

Chapter 11:

Campaigns and Elections

Campaigns and Elections

Gore

Bush

Campaigns and Elections - Gore

Al Gore

August 1, 2000

TV Ad: "Plans"



[Announcer]:

George W. Bush, a former oil executive, has chosen Dick Cheney to help lead the Republican party. What are their plans?

Cheney, a CEO of an oil company, had made millions while gas prices surged.

(On screen: Source Associated Press, 7/25/00; Houston Chronicle, 7/26/00)

Cheney praised OPEC for getting its act together to cut production, so prices could rise.

(On screen: Cheney sided with OPEC – Source: Reuters, 4/12/99, Slate 7/28/2000)

Dick Cheney made millions while consumers got hosed at the pump.

(On screen: Sources: Newsweek, 8/7/00; Associated Press, 7/25/00)

And George W. Bush has tax breaks for big oil in Texas, but opposed

health care for more children.

(On screen: Dallas Morning News, 3/12/99, 4/16/00)

Bush and Cheney. Their plans for big oil ahead of working families.

(On screen: 1800THEFACTS.com)

(On screen: Paid for by the Democratic National Committee)

Al Gore

La Crosse, Wisconsin

August 18, 2000

Reclaiming Democracy from Special Interests

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Didn't we have a great convention in Los Angeles? Don't I have a great running mate in Joe Lieberman? Tipper and I have known Joe and Hadassah Lieberman for 15 years. I picked him for my running mate for one simple reason, as I said last night, he is the best person for the job. Our families are actually with us, and we are all going to get on this beautiful river boat in just a short time here and head south, and we're looking forward to the journey. But I want to say just a few words here this morning about what this whole struggle is all about. One of the issues was already mentioned by Joe and by Russ Feingold, and that's campaign finance reform. And I want to tell you why that's going to be the first bill that Joe Lieberman and I send to the Congress in a Gore-Lieberman administration. And, you know, Russ Feingold has been, along with John McCain, the preeminent leader in the United States Senate in carrying this cause forward. And everybody here knows that our democracy must be reclaimed from special interests. We want to give it back to the people, and we have to get all of the special interest money out of it. And that's why the McCain-Feingold bill is so important. And, Russ, I appreciate your leadership. You are a great champion for what needs to be done, and I thank you for that.

...

Al Gore

Howard University

Washington D.C.

September 15, 2000

Campaign Finance Reform & Political Participation

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Now, okay, I want to say one final thing before I close. I ask for your vote and your support. I ask for your enthusiasm and your commitment. But before I close, I want to ask you for one final thing that's hard for you to give, and it's something that people hardly ever give anymore. I want to ask you to reflect on the fact that young people, even as they are more involved in good causes, charities, community action, even as your generation is the most involved generation in history, there is still a lower and lower participation in our democracy. Why is that? Disillusionment. Absolutely, that is exactly what it is.

We need campaign finance reform. We need measures to reform the system, ensure integrity in the system. But we need more than that; we need more than that. In order to convince you to push past your fear of disillusionment -- it's not just disillusionment, it's the fear of disillusionment, and sometimes the people who are most idealistic feel like they're the most vulnerable. You know what I'm talking about, don't you?

People who have the highest hopes and the best hearts sometimes are the first to fall victim to that fear that their hearts will be broken, that they will be disillusioned and disappointed and let down.

We've all been through a lot the last 30, 40 years, the last 300 years. We've all been through a lot as a nation. But we've come a long way. And in our politics, the tragedies of the assassinations and the Vietnam War

and Watergate and all of the shocks to the system of the body politic that have not always been followed by a sufficient period for healing and rebirth, have to be understood in context, because throughout this time, our great democracy has continued to press us closer to our ideals. And yes, we're all imperfect, and yes, we will all fall short.

But we have a rendezvous with redemption. We are on a journey toward the America that we are intended to become. And in each generation, we have found enough Americans who are willing to overcome their fear of disillusionment and give of their hearts to create the beloved community.

Now it falls to you. Cynicism, disaffection, lethargy -- civic lethargy -- are the enemies of progress. I don't feel those things in this group. I don't feel those things on this campus. But those who are not here -- those who are not here -- will make a decision about the extent to which they're going to help change our country based more than anything else on what they feel in your hearts. If, upon leaving this place, you take with you only some fact or figure that I used in this speech, if you take only some regurgitated analysis of how we can fix our schools, that'll be okay, but not good enough.

What I want you to take with you as well is a commitment that will be manifest to others that you encounter. I want you to open your hearts and allow yourselves to believe without reservation that we in the United States of America can do the right thing and be the better for it. I need your help. Help me spread this word, that now is the time for the United States of America and the people of our great land to come together, respect our differences absolutely, and then, on the basis of that respect, transcend our differences to embrace the highest common denominator of the human spirit and go all out in our time to make America the land America is intended to become for all of our people.

Al Gore

Democratic National Convention 2000

Los Angeles, California

Party Platform: Renewing Our Democracy & Campaign Finance Reform

In the year 2000, along with all the other big choices they have to make, Americans will be making a choice about who's running their country: the people or the special interests, the voters or the lobbyists, the many or the few. We must restore American's faith in their own democracy by providing real and comprehensive campaign finance reform, creating fairer and more open elections, and breaking the link between special interests and political influence.

The Republicans will have none of this. Instead of limiting the influence of the powerful on our politics, they want to raise contribution limits so even more special interest money can flow into campaigns. The big-time lobbyists and special interest were so eager to invest in George W. Bush and deliver campaign cash to him hand-over-fist that he became the first major party nominee to pull out of the primary election financing structure and refuse to abide by campaign spending limits.

In this year's presidential primaries it became clear that the Republican establishment is violently opposed to John McCain's call for reforming our democracy. Al Gore supports John McCain's campaign for political reform. In fact, the McCain-Feingold bill is the very first piece of legislation that a President Al Gore will submit to Congress - and he will fight for it until it becomes the law of the land.

Then he will go even further - much further. He will insist on tough new lobbying reform, publicly-guaranteed TV time for debates and advocacy by candidates, and a crackdown on special interest issue ads.

Most boldly of all, Al Gore has proposed a public-private, non-partisan Democracy Endowment which will raise money from Americans and finance Congressional elections - with no other contributions allowed to candidates who accept the funding. This will let our politics be free from the influence of special interests and let Americans believe in their own democracy again.

Just as our country has been the chief apostle of democracy in the world, we must lead by example at home. This begins with our nation's capital. The citizens of the District of Columbia are entitled to autonomy in the conduct of their civic affairs, full political representation as Americans who are fully taxed, and statehood. Puerto Rico has been under U.S. sovereignty for over a century and Puerto Ricans have been U.S. Citizens since 1917, but the island's ultimate status still has not been determined and its 3.9 million residents still do not have voting representation in their national government. These disenfranchised Citizens - who have contributed greatly to our country in war and peace - are entitled to the permanent and fully democratic status of their choice. Democrats will continue to work in the White House and Congress to clarify the options and enable them to choose and to obtain such a status from among all realistic options. Democrats believe the people of Guam, American Samoa, and the Virgin Islands have a right to be fully self-governing. We are committed to fair treatment in economic and social policies as well as improvement in federal-territorial relations in accordance with the needs of each area. Elected representatives of these areas will be regularly consulted on policies, laws, and treaties that affect the areas and we will ensure fair treatment for our fellow Citizens in the territories.

Campaigns and Elections - Bush

George W. Bush

Arrival Ceremony

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

August 2, 2000

Promising a Positive Campaign

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Guess what's going to happen come November? This campaign is going to take a campaign that is positive and hopeful and optimistic to the people. We're a campaign of ideas, and the American people are going to respond. If all goes well, you're looking at the next president of the United States.

So Laura and I are grateful. We're so grateful that you're here. We look forward to celebrating with our fellow Republicans and fellow Americans. We look forward to sending a message that the American dream can, in fact, extend its reach throughout all corners of our society. We look forward to continuing this convention that's such a positive and hopeful message to America.

George W. Bush

Austin, Texas

September 3, 2000

***Bush & Secretary Cheney Announce Schedule For Modern Day
Record Number Of Debates***

Labor Day weekend is the traditional kickoff of the fall campaign, and today I have a simple message: Let the debate begin

Secretary Cheney and I today are accepting a modern day record number of five presidential and vice-presidential debates.

All will be seen in prime time, all will be available to all networks and news outlets and will be carried on a unique new venue: live on the internet.

The debates we are accepting begin early, next week, because we are eager to compare the specifics of our plans for more individual freedom, choice and responsibility, with our opponent's plans for a bigger, more intrusive Washington bureaucracy that dictates and mandates from afar.

There are important differences in this campaign: My opponent trusts Washington; I trust you: individual Americans to make decisions with your own money, your own schools, your own health and your own retirement. And there is another important difference: My opponent is still making the same promises he made in 1992 and 1996 because he was not able to deliver on those promises. I ran for Governor in 1994 and 1998 on a platform of specific proposals and I have accomplished them, by working with Republicans and Democrats to build consensus and get results.

My opponent has said he will debate anytime, anywhere, and he has already accepted the debates that I am accepting today. It's important for the American people to be able to trust the next President to keep his

commitments, and therefore I take Al Gore at his word that he will be there. The debates we are accepting are:

A presidential debate next Tuesday, Sept 12 in Washington in a special time prime edition of Meet the Press moderated by Tim Russert;

A presidential debate on October 3 in Los Angeles in a prime time edition of Larry King Live that will be seen worldwide and on a Spanish language network;

A vice presidential debate on October 11 in Winston Salem North Carolina sponsored by the presidential debate commission and a forum yet to be decided;

A final presidential debate on October 17 at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, sponsored by the presidential debate commission.

This will give the American people an opportunity to see the candidates in a wide range of locations and formats, from a free-flowing, spontaneous discussion with Larry King, to tough question and answer sessions with a moderator like Tim Russert, to the more formal and structured setting of the presidential debate commission. As I said earlier, my opponent has already accepted these invitations – as you will see on this videotape.

George W. Bush

September 5, 2000

TV Ad: "Really"



(Shot of Gore on TV in kitchen)

[Woman]:

There's Al Gore, reinventing himself on television again. Like I'm not going to notice? Who's he going to be today?

The Al Gore who raises campaign money at a Buddhist temple, or the one who now promises campaign finance reform? Really.

Al Gore: claiming credit for things he didn't even do.

[Gore TV footage]:

I took the initiative in creating the Internet.

[Woman]:

Yeah, and I invented the remote control, too. Another round of this and I'll sell my television.

(On screen: www.gorewillsayanything.com; Paid for by the Republican National Committee)

George W. Bush

September 7, 2000

TV Ad: "Credibility"



[Announcer]:

Labor Day weekend, Governor Bush accepts a record five national debates. March 14, Al Gore says he'd debate on CNN. July 16, Al Gore said he'd debate on NBC.

When it was politically convenient, Gore said he'd debate "any time, anyplace, anywhere."

(On screen: June 25, 2000)

Now that Governor Bush has accepted, Gore says "unacceptable."

Does Al Gore now mean debates depend on his meaning of "any time, anywhere"? If we can't trust Al Gore on debates, why should we trust him on anything?

(On screen: Paid for by Bush-Cheney 2000, Inc.)

George W. Bush

Republican National Convention 2000

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Party Platform: Political Reform

The First Amendment enshrines in our Constitution and guarantees indispensable democratic freedoms of speech, press, and association, and, the right to petition our government. The Republican party affirms that any regulation of the political process must not infringe upon the rights of the people to full participation in the political process. The principal cure for the ills of democracy is greater participation in the political process by more citizens. To that end, we have one guiding principle in the development of laws to regulate campaigns: Will any particular proposal encourage or restrict the energetic engagement of Americans in elections? Governor Bush's agenda for more honest and more open politics meets that standard. It will:

Stop the abuses of corporate and labor "soft" money contributions to political parties.

Enact "Paycheck Protection," ensuring that no union member is forced to contribute to anybody's campaign — and stopping an annual rip-off of \$300 million from union families by Washington-based politicians.

Preserve the right of every individual and all groups — whether for us or against us — to express their opinions and advocate their issues. We will not allow any arm of government to restrict this constitutionally guaranteed right.

Level the playing field by forbidding incumbents to roll over their leftover campaign funds into a campaign for a different office.

Require full and timely disclosure on the Internet of all campaign

contributions — so the media and the public can immediately know who is giving how much to whom.

Encourage all citizens to donate their time and resources to the campaigns of their choice by updating for inflation the quarter-century-old limits on individual contributions.

Preserve access to the Internet for political speech and debate.

Gerrymandered congressional districts are an affront to democracy and an insult to the voters. We oppose that and any other attempt to rig the electoral process.

George W. Bush

Republican National Convention 2000

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

***Party Platform: Upholding the Rights of All –
Political Participation by Labor Organization***

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We affirm the right of individuals to voluntarily participate in labor organizations and to bargain collectively. We therefore support the right of states to enact Right-to-Work laws. No one should be forced to contribute to a campaign or a candidate, so we will vigorously implement the Supreme Court's Beck decision to stop the involuntary use of union dues for political purposes. We will revoke the illegal executive order excluding millions of workers from federal contracts, and safeguard the unemployment compensation system against the diversion of its funds for political purposes.

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