inaudible – lots of background noise) heavy burden for some people to care. They have a great heart and do take these (inaudible) really seriously but there is nothing they can do because they have three kids, you know there is nothing they can do to. That is a burden that a lot of Americans carry around. They probably have a lot to offer but they can't offer because they have almost not enough time to take care of themselves.

Right.

MODERATOR – AS I PROMISED WE'D GET TO SOME OF THESE SPECIFIC CHALLENGES THAT ARE FACING THE COUNTRY. IN THE RIGHT HAND CORNER THERE IS A PLACE FOR YOUR NAME...JUST LOOKING AT HANDOUT 1 RIGHT NOW WHAT YOU GOT HERE IS A LIST OF 10 CHALLENGES ARE FACING OUR COUNTRY RIGHT NOW AND WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO IS READ THROUGH THE LIST AND THEN RANK ORDER THEM 1-10. SO #1 IS THE ONE THAT YOU THINK IS THE MOST IMPORTANT AND MOST ISSUE FOR OUR COUNTRY TO ADDRESS. #2 IS THE NEXT ONE (**SIDE B BEGINS**) (DOING HANDOUT SILENTLY). I WANT TO GET A SENSE OF WHERE YOU GUYS ARE GOING. JUST TELL ME YOUR TOP THREE, LIKE 1, 2 AND 3, JUST THE LETTERS.

G, C, D.

H, [A], I.

B, C, F.

C, (INAUDIBLE), G.

MODERATOR – KIM?

It is a tough one. G, J, and (inaudible).

MODERATOR – G, J AND WHAT?

H or I.

MODERATOR – PICK ONE.

I.

MODERATOR – CONNOR?

B, C, G.

MODERATOR – BRIAN?

G, F, A.

A, C, E. I mean A, C, [F], sorry.

C, J, F.

G, C, E.

MODERATOR – OKAY. ALL RIGHT, THREAT OF TERRORISM, SEVERAL OF YOU MADE THAT THE TOP ONE, MORE THAN HALF OF YOU PUT IT AS ONE OF YOUR TOP THREE BUT WHY DOES THAT ELEVATE ABOVE? I MEAN THEY ARE ALL IMPORTANT. WE TALKED ABOUT THE VARYING DEGREES. WHY DOES THAT ONE ELEVATE?

Because I don't think we can do some of these other things because we are spending so much money on that right now that we need to get that back under control and taking care of so that we can come back and focus on national issues and personally I don't want that feeling, like right now I can walk pretty much anywhere in this country. I probably wouldn't walk through blocks or something like that by myself alone at night but I pretty much feel that I can walk anywhere in this country without thinking that somebody is going to blow themselves up and I don't want it to get to that point where I do feel like that, which is what terrorists are trying to do. That is their whole point is to make us fearful so I'd like that taken care of, nipped in the bud or at least feel secure here like it is never going to be a problem and then we can focus on some of these other issues that definitely I think should be the more of the focus but we can't focus on right now.

But do you think that you feel safe walking around because you haven't been directly affected by like 9/11 or any of those terrorist attacks?

No because I personally in an indirect directly feel like I have. I mean I have had to send a sister to Iraq so I mean and like right in the middle of it, she's been there when it was really bad so if 9/11 would have never happened then she would have never been there so.

I think what Ryan said is an (inaudible) to what Kim was saying earlier like you have to take care of your home first. Like I personally have to take care of me before I take care of my husband. If I'm not doing well he is not going to be doing well either. (Inaudible) he's needing me to help him.

MODERATOR - SIX OF YOU ALSO WENT WITH HEALTHCARE AS ONE OF YOUR TOP TWO. WHY DOES THAT ONE AGAIN RISE ABOUT ALL THE OTHERS?

Because if we were not here how are we going to make a difference. I mean if we can't take care of ourselves we are going to be no good to this country.

With the greater difference between our upper class and lower class there is greater health disparity within the country and that is why we're (inaudible). That is huge.

MODERATOR - SO YOU SEE A BIG INEQUALITY HERE.

Yes.

MODERATOR - DO THE REST OF YOU SEE THAT? DO YOU SEE INEQUALITY WITHIN THE SYSTEM? THIS SPECIFICALLY TALKS ABOUT THE RISING COST ON THE ONE HAND, A GROWING NUMBER OF UNINSURED ON THE OTHER HAND AND STEPHANIE YOU'RE ALSO SAYING IT IS AN ISSUE OF INEQUALITY?

Yeah I have \$750.00 coming out of check very month and I to go do a Payday Loan because if it is after hours for my 3-year-old it is \$350.00 for her after hours and I have all that money coming out of my check and I couldn't even comprehend it. I couldn't even begin but I had no other choice.

I see it as that is our issue but put ourselves in our elders' position, you know what happens when you retire and you no longer are paying for that health insurance then what do you do? (Interrupted – inaudible). Right and you know what do they do if you didn't have some great fabulous job that's got some really retirement package. What if you're self employed what do you do once you retire for insurance so that to me is a big issue. I mean if I had to watch and I hope I never do one of my parents, if I had to watch them suffer because they don't have health insurance anymore (interrupted)

You worked for nothing.

...right, you worked for nothing but the time that you need health insurance the most who is there helping you? No one. And you can't work. Well I guess you could go to WalMart.

And they do. You do see elderly work at WalMart and they work full time because they want their health benefits.

Or they lose their social security. Exactly, so I see that as a major problem.

MODERATOR - LET'S TALK ABOUT B, EDUCATION. IT TALKS ON ONE HAND THE DECLINING QUALITY AND ON THE OTHER HAND RISING INEQUALITY. WHAT DO YOU GUYS SEE IN THE EDUCATION SYSTEM?

I think it is absolutely horrible.

My kid better be best at baseball, football, player of the year, get a full ride because.

I put that at 10 because I think again it goes back to some of these other issue. If I take care of and I know I don't want to offend anybody but if I take care of illegal immigration and there is 500 less kids in that school that shouldn't be there then guess what, each one of my kids is going to get \$5,000.00 extra dollars spent on him on education. (Interrupted)

That's right. I didn't think about that (inaudible – both talking).

...Schools don't get that much money, teachers don't get that much money but each school work per pupil so they want any kid in there they don't care if they legal or illegal.

They're looking at the numbers.

That is the thing if they're not getting the money then they're not getting the teachers. When they don't make enough to put food on the table then they can't do that and they have to move on to do something else unless you just like really want to teach and help out it doesn't matter who you teach.

Okay, what I'm saying is okay we're all students in there, there are 10 of us right and the government gets, he is the school, the government gives him \$10,000.00 to spend on his school and education well if 5 of you are illegal and you guys are gone, well guess what he spends that \$10,000.00 on us.

That is not how it works, (many people talking).

We're not having less babies. Even if you are legal we're not having less sex buddies.

MODERATOR - OKAY OTHER PEOPLE'S PERCEPTION OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. WHAT DO YOU GUYS SEE GOING ON?

There is not enough money for it.

I see your point of view though because my daughter's mom is a teacher and it hard for her, like hard to try to get, like you got 15 students, you know she teaches third grade and she has fifth grade classes and she's got half of them that are on fifth grade level and the other one is on a first grade level but they are in fifth grade. It is almost impossible but yet you are expected, they cut out to where she actually has to keep all of the kids at, I mean she has kids that have an IQ that

they should be somewhere else and Denver Public Schools are keeping them in this class. They have a teacher that rotates around for 1 hour a day to help my daughter's mom know how they deal with these kids. That's it, she's just like.

There is not enough money to educate because I mean you're saying 15 kids in a class.

That is a scenario. She has way more than that.

That would be amazing because it is more like 25-30 for one teacher. You don't get that one on one time. You don't get that quality of education because they can't pay enough money for the teachers. There is not enough classrooms.

No, she is taking up four tutoring classes a week to just over compensate what they pay her.

MODERATOR - HOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU WHAT DO YOU SEE GOING ON IN SCHOOLS?

I just see a lot of those temporary buildings that they have to build for the overcrowding and that just makes me, it is kind of sad.

You guys are talking about overcrowding and too many kids in a classroom when again a lot of those kids shouldn't be in the classroom I don't think. Not that you should deny anyone an education in America. It is the land of the free like opportunity. Like have you ever been in that position like you would just give anything to be able to put your kids in a school like that? I mean that is what America is based on. Aside from going back to me, me, me then pay more taxes.

I understand that and anybody that is here should get that opportunity but they should be here the right way and their tax money should also be going into education.

There is a process.

There is a right process totally.

And there are a lot of illegals that do contribute that way.

MODERATOR - I DON'T WANT TO GET TOO FAR DOWN (INTERRUPTED)

(Inaudible – both talking) says you are not paying taxes because you don't have a social security number and you don't have a job where social security taxes or and any type of taxes is coming out. That's my whole point.

MODERATOR - UNDERSTOOD. LET ME ASK SOMETHING ABOUT THIS ISSUE OF INEQUALITY IN THE SCHOOLS. ONE THING THAT WAS BROUGHT UP IN ANOTHER GROUP AND YOU GUYS REALLY HAVEN'T TOUCHED ON IS THAT SCHOOLS ARE

FUNDED LOCALLY SO AREAS THAT HAVE A LOT OF MONEY AND HAVE A BIG TAX BASE AND PEOPLE MAKE A LOT OF MONEY HAVE A LOT MORE RESOURCES. AREAS WHERE PEOPLE MAKE LESS MONEY THE SCHOOLS HAVE LESS RESOURCES. THERE IS A STRUCTURAL INEQUALITY BUILT INTO OUR EDUCATION SYSTEM. DO YOU THINK THAT IS GOOD, YOU KNOW PARENTS PAY MORE INTO THE SCHOOLS SO THEIR KIDS CAN HAVE MORE OR DO YOU THINK THAT ALL SCHOOLS SHOULD HAVE CONSISTENT FUNDING YOU KNOW SUCH THAT AREAS THAT MAKE MORE MONEY ESSENTIALLY ARE HELPING TO SUBSIDIZE THE SCHOOLS IN AREAS WHERE PEOPLE DON'T MAKE AS MUCH MONEY?

It should be consistent. It goes back to no middle class. It is either poor or rich.

(Many people talking).

There I one thing that I want to jump on that. Everybody should be equal. Yeah, education if there is \$20 million just to throw a number out there for the State of Colorado, it should be divided up equally and if you have the money and you don't like the education and if you're rich enough then they're going to send their kid to a private school.

You could even take you kids to charter schools. There are charter schools.

My daughter goes to a charter school, which I love and there are only 15 kids in her class. Love it. I have to shell out \$300.00 a month for fulltime kindergarten because apparently I am in that middle class area where I make too much to get any type of assistance but I don't make enough to really afford to go to full day kindergarten.

Try infant daycare, it's a week.

MODERATOR - A COUPLE OTHER ONES WHILE I'M HERE. DEPENDENCE, "A", AMERICA'S DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL AND FOSSIL FUELS, WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THAT ISSUE?

I think they are working on it.

Yeah, I do too, the cars.

MODERATOR - DO YOU THINK THEY ARE MAKING PROGRESS THERE?

I think that the progress is already there and they are just slowly letting things out because there is way too much money. We could run cars off of water right now pretty much but that ain't going to happen because Exxon makes \$10 billion a quarter in profit.

MODERATOR - WHAT ARE THE STAKES HERE?

Huge. I mean if we don't have oil this whole, I mean the rest of the list isn't going to be there. We are not going to be able to defend ourselves. We are not going to be able to have medical, you know health because everything we do relies on oil and gas (interrupted)

Our whole economy relies on oil.

...and if we get cut off of this we are going to be basically done. I mean we are going to be just running wild.

MODERATOR - SO YOU ARE SAYING IT IS A SECURITY ISSUE.

Oh yeah. Our world will come to an end.

MODERATOR - IT'S NOT JUST THAT WE ARE PAYING \$3.00 A GALLON.

Yeah, our world, especially the United States will come to an end as soon as we don't get that oil.

We're going to pay for it no matter what they charge.

Monetary not security.

Raise it up to \$6.00 a gallon we'll still pay for it.

People got to pay for it if that is what you got to do to get to work. What else are you going to do die? Put your foot down and you're going to pay for it because you got to do what you got to do.

MODERATOR - HOW ABOUT "I", THE INFLUENCE OF LOBBYIST AND SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE GOVERNMENT? WE TALKED A LITTLE BIT ABOUT HIS EARLIER.

That is why our government is corrupt.

MODERATOR - DO YOU THINK THERE IS ANYTHING THAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT IT?

You hear that John McCain sometimes and I can't name any democrats but there are some out there that you know let's basically throw all the lobbyists out of Washington and it doesn't get very far because there is too much money going in the back pocket. I mean lobbyists are holding back probably my top 5. Probably 4 out of my top 5 would probably be corrected if lobbyists didn't have so much money, lobbyists and special interest groups and weren't allowed so much access to my senator and my congressman. I guarantee that we would overhaul healthcare.

MODERATOR - ANY THOUGHTS ON THIS?

(Inaudible).

I'm really sick of people depending so much upon celebrity influence. You know just because they are a celebrity and they are attached to a political figure it is like oh, all of a sudden they are credible and I think if one of us went off the street and went up and tried to endorse somebody they would be who are you.

MODERATOR - LET ME PLAY THIS ONE OUT FOR YOU, THE MEMBERS OF LOBBYISTS AND SPECIAL INTEREST. THE MEMBERS OF, YOU KNOW THE POLITICIANS TAKE THE MONEY FROM THE LOBBYISTS TO GET REELECTED. THEY USE THE MONEY TO PAY FOR THEIR REELECTION CAMPAIGNS SO THEY ARE BASICALLY TAKING THAT MONEY AND THEN TURNING AROUND AND SPENDING IT ON YOU TO GET YOU TO VOTE FOR THEM, YOU KNOW THE TELEVISION ADS AND ALL THE OTHER THINGS THAT THEY DO IN THE CAMPAIGN, SO DOESN'T THE POWER AGAIN ULTIMATELY COME BACK TO VOTERS? I MEAN IF YOU DIDN'T WANT THEM TAKING THAT MONEY COULDN'T YOU PUNISH THEM FOR IT, COULDN'T YOU VOTE THEM OUT?

But don't they all take money. Is there one that you can pick that doesn't that has good morals and values?

MODERATOR - WHAT DO YOU GUYS THINK DO YOU HAVE AN OPTION HERE?

It's a crap shoot.

Free to stop by my house and ask me.

I think one of our state gals came to the door.

(Inaudible).

MODERATOR - YOU THINK IT IS THE CULTURE?

Yeah.

They are going to find loopholes. They try to cut out these special TV ads and then this nonprofit loophole of [529] were still able to put special interest ads on TV. There are going to be loopholes. There are always going to be loopholes. I don't know what to do about it to tell you the truth.

I think it would be interesting if we had two, well we always do but just nobody vote.

Yeah.

You don't like either one.

This will be an interesting election.

MODERATOR - STAY ON THAT PAGE FOR A MINUTE HERE. SO LOOKING AT THIS LIST DO YOU SEE PROGRESS BEING MADE. YOU GUYS SAID YOU SAW A LITTLE BIT OF PROGRESS POTENTIALLY ON THE DEPENDENCE OF FOREIGN OIL. ANY OTHER ISSUES WHERE YOU SEE US MAKING PROGRESS AND MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?

A lot of talking.

I guess the oil stuff, they are trying, they say that in the next 10 years they are going to try to build these things and (many people talking).

MODERATOR - DO YOU THINK THAT THE WAR IN IRAQ IS MAKING US SAFER, I MEAN IS IT REDUCING THE THREAT OF TERRORISM?

Again, I don't know what to believe, what is going on with that.

I don't think it is.

MODERATOR - YOU SAID NO.

I don't really think that the war on terrorism is making us any safer. Yeah we are out there and you know, (inaudible) showing us that we are going around (inaudible) everybody else and then we got all these other countries that are going to come for us and then combined together they will come back after us and I feel that there are not going to be any foreign relations anymore because we are going out and going after everybody else but we are going after these people that we're trying to have foreign relations with.

MODERATOR - SO YOU'RE AFRAID WE ARE MAKING MORE ENEMIES.

It is a hard thing to deal with because it is almost a situation where you can't stop it. I mean there are going to be terrorists groups, you won't be able to fight them all, you won't be able to stop it completely but if we just sit back and do nothing about it (interrupted)

It is like the no discipline.

But we just can't attack like different countries. (Interrupted).

Right.

Yeah.

...There was no reason to go into Iraq and destroy their country and everybody is like well we might have made a mistake. You know it is kind of a big deal. (Many people talking).

I don't agree with that. My husband was over there and the pictures he brought back, the mass grave sites, what they were doing to children.

But that is not our country to govern.

But everybody yells now like all the celebrities say well we should go to Darfur, that's a big deal right now it is just that it is not popular right now.

Yeah.

[On the war] was the only relation there was that America was mad and we wanted to retaliate immediately and we did.

And we found somebody to just go retaliate against.

And then you can justify it by saying that because those are mean horrible things but we don't govern all other nation so we felt tough there for a second and as we keep sending soldiers over there that are dying to a very cowardness people, for what, what does our country benefit from that? It is not that we have less terrorism in our country, we are influencing more. We are pissing off Iran and North Korea.

Yeah.

MODERATOR - WE HAVE DIFFERENT OPINIONS AND WE TALKED WHY WE WENT EARLIER. DO YOU SEE ANY OTHER SENSE OF PROGRESS HERE IN ANY OTHER ISSUES?

Healthcare is rising.

I can say personally that I know that I don't see anything nationally but I know that social security, Medicare and other social programs may not be there for me so I know that I need to take care of that myself. Now I am not going to depend on the government to do that. Hey, if it is there and I can dip into it because I paid into it but I know that I am more educated in the fact that I need to save my own money because I know that my employer is not going to give me that pension and I know that the government may not be able to give me anything so on a lower level I think that people are well way, way more educated into the fact that they need to save their own money and be able to depend on themselves when they get older.

MODERATOR - HOW DO YOU THINK WE CREATE MORE PROBLEMS HERE? HOW DO YOU THINK WE START ADDRESSING MORE OF THESE ISSUES AND KIND OF TURN THE CORNER AND STOP IT FROM GETTING WORSE TO GETTING BETTER?

Less talk and more do. That is what it comes down to. There is more talk about what they are doing but it is just not being able to be seen. It is not, I just don't see it happening.

MODERATOR - HOW DOES IT GET THERE? DOES IT HAVE TO COME FROM GOVERNMENT OR ARE THERE OTHER VEHICLES FOR MAKING HEADWAY HERE?

You direct, touch into one specific. If they had your list and then they went down whatever order it was in and they addressed each subject and did something about it and made America make their decision on how are we going to handle it and then move onto the next one.

Yeah, it is a one at a time issue. Right now they try to keep us all confused about the national debt and the Iraq war and healthcare and it is like what are you really going to do, stop talking about it and let's take one issue at a time. Let's knock it out one at a time. First session of congress we are going to take care of the national debt, check.

But can you just really take care of it and move onto the next thing?

No but you can focus on something and come up with a real plan instead of oh we're going to do this but really but the Senator from Arkansas tucked in \$58 million for pig farms in Arkansas, you know.

MODERATOR - CONNOR MADE THE POINT ALL TALK NO ACTION AND OBVIOUSLY THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT ALL THESE THINGS. THEY KNOW PEOPLE CARE ABOUT THEM SO THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT THEM. HOW DO YOU CREATE ACCOUNTABILITY? SOMEBODY SAYS I AM GOING TO DO THIS AND THEY DON'T WHERE IS THE ACCOUNTABILITY, WHERE ARE THE CONSEQUENCES?

They just don't get voted.

MODERATOR - BUT THEY DO. BETWEEN 95%-98% OF THEM GET REELECTED EVERY TIME AND A LOT OF YOU GUYS WILL SAY YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW, WHEN YOU GO TO VOTE YOU DON'T REALLY KNOW THAT THIS PERSON HAS DONE WHAT THEY SAID THEY WERE GOING TO OR WHAT THEY CLAIMED THAT THEY DID. HOW DO YOU GET PEOPLE TO REALLY KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING AND CREATE THAT SENSE OF ACCOUNTABILITY?

Maybe better education. Some people understand that these issues that are serious to us are not making any headway.

Yeah but they are really there so you can't really educate any particular (interrupted)

But I mean, yeah we know these are serious problems but can you tell me what the national debt is? We have not idea. We could be better educated. How are we paying off this debt? Is there money going to something else that it shouldn't be going to or is it (interrupted).

MODERATOR - DOES ANYBODY KNOW WHAT THE DEBT IS? WHO HOLDS IT? YOU KNOW IF YOU OWE MONEY YOU OWE IT TO SOMEBODY. WHO HOLDS OUR DEBT?

Other countries.

Foreign countries own probably 80% of our national debt, \$4 trillion, \$5 trillion.

See that is exactly that we need to be better educated on these subjects so that we can understand that it hasn't been done so we won't reelect these people because they are not doing their jobs correctly.

I am just afraid that if we do find out what is going on there is an honest person out there that person is going to get shot down when they actually try to speak up because doesn't that always happen. I mean I think so.

I think part of that is the commercials and stuff because like a get pretty heated when I start thinking about one subject at a time so I've tried to distance myself because I will see one commercial ad that is talking about this and that and then later on there is another commercial that arguing the first commercial and then they play off your feelings, your emotions, your morals and how you live your life and unless you go out and get the information, then you go off what you see on the news.

You get little bits and pieces.

Right, from the commercials.

Carl, it is like what you keep asking is like so what are you going to do about it, how are you going to change it and it is almost as if we need to change the system completely. The system needs to be changed completely so what options do we have or who do we do that and I don't know what the answer is but it is almost as if instead of electing one person you need to elect three different people, like give them a trial period, like a year to do it and if they don't do it they are out. (Interrupted).

That would never happen. That wouldn't help it.

...But it is something that would have to be drastically different than what is going on.

Take away everybody's money in politics and let them just stand on their own instead of their commercials. (Many people talking). That is what I am saying that is impossible. Like Joshua said you have to educate yourself and vote who you think is going to do the best for you and if you know, America wasn't happy with republicans in congress so they voted the democrats in. Guess what the democrats that are in congress now have a lower approval than the president so what is going to happen next time.

Do they really?

Yeah.

(Many people talking).

But the democratically controlled congress has a what 31% approval rating or 23% or something lower to the president's 31% so that is saying a lot when everybody really doesn't not like the president right now and then they dislike congress even less.

MODERATOR - LET'S GET INTO A COUPLE OF THESE ISSUES IN A LITTLE MORE DETAIL AND WHAT YOU GOT HERE ARE THREE POINTS OF VIEW ON HEALTHCARE. I WILL READ THIS OUT LOUD, YOU GUYS FOLLOW ALONG WITH ME AND JUST KIND OF MARK ANY WORDS, PHRASES, ANYTHING THAT JUMPS OUT AT YOU UNDERLINE IT WHATEVER.

EACH NEW GENERATION IS SUFFERING AN EPIDEMIC OF CHRONIC PREVENTABLE DISEASES DUE TO A POLLUTED ENVIRONMENT, A LACK OF BASIC HEALTHCARE AND THE POISONS WE FEED THEM EVERYDAY. EVERY CHILD IN AMERICA REGARDLESS OF RACE, CLASS OR INCOME SHOULD HAVE FULL HEALTH COVERAGE AND PROPER NUTRITION. PARENTS MUST BE TAUGHT THE IMPACT OF PREVENTIVE CARE AND PROPER NOURISHMENT WILL HAVE ON A CHILD. IF WE CONTINUE TO SPEND MORE AND MORE MONEY ON HEALTHCARE WITHOUT ADDRESSING THE ROOT COURSES OF THIS CRISIS WE WILL ONLY WEAKEN OUR ECONOMY AND CONDEMN MILLIONS MORE CHILD TO SUFFERING AND DISEASE.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THAT ONE?

It's true.

Yes.

MODERATOR - WHAT PART STANDS OUT?

Parents must be taught the impact.

Preventable.

Income, spending, crisis, suffering.

Every child.

Lack of basic healthcare.

Well that is the thing. We've talked about how you should be able to work hard for your healthcare, you should be able to work hard to be able to afford it but I mean children that are born into poverty they don't have a choice. They can't go out and get a job and I don't think they should have to suffer because of that.

I think you should work hard for a house and a car, not healthcare. I think everybody should have it.

You can move to Canada where they pay 66% tax rate and you can have healthcare. I mean everybody has healthcare but it is just the balances and stuff. I think that we are also getting back to there are CHIP Programs now, I think if there is the lower class, the poor, I think most of those children are covered now under healthcare programs and we're getting better at it but I think what is going to make it better is the lower healthcare overall so that more people who are on the lower end of the middle class can afford to have better healthcare and it is going to bring them up into a realm where everybody can afford it.

MODERATOR - WE'VE TALKED ABOUT COST. WHAT THIS STATEMENT IS SAYING YOU KNOW WE ARE SPENDING MONEY ON THE SYMPTOMS RATHER THAN THE CAUSES AND THAT IF WE KEEP TREATING THE SYMPTOMS IT IS JUST GOING TO GET MORE AND MORE EXPENSIVE. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO BRING THE COST DOWN. THE ONLY WAY TO BRING THE COST DOWN IS TO GET AT IT, YOU KNOW THAT A LOT OF THESE DISEASES THAT WE KEEP PAYING FOR ARE PREVENTABLE SO LET'S START AT THE BEGINNING, LET'S GET THESE KIDS HEALTHY, LET'S TEACH THEM NUTRITION, LET'S TEACH THEM HEALTHY LIFESTYLES, LET'S MAKE SURE THAT THEY DON'T HAVE ASTHMA AND OBESITY AND DIABETES AND ALL THESE DISEASES THAT KEEP EXPANDING AT A RAPID RATE.

Yeah.

It is a huge issue.

I mean you are asking to change a generation where we eat fast food and (interrupted)

It is like the culture.

Yeah, exactly, so you're (inaudible) change. If you are going to go to the root causes you are going to have to back a long way. You're going to have to make some serious changes to some places that people don't want to change you know.

But I do think I see some change even if it is minor like McDonald's offering whatever it is the apple or, you got a choice. When you have to get something fast there are new choices and I think it is a positive. I mean they are always coming up with new things so that you can have a healthier choice.

My daughter has, she's in kindergarten, she has a health and wellness class. I didn't have a health class until ninth grade. I'm eating a french fry, you know that is bad for you dad.

MODERATOR - IS THAT HOW IT NEEDS TO START THOUGH?

(Many people talking).

Yes.

We have a lot more options for our children then we do ourselves.

(Many people talking).

Well I mean, I would assume, I don't know, this is my first kid and my first time (many people talking).

And [Players] help out though too with programs, as far as smoking, if you want to quit smoking they will help you with that too.

And they offer flu shots now to keep you healthier and it usually covers your whole family.

And are the employers a way to teach the parents because it say every child should have health coverage but as parents we have to understand why it is important and why, coverage doesn't do any good if you don't take them for preventative care and don't take them for their checkups.

I think it is a bit of the government's responsibility. I don't, maybe I don't watch the right TV but I remember growing up seeing Nancy Regan saying don't do drugs and everything. Maybe there needs to be more public education about eat an apple instead of French fries.

There I a lot out there actually.

Yeah.

I don't see it on TV and that is (interrupted).

All the time I see it.

I think the preventative care is you. You can be poor doesn't mean you need to stupid.

But I know if you can't afford. I know that the healthier foods are more expensive. If all you can afford is Raman Noodles you know what are you going to do about that.

Or hamburg (many people talking).

Yeah.

That goes into obesity and things like that but it doesn't mean you have to be dirty, doesn't mean that you have to be not clean, teach your daughter to exercise.

Exercise

Yeah, exercise, brush your teeth. There is a lot of bacteria that gets in you mouth.

(Many people talking) Nintendo, Xbox, the Wii that is where all those products come in because we don't teach our kids to exercise. We teach electronics, gaming, cell phones, computers, games on the computers.

The Wii is going to change this nation. (Many people talking). I'm telling you the Wii is going to change this nation. Like I have never, like honestly I don't go out and play with my kid enough and me and her played Wii and it is a little thing but we're not sitting on the couch watching (many people talking).

MODERATOR - IS THIS AN EXAMPLE OF SOMEWHERE WHERE YOUR GENERATION CAN GET ENGAGED AND TRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. I MEAN IT IS ENOUGH JUST TO DO IT WITH YOUR OWN KIDS OR CAN YOU (INTERRUPTED)

Somebody from our generation probably thought of the Wii and probably thought up some of this cool stuff that they are doing now that oh I am having fun and I'm exercising.

Like the kids bike you plug in they actually literally have to ride the bike.

That is sad though that we have to kind of trick our kids into working out and getting outside.

(Many people talking).

You know why it is dangerous now.

(Many people talking)...where you just went outside and you had tons of woods to grow-up in and you didn't have a child molester living three doors down from you.

But it has always been that way. Nothing has really changed.

Poison Ivy is the worse thing I was going to come home with.

MODERATOR - FLIP TO HANDOUT 3 AND WE GOT ANOTHER ISSUE HERE, ANOTHER ONE THAT WE TALKED ABOUT EARLIER, WHICH IS ENERGY AND A LITTLE BIT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PIECE AS WELL.

OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL AND FOSSIL FUELS IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY, OUR QUALITY OF LIFE AND OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE.

THAT IS WHY WE MUST LAUNCH A MASSIVE CONCERTED NATIONAL EFFORT SIMILAR TO THE APOLLO PROGRAM THAT PUT A MAN ON THE MOON WITH THE GOAL OF MOVING AMERICA BEYOND FOSSIL FUELS AND INVENTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENERGY BASED ON NEW TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS HYDROGEN OR FUSION. THIS PLAN WOULD REQUIRE A HUGE NATIONAL INVESTMENT BUT WOULD PRODUCE MILLIONS OF NEW JOBS, DRAMATICALLY REDUCE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE AND FREE US FROM OUR DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL THAT SUBSIDIZES REGIMES AND SUPPORT THE TERRORISTS WHO ARE TARGETING US.

Most import *massive concentrated national effort.*

Future is important.

Greatest threat.

Dependence, greatest threat, future.

MODERATOR - DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT FIRST SENTENCE THAT ULTIMATELY THIS *DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN OIL IS THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR SECURITY, OUR QUALITY OF LIFE AND OUR ECONOMIC FUTURE?*

Yep.

I don't really because I think if it every got bad enough that we didn't have enough oil, guess what we are going to figure out a reason to drop some bombs on Venezuela and just take their oil that they have anyway. I don't think it has gotten to the point where people understand enough for it to become a *concerted national effort*. I think it needs to be there.

MODERATOR - KIM, WHAT DID YOU SAY?

Not our generation.

MODERATOR - WHY NOT?

Because I just don't think that it is, maybe our kids, it is going to be their greatest threat or their kids but I don't think as of right now it is a big threat for us.

MODERATOR - JOSH YOU SAID THAT YOU DID AGREE WITH THIS ONE?

Yeah.

MODERATOR - WHY?

I just, I mean *our quality of life* I mean that phrase right there would be beyond because we are so dependent on those people that we are at war with right now basically. That is where we are getting all our oil. All our oil that we get out of the United States right now goes to Japan, so.

What would disappear if we stop using oil?

What.

What would disappear?

Like what?

These lights, how you get around, how you eat your food, just absolutely everything that you know and everything that you are accustom to. You would not have lights. You would not have running water.

(Many people talking).

If the lights get switched off, you go from having it to not having it, I mean you are sunk right there. I mean we don't just have, yeah we have tanks of it full (interrupted).

I don't think it would happen that fast though. I think it would be like (interrupted)

It could happen that fast though.

MODERATOR - THE POINT IS IF OPEC DECIDED TO TURN IT OFF WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IS WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

Yeah.

If we drill in Alaska where we have enough oil to probably sustain this oil for a long time and some of the other places but.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK, CAN WE CONTINUE TO MEET OUR ENERGY DEMANDS THROUGH FOSSIL FUEL OR DO WE HAVE TO GET TO THIS (INTERRUPTED)

Eventually.

Eventually, yeah.

We have to get to that point. I don't think we are desperate at this point but definitely in a couple generations.

MODERATOR - SHOULD WE WAIT UNTIL WE REACH THAT POINT OR, YOU KNOW THIS IS SAYING LET'S DO IT NOW.

Do it now while it is cheaper because if we wait you know how much more billions of dollars (many people talking)

We can use it as a backup plan so if it does or when it does that thing we are ready to flip that other switch on and go that way.

I think we are desperate right now.

So let's spend the money that we are sending to the moon and use it towards this.

Just because like this is right on the corners when we fall flap on our face and if we don't think that we're desperate right now then we're going to say well we'll just drill in Alaska, it is no big deal. You know we'll just take what we have in South America and then like all of a sudden it is like holy crap we're done and it will, everything will shut down. The market will crash. Everything will just be mayhem and then it is like, well now are we desperate? It is like no now you are screwed.

Exactly.

MODERATOR - THIS IS MAKING THE CASE THAT THERE WOULD BE A HUGE RETURN ON THIS INVESTMENT. YOU KNOW YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT JOBS, YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT BUT THAT REALLY ONLY EXISTS IF WE ARE THE FIRST ONES TO DO IT. IF ANOTHER COUNTRY GETS THERE FIRST, DEVELOPS THIS CAPABILITY (INTERRUPTED)

(Inaudible).

Yeah.

MODERATOR - ...DOES THAT INCREASE THE URGENCY OF IT, THE NOTION THAT THE ECONOMIC BENEFITS ARE THERE IF WE'RE THE FIRST ONES TO GET THERE?

(Many people talking).

Absolutely. We need the jobs, I mean just as much as, I wouldn't say more but.

I know it would send the prices down too wouldn't it if we had more jobs here obviously, less outsourcing I guess. It would be easier to live day by day.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO THE REST OF YOU THINK?

We save money by outsourcing.

Do we?

Maybe like a \$1.50. That is why we outsource.

Companies save money not us.

MODERATOR - KELSEY WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THIS ONE?

I don't know we create more jobs maybe. You know it depends if we are running cars off of water I mean is that really going to create a ton of new jobs. I mean I don't know. I mean obviously yes it is a situation (interrupted)

It is not at bad (inaudible) that is for sure.

Yeah, exactly. I just don't know if that is going to be a huge benefit.

It would have to be salt water.

I don't think we need to rely on water because we are also running out of water.

That is why I said salt water.

Use peanut oil.

MODERATOR - STAY ON THAT PAGE FOR A SECOND. ONE THING THAT I KEEP COMING BACK TO OVER AND OVER AGAIN IS WE TALKED ABOUT THE PROBLEMS, WE KNOW THAT THEY ARE THERE AND WE EVEN TALKED ABOUT SOME SOLUTIONS HERE BUT WHAT CAN WE REALLY DO TO MAKE THESE THINGS HAPPEN? YOU KNOW THEY ARE NICE IDEAS. HOW DO YOU TRANSLATE THAT INTO, WE'RE TALKING ABOUT A SOLUTION BUT HOW DO YOU START PEOPLE MOVING? HOW DO YOU BUILD THAT MOMENTUM TOWARD IT?

Get petitions going, groups of people together.

There has to be a catalyst. You know we put somebody on the moon because we were afraid that the Russians were going to do it first so there has to be some catalyst that brings this whole nation together, republican, democrat, conservative, non-conservative, Muslim, Christen. It has to be something that they are almost fearful. We were afraid that the Russians were going to do something before us and we had to do it first so I think its got to be the people like they do the don't fill up your gas today, nobody goes to a gas station and then you are like, whatever, I need to go to work but like if the people made an effort, like an extreme effort, not just like a few people here and there to let the government know that hey, we're not screwing around, we need something to be done here because you know they are shutting down production of gas automobiles (interrupted)

Textile companies.

MODERATOR - WHAT?

Textile companies, they shut down a lot down south, huge.

MODERATOR - THE REASON I KEEP COMING BACK TO YOUR GENERATION IS YOU KNOW THE FRAME WORK HERE IS THAT YOUR GENERATION, REALLY THE CHILDREN OF THE BABY-BOOMERS ARE BY FAR THE LARGEST GENERATION IN AMERICAN HISTORY. YOU KNOW IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS IT IS GOING TO BE LIKE THE TAIL END OF IT. WE'LL ALL BE OVER 18. YOU WILL REPRESENT 1 OUT OF EVERY 3 VOTERS IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. YOU KNOW YOUR ECONOMIC AND CONSUMER POWERS WILL BE HUGE YOU KNOW IF YOU DECIDED TO EXERCISE IT, IF YOU DECIDED TO HARNESS THAT POTENTIAL AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. IS THERE THE POTENTIAL TO DO THAT?

Yes.

I think people are just lazy. They don't want to do it.

There is always potential.

MODERATOR - HOW DO YOU (INAUDIBLE), WHAT ARE THE WAYS THAT YOU ORGANIZE IT? DOES IT PLAY TO THE TECHNOLOGY THAT MAKES YOUR GENERATION UNIQUE OR ARE THERE OTHER THINGS ABOUT YOUR GENERATION THAT (INAUDIBLE).

I think we can educate ourselves. I know we are talking about that we need more education. I think a lot of the information is out there. It is just a matter of not being lazy and (many people talking) you can find anything on the internet so.

But if it is not brought to your attention are you just going to Google search it one day? You know something has to pop up and bring it to our attention because we are so fast paced that that is where the me, me, me and everything comes from because you got work, you got kids, you know everything is just going so fast that you're not sitting around thinking about these things, so something, you know, I don't know what kind of advertising or something that needs to reach and, but I mean everybody knows about that and I think everyone, that is a big push, you know buy a hybrid, so we are aware of it, I just don't think that we're aware at what extent.

MODERATOR - DO YOU THINK THAT ARE AWARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE, THE RECYCLING AND HYBRIDS AND ALL THAT KIND OF STUFF?

Yes.

MODERATOR - HOW DID THAT HAPPEN? HOW DID WE GET FROM NOT CARRYING AND [BRING] OUR STYROFOAM TOO TO THIS POINT?

I think once you educate yourself, like if you start with the government and you find out what these people are standing for and the issues that they are address that is a start. You can look at those issues and find out more information about them, which might lead to other things.

I think that these private companies make more of an impact with brining it, making us more aware than politicians. You see a politician come on and its change the channel.

MODERATOR - DO YOU HAVE AN EXAMPLE OF THE WAY COMPANIES BRING YOUR ATTENTION TO THINGS?

No. There's been commercials though.

The garbage commercials where they talk about the landfill and a park that they built there say that they recycled this. It is because of the education. (Interrupted)

Don't shake your babies.

Don't recycle your babies. (Laughter).

That is though where I learned about recycling stuff when I was in grade school. Like now it is just like they make it easier to do. You just set it out with the garbage in my neighborhood.

(Many people talking).

You would like on television on HGTV about going green and what you can do in order to conserve energy and make your house better.

The light rail, installing that, making it more convenient.

It took Denver to do that though. Portland had that 10 years ago. That's crazy.

MODERATOR - ANY OTHER VEHICLES, YOU KNOW COMPANIES, YOU KNOW (INAUDIBLE) COMPANIES PUTTING OUT A MESSAGE OBVIOUSLY THAT HAD SOME IMPACT. ARE THERE OTHER VEHICLES?

High power political people that are sick of, I guess they find out the truth and they are kind of sick of playing the game and they just want to speak the truth I guess and they make movies about it and stuff like that, commercials.

I think actually, I haven't seen it but I've heard (interrupted) had a huge impact.

MODERATOR - (INAUDIBLE) MOVIE, MOST OF YOU HEARD ABOUT IT, RIGHT?
(INAUDIBLE).

I think movies, pretty much every single movie has some type of political message.

That is a great point, that Day After Tomorrow. I mean it made me think because it is something that I could fathom, maybe not to that extreme but those wolves.

There is a recent movie out, I don't remember the name but they infiltrate their virus into the FBI and shut everything down (interrupted)

It is called [Power Cell].

...yes, yes, I don't know, stuff like that.

MODERATOR - HOW ABOUT INDIVIDUAL ACTION? DOES INDIVIDUAL ACTION MAKE A DIFFERENCE? DO INDIVIDUALS RUNNING MAKE A BIG ENOUGH IMPACT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

I see that one public education that one commercial I do remember was Martin Scorsese has the people on and it is like this person takes care of his pond and this town takes care of their parks and then that state takes care of their land and then it just grows from there. You got to take care of your stuff. It is always going to come back to the individual. You have to take care of, pick up the trash around your house and if everybody picks up the trash around their house then all the trash in your neighborhood will be picked up.

I think we need a reason to do that though (inaudible –mumbling – interrupted).

Example for our children.

(Many people talking).

Washing machines the city gives you rebates. High efficiency toilets.

MODERATOR - ENERGY EFFICIENT STUFF?

Right, yeah.

I know Aurora comes out, they will put a little water meter and it tells you how much water you are using to water your lawn and they give you a rebate because then you don't use that much water or [XL] puts a little thing on your air conditioner so it cuts off the compressor.

(Many people talking) tax break, you know things like that would be good.

MODERATOR - GIVING PEOPLE CASE INCENTIVES?

Yes.

MODERATOR - FLIP TO HANDOUT 5, SKIP 4. AGAIN STAYING ON THIS IDEA OF INDIVIDUAL ACTION WHAT WE HAVE HERE IS A LIST OF ACTIONS THAT INDIVIDUALS COULD TAKE TO TRY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THEIR WORLD, IN THEIR COMMUNITY AND WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO IS TO MARK EACH OF THESE IN ONE OF THESE THREE COLUMNS. FIRST COLUMN THINGS THAT YOU'VE ALREADY DONE. THINGS THAT YOU ARE ALREADY DOING. SECOND COLUMN THINGS YOU MAY NOT BE DOING BUT YOU THINK THAT YOU WOULD BE LIKELY TO DO AND THIRD COLUMN ARE THINGS THAT IN ALL HONESTY YOU'RE NOT LIKELY TO EVER DO AT LEAST IN THE SHORT TERM. (DOING HANDOUT SILENTLY). OKAY SO WHAT ARE THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE DONE OR ARE DOING NOW?

Voting.

Voting.

Sign the petition.

Sign the petition.

Send letters.

MODERATOR - DO YOU THINK THAT SIGNING PETITIONS AND SENDING LETTERS DO YOU THINK THAT MAKES A DIFFERENCE?

Yeah.

You feel good about yourself.

You feel like you are making a difference.

Give a conversation piece.

Sometimes they write you back and say thank-you too.

MODERATOR - WHO?

You know people that you are writing to.

MODERATOR - OTHER THINGS THAT YOU GUYS HAVE DOWN?

Base personal purchasing decisions like boycott a certain company because they won't stop dumping pollution into the Delaware River. I don't know.

MODERATOR - HAVE THE REST OF YOU DONE THAT OR THINK THAT YOU WOULD DO THAT? DO YOU THINK THAT YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SPEND MORE TO NOT SHOP AT CERTAIN PLACES?

Yeah. (Inaudible – mumbling).

MODERATOR - ANY EXAMPLES?

WalMart.

MODERATOR - YOU GUYS DON'T SHOP AT WALMART?

Nope.

MODERATOR - WHY NOT?

For one there is only two checkers.

MODERATOR - WHY DON'T YOU SHOP THERE?

How they treat their employees, that they do put the smaller businesses out and the old guy at the front door (many people talking).

How much they are paying the people that they are getting their product from is just ridiculous. It is so small that these people who are trying to make a living in other countries who are making the stuff they can't even make a living because they are making like a dollar an hour or whatever it is.

I shop at WalMart probably every single day. I don't think you realize the impact that WalMart has on this country that even if you don't shop there, you go to Target to shop you are paying less because WalMart exists.

I actually don't go there either.

Well wherever you shop you are going to be paying less because even if those guys that bought that product aren't getting as good a deal as WalMart they are getting it better than what they would if WalMart (interrupted)

They don't treat there employees that way. (Interrupted).

Right.

Make them work through Christmas or whatever the situation is and even if I do go somewhere else I know that they are not treating their employees like that and when they try to go union or standup for their own rights they don't get shot down and lose their jobs so that is why I go someplace else.

MODERATOR - OTHER ACTIONS THAT YOU ARE LIKELY TO TAKE.

I would participate in a public protest or demonstration if I really felt strongly about it. I don't think I ever have but I would if I felt strongly enough about it.

I would recommend blogging or going online because they have those Utube debates, which is really good for online people, users.

MODERATOR - ANYBODY ELSE EVER DONE THAT, TALKED TO OTHER PEOPLE ONLINE ABOUT POLITICS OR USE THAT TO KIND OF EDUCATE YOURSELF?

I have.

MODERATOR - WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

I think it is kind of useful. You see new points, products, new views on issues.

From real people, yeah.

That don't have an agenda.

Yeah, it is not the media.

Attending public meetings or forums.

MODERATOR - WHAT THINGS ARE YOU UNLIKELY TO DO?

Running for office.

Writing a newspaper.

Funding business or other organizations.

Joining political groups and participating.

MODERATOR - WHY WOULDN'T YOU JOIN POLITICAL OR SOCIAL GROUPS? IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A PARTISAN, YOU KNOW A PARTY ORGANIZATION BUT GROUPS THAT HAVE GOALS THAT YOU AGREE WITH, WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO JOIN THEM AND GET INVOLVED OR NO?

You are going to get put on some list.

Yeah.

Yeah.

You join Green Peace or something like that you might get put on a list.

(Many people talking) taking care of yourself. You know it sounds good, it would be great [between] that or Girl Scouts.

It just sounds like it is so much easier to get online and talk to somebody rather than actually taking the time out of your life on a monthly or semi.

MODERATOR - DOES IT GO BACK TO THAT IDEA OF INSTANT GRATIFICATION THAT WE TALKED ABOUT AT THE BEGINNING? A LOT OF THINGS THAT YOU GUYS ARE INTERESTED IN DOING ARE QUICK HITS. YOU CAN DO IT QUICK, ONE TIME AND THEN WASH YOUR HANDS OF IT.

Sign a petition and then it is done.

(Many people talking) joining the group because then if you actually, like if you go every Tuesday you know you are going to be a part of that. I'm unlikely but that would be instant gratification.

It is just a lot of time out of your life. People feel that they don't get enough time with their family or whatever as it is.

MODERATOR - DO YOU GUYS THINK THAT YOU WOULD SHY AWAY FROM THINGS THAT REQUIRE A REGULAR COMMITMENT OR A LONG TERM COMMITMENT?

Like marriage.

(Lots of laughter).

I've been committed for a long time just not that far.

I would never volunteer or work for a political campaign. I would not want to be associated with that and endorse the lobbyists and their money and stuff like that.

MODERATOR - LAST THING I AM GOING TO ASK YOU TO DO IS FLIP TO HANDOUT #6...

(end of session)