

"POLITICS AND EGGS"

>>> AND WELCOME TO THIS MORNING'S INSTALLMENT OF "POLITICS AND EGGS."

MY NAME'S MICHAEL CHANEY, I'M THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE POLITICAL LIBRARY, AND WE'RE PLEASED TO CONTINUE TO JOINTLY PRESENT THE "POLITICS AND EGGS" PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE SERIES WITH THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL.

AS ALWAYS, IT'S MY PLEASURE TO WELCOME OUR GOOD FRIEND FROM BOSTON, JAMES BRETT OF THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL.

[APPLAUSE]

JAMES BRETT: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MICHAEL, AND GOOD MORNING TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.

I'M VERY PLEASED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE TODAY'S GUEST SPEAKER, TOMMY THOMPSON, A PERSON WHO HAS DEDICATED HIS CAREER TO PUBLIC SERVICE. HE BEGAN HIS PUBLIC LIFE IN 1966 BY REPRESENTING HIS HOMETOWN ELROY, WISCONSIN, IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY. IN 1986, TOMMY THOMPSON WAS ELECTED TO THE FIRST OF FOUR—

FOUR—CONSECUTIVE TERMS AS GOVERNOR OF WISCONSIN, AN ACCOMPLISHMENT THAT HAS NOT BEEN REPEATED SINCE.

IT WAS DURING THIS TIME THAT THE GOVERNOR CAME TO NATIONAL PROMINENCE, FOR HIS DEVELOPMENT OF A VERY EFFECTIVE AND CREATIVE WELFARE REFORM PROPOSAL THAT HAD THE EFFECT OF MOVING TENS OF THOUSANDS OF WISCONSIN FAMILIES OFF OF THE DEPENDENCE ON WELFARE TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF A JOB AND A PAYCHECK.

THIS PROGRAM BECAME A MODEL FOR MANY OTHER STATES IN OUR NATION.

IN 2001, PRESIDENT BUSH

APPOINTED THE GOVERNOR THE POSITION OF SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

IN THIS CAPACITY, THE GOVERNOR'S ABILITY TO INNOVATE AND GET THINGS DONE WAS CALLED ON VERY EARLY IN HIS TERM.

FOLLOWING THE ATTACKS OF

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, TOMMY THOMPSON LED THE EFFORT TO REBUILD OUR NATION'S CRUMBLING PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE.

HE IS ALSO A CHAMP OF PROVIDING PRESCRIPTION DRUG COVERAGE TO OUR COUNTRY'S SENIOR CITIZENS. IN 2003, HE WAS ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF GLOBAL FUNDS, AND LED THE FIGHT TO INCREASE INVESTMENTS TO STOP THE SPREAD OF DISEASES.

SINCE LEAVING THE DEPARTMENT IN 2005, THE SECRETARY HAS BEEN PRACTICING LAW AND HEADING THE HEALTH CARE THINK TANK.

SECRETARY THOMPSON WAS BORN IN WISCONSIN, WHERE HIS FATHER RAN A GAS STATION AND COUNTRY GROCERY STORE.

I THINK YOU KNOW THAT, VERY EARLY ON, THE SECRETARY WAS EXPOSED TO REGULAR AND PASSIONATE POLITICAL DISCUSSION.

THE SECRETARY AND HIS WIFE, SUE ANN, HAVE THREE CHILDREN AND FIVE GRANDCHILDREN.

I HONESTLY BELIEVE THE SECRETARY IS GROUNDED IN THE VALUES DEVELOPED IN A VERY SMALL TOWN IN OUR NATION'S HEARTLAND, AND HE HAS A TRACK RECORD OF INNOVATION, DEDICATION, AND SUCCESS AT ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT.

HE IS NOW PREPARING FOR HIS LATEST CHALLENGE, SECURING HIS PARTY'S NOMINATION FOR PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

PLEASE JOIN ME IN GIVING A VERY WARM "POLITICS AND EGGS" WELCOME TO THE PRIDE OF ELROY, WISCONSIN, THE HONORABLE TOMMY THOMPSON. [APPLAUSE]

TOMMY THOMPSON/(R) PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE: THANK YOU VERY MUCH, JIM. IT'S A PLEASURE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.

I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF SWEARING JIM IN ON A MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE WHEN I WAS SECRETARY, AND HE DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB THERE, AS HE DOES IN ALL FACETS OF HIS LIFE.

I AM VERY COMPLIMENTED AND APPRECIATIVE THAT YOU WOULD TAKE THE TIME TO COME HERE AND INTRODUCE ME.

I AM ABSOLUTELY DELIGHTED TO BE HERE.

I'VE HEARD SO MUCH OF "POLITICS AND EGGS," BUT I'VE NEVER HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE BEFORE IN THIS ENDEAVOR.

I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO IT, AND I THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR INVITING ME.

I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE THREE OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO WORK FOR ME IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, JACK, ROGER, AND MIKE, FROM THE MERIDIAN GROUP.

I'M SO HAPPY TO MEET MOST OF YOU. I HAVEN'T MET ALL OF YOU, BUT I INTEND TO BEFORE I LEAVE.

PLEASE DON'T GO UNTIL I GET A CHANCE TO SHAKE YOUR HAND AND TELL YOU THAT I WANT TO BE YOUR FRIEND AND YOUR NOMINEE. I'M FROM ELROY, WISCONSIN. ELROY, WISCONSIN, IS SO SMALL YOU CAN GET A WRONG NUMBER AND STILL TALK FOR A HALF HOUR. MY FATHER WAS GERMAN AND BELIEVED VERY MUCH IN THE PROPOSITION THAT EVERYBODY HAD TO WORK.

WE HAD A SMALL GROCERY STORE AS WELL AS A FARM, AND THE GROCERY STORE SUPPORTED THE FARM. MY JOB WAS TO CLEAN EGGS. FARMERS WOULD BRING EGGS IN TO THE STORE, AND THEY WEREN'T VERY CLEAN, AND I HAD TO SIT DOWN IN THE BASEMENT WITHOUT ANY WINDOWS—PROBABLY A VIOLATION OF CHILD LABOR LAWS—AND SANDPAPER THOSE EGGS.

AND SOMETIMES THE FARMERS WOULD NOT PICK UP SOME EGGS FOR A COUPLE WEEKS, AND THEY'D COME IN A LITTLE RIPE.

SOMETIMES THEY'D EXPLODE AND PUT ON A SMELL LIKE YOU CAN'T BELIEVE.

TO THIS DAY, I CANNOT STAND EGGS. [LAUGHTER]

>> YOU NOTICE I DIDN'T EVEN TOUCH THEM.

I HAVE A TOUGH TIME EVEN LOOKING AT THEM.

BUT THE WOODEN EGGS ARE FINE, I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT. I GREW UP IN WISCONSIN, AND I LOVE RURAL AREAS.

I HAVE A FARM STILL THAT WAS HOMESTEADED BY MY GREAT GRANDPARENTS FROM IRELAND, AND WE RAISED BELTED GALLOWAYS. THOSE ARE THE OREO COOKIE COWS, BLACK ON BOTH ENDS AND WHITE IN THE MIDDLE.

WE HAVE A PUREBRED HERD OF THOSE.

I'M A FARMER, AS WELL AS A

LAWYER, AND I LOVE RURAL AREAS AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

AND I BELIEVE VERY PASSIONATELY, DON'T GIVE UP YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO BE THE FIRST PRIMARY IN THE UNITED STATES.

AND DON'T LET ANYBODY TALK YOU OUT OF IT. [APPLAUSE]

>> I HAD QUITE A SPIRITED DEBATE WITH HUGH GREGG ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY. HE HAD THIS MISTAKEN BELIEF THAT IT WAS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, BUT WE ALL KNOW IT WAS WISCONSIN. I LOVE THE GUY, AND WE'VE ALWAYS AGREED TO DISAGREE OVER WHERE THE REPUBLICAN PARTY WAS BORN. BUT LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME, SO I WANT TO GET INTO MY MESSAGE. I WANT TO GET INTO TALKING TO YOU ABOUT, YOU KNOW, THE FUTURE OF THIS COUNTRY.

YOU HAVE TO KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT ME, YOU HAVE TO KNOW MY RECORD A LITTLE BIT, BECAUSE YOU'VE GOT TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT YOU WANT TO SUPPORT ME.

YOU WANT THE KNOW WHETHER OR NOT I'M THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT COULD BE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. I'M AN INDIVIDUAL THAT REALLY BELIEVES THAT YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING YOU WANT.

WHEN I FIRST RAN FOR THE STATE LEGISLATURE AT THE AGE OF 23, I WAS IN LAW SCHOOL.

I BORROWED \$500, BOUGHT A CAR FOR \$100 THAT HAD 204,000 MILES ON IT. YOU COULD LOOK THROUGH THE FLOORBOARDS TO SEE THE ROAD, AND I RAN ON HIGHWAY SAFETY.

NOBODY GAVE ME A CHANCE TO WIN, AND I WON, DEFEATING AN INCUMBENT OF 16 YEARS.

WE COULD NEVER ELECT REPUBLICANS BECAUSE WISCONSIN WAS A DEMOCRATIC STATE.

PEOPLE SAID I DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE, AND I SHOULDN'T RUN. THEY SAID, WHO'S GOING TO ELECT ANYBODY WITH A FIRST NAME LIKE TOMMY?

>> I SAID, I'M GOING TO ORGANIZE THE STATE.

THE DAY OF THE ELECTION, THE POLITICAL PUNDITS EACH THREW IN FIVE BUCKS TO SEE WHO WAS GOING TO WIN.

IT WAS 35-0.

I DID NOT EVEN GET THE ONE REPUBLICAN NEWS TO VOTE FOR ME. I WON BY A HUNDRED THOUSAND VOTES, AND I WON IN A DEMOCRAT YEAR IN A DEMOCRAT STATE. THEN I LOOKED AROUND AND SAW THAT WISCONSIN WAS IN TERRIBLE SHAPE.

THEY HAD HIGH TAXES, BUSINESSES WERE LEAVING AND YOUNG PEOPLE WERE LEAVING BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T HAVE HOPE OR AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A JOB.

>> PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR TELEPHONES.

[LAUGHTER]

>> WE HAD A GOVERNOR BY THE NAME OF JIM THOMPSON.

HE WAS FROM ILLINOIS, SOME OF YOU REMEMBER HIM, A BIG GUY. PEOPLE FROM ILLINOIS USED TO COME TO WISCONSIN TO HAVE ENJOYABLE WEEKENDS AND ENJOY THE HOSPITALITY, LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM MASSACHUSETTS COME TO NEW HAMPSHIRE TO ENJOY THE SAME KIND OF FESTIVITIES.

BUT THE GOVERNOR PUT UP SOME BIG SIGNS, HE WAS PIMPING THE STATE. IF THE TAXES GET TOO HIGH IN WISCONSIN, PLEASE BRING YOUR BUSINESS TO ILLINOIS.

THEY PUT UP A BIG SIGN, WHEN THE LAST COMPANY LEAVES WISCONSIN, PLEASE TURN OFF THE LIGHTS. WHEN I GOT ELECTED I WANTED TO SHOW HIM AND THE PEOPLE IN ILLINOIS THAT THERE WAS A NEW GOVERNOR IN THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

SO I PUT UP A BIG SIGN FOR THOSE PEOPLE GOING INTO ILLINOIS THAT SAID, GOVERNOR THOMPSON WANTS YOU TO BRING YOUR BUSINESS TO WISCONSIN.

AND SO FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS THEY KEPT CALLING JIM THOMPSON: NO, NOT ME, IT'S THE CRAZY THOMPSON UP IN WISCONSIN. ESTABLISHING NEW THINGS, LOWERED TAXES, WE CHANGED OVER 1900 ITEMS I VETOED.

I CHANGED THE DIRECTION OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

THEN I HAD PROBLEMS WITH WELFARE. PEOPLE WERE COMING IN TO RECEIVE WELFARE BECAUSE WE WERE SO MUCH HIGHER THAN OTHER STATES.

I INVITED WELFARE MOTHERS. THEY NEVER EXPECTED TO MEET A GOVERNOR OR COME TO THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION FOR LUNCH. I SAID, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO WORK?

>> WELL, WHO'S GOING TO TAKE CARE OF OUR CHILDREN?

I'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH DAY CARE. >> I DROPPED OUT OF SCHOOL WHEN I WAS 13 OR 14, AND I DON'T HAVE ANY JOB SKILLS.

>> I'LL PROVIDE YOU WITH JOB TRAINING.

>> MOST OF THE JOBS ARE SOMEPLACE ELSE.

>> I'LL PROVIDE WITH YOU TRANSPORTATION.

WILL YOU GO TO WORK?

THEY SAID YES.

THAT WAS BORN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, WELFARE REFORM IN AMERICA. I STARTED HAVING SUCCESSES. ONCE I STARTED HAVING SUCCESSES, OTHER GOVERNORS SAID, WELL, I'M JUST AS SMART AS TOMMY THOMPSON, AND THEY STARTED COPYING WELFARE REFORM, THE WISCONSIN MODEL. IT SPREAD ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

TEN YEARS LATER CONGRESS PASSED WELFARE REFORM BASED UPON THE WISCONSIN MODEL.

BEFORE I LEFT AS GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF WISCONSIN, I HAD REDUCED THE WELFARE CASELOAD IN WISCONSIN BY 93%.

AND I DID IT NOT TO BE MEAN, NOT TO SAVE MONEY.

I DID IT BECAUSE I WANTED TO GIVE POOR PEOPLE AN OPPORTUNITY TO GET OUT OF POVERTY.

YOU CAN'T GET OUT OF POVERTY IN AMERICA WITHOUT WORKING. AND I LAID OUT A PLAN FOR POOR PEOPLE TO HAVE A CHANCE. THAT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE BIGGEST CULTURAL REVOLUTIONS IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCE ARENA IN THE LAST 50 YEARS, AND I STARTED BY USING COMMON SENSE OVER THE DINING ROOM OF THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION IN MADISON, WISCONSIN.

I LOOK AT PROBLEMS AND I WANT TO COME UP WITH COMMON SENSE SOLUTIONS, THE SAME WAY I LOOKED AT PRIVATE AND PUBLIC EDUCATION IN MILWAUKEE.

I WAS SOMEWHAT SHOCKED WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT 15% OF MINORITY CHILDREN IN THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE WERE DROPPING OUT IN THEIR FRESHMAN YEAR.

YOU EXTRAPOLATE THAT OVER FOUR YEARS, THAT'S ALMOST TWO THIRDS OF THE CHILDREN ARE DROPPING OUT BEFORE THEY GET A HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION.

I COULD ENVISION IN THE FUTURE THAT THAT WOULD HAVE HUGE REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE CITY OF MILWAUKEE AND THE STATE OF WISCONSIN.

SO I WENT DOWN AND TALKED TO FAMILIES, TALKED TO STUDENTS. I SAID, WHY DON'T YOU GO TO SCHOOL?

WHAT'S WRONG?

THE PARENTS KEPT TELLING ME, IF WE HAD A CHANCE, GOVERNOR, TO SEND OUR CHILDREN TO THE BEST SCHOOLS, WE WOULD DO THAT. >> I DECIDED I WOULD SET UP THE FIRST PRIVATE-PUBLIC SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM TO GIVE PARENTS IN MILWAUKEE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO ANY SCHOOL, RELIGIOUS, NONRELIGIOUS, PRIVATE, OR PUBLIC.

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED? IT WAS SUCCESSFUL, BECAUSE PARENTS WOULD CHOOSE THE BEST FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

AND SO WHEN I ANNOUNCED FOR PRESIDENT IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR, I WENT BACK TO ONE OF THE PRIVATE SCHOOLS THAT WE HELPED START IN MILWAUKEE.

AND I GOT UP AND I ANNOUNCED MY INTENTIONS TO RUN FOR THE HIGHEST OFFICE IN THIS COUNTRY AND WORLD.

AND I LOOKED OUT AT THOSE STUDENTS AND IT BROUGHT BACK TO ME FULL COURSE THAT, HERE'S A SCHOOL WITH 2,000 STUDENTS, A WAITING LIST TO GET INTO THAT SCHOOL.

80% ARE AFRICAN-AMERICAN, 10% ARE LATINO, 10% ARE CAUCASIAN, ASIAN, AND MIXED.

80% ARE ON SUBSIDIZED SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS.

LAST YEAR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, 98% OF THE STUDENTS GRADUATEED FROM HIGH SCHOOL.

THEY HAD A 98% ATTENDANCE RATE IN THAT SCHOOL IN THE CENTRAL CITY OF MILWAUKEE.

AND THE BEAUTY IS, 90% -- 90% --

WENT ON TO COLLEGE LAST YEAR. THAT SCHOOL IS THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY.

THE BEST IN THE COUNTRY!

IT'S POOR, IT'S MINORITY, AND IT SHOWS YOU THAT EVERY CHILD CAN LEARN.

AND THAT WAS THE SECOND CULTURAL REVOLUTION THAT I STARTED IN AMERICA.

SO WHEN I LOOK AT THE COUNTRY AT LARGE, I SEE THESE HUGE PROBLEMS FACING US AS A COUNTRY. AND I DON'T SEE ANY CANDIDATE OUT THERE, REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT, THAT'S OFFERING IDEAS. THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO RUN, BECAUSE I'M AN INDIVIDUAL WHO COMES UP WITH IDEAS.

I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF IDEAS. I BELIEVE THE FACT THAT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY LOST IN THE LAST ELECTION, THEY GOT AWAY FROM COMING UP WITH IDEAS. THEY TRIED TO SPEND MONEY AS FAST AS THE DEMOCRATS, TRIED TO HAVE AS MANY PORK BARRELS AS DEMOCRATS, AND LOST THEIR WAY. I TELL REPUBLICAN AUDIENCES, IF VOTERS ARE GOING TO VOTE FOR A SPENDER, THEY WILL VOTE FOR THE PROFESSIONALS, THE DEMOCRATS. SO YOU MIGHT SAY YOU MIGHT AS WELL GET BACK TO YOUR PRINCIPLES. WE HAVE UNTIL ABOUT 2014 TO REALLY FIX HEALTH CARE.

WHY DO I SAY 2014?

I'M THE ONLY SPEAKER THAT'LL COME INTO AN AUDIENCE AND TELL YOU THAT BY THE YEAR 2014, UNLESS WE CHANGE IT, HEALTH CARE WILL START COLLAPSING IN AMERICA.

HEALTH CARE IS IN SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

WE'VE GOT A GREAT SYSTEM. IF YOU GET SICK, YOU WANT TO GET SICK IN AMERICA, OR NEW HAMPSHIRE OR MASSACHUSETTS. YOU WANT TO GO TO YOUR DOCTOR AND YOUR HOSPITAL.

YOU DON'T WANT TO GO TO FRANCE OR CANADA, YOU WANT TO GO HERE. SO I THINK IT'S TIME FOR US TO LOOK AT HOW WE FIX IT.

BUT HOW SERIOUS IS THE PROBLEM? COME 2014, THERE ARE THREE THINGS THAT ARE COMING TOGETHER THAT ARE GOING TO COMPLETELY COLLAPSE THE SYSTEM.

THE FIRST ONE IS, BY THE YEAR 2014, SEVEN YEARS FROM NOW, WE GO FROM TWO TRILLION TO FOUR TRILLION IN COSTS.

THERE ISN'T ANY BUSINESS IN THIS ROOM THAT DOES INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS THAT WILL BE ABLE TO COMPETE IF THAT HAPPENS. WE'VE ALREADY SEEN THAT TAKE PLACE IN THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY.

GENERAL MOTORS HAS TO PUT A STATED AMOUNT INTO THAT AUTOMOBILE BEFORE THEY BUY ONE PIECE OF STEEL.

WE'VE SEEN IN THE LAST WEEK WHAT HAS HAPPENED.

TOYOTA, WHICH IMPUTES \$225

DOLLARS OF HEALTH CARE COSTS PER CAR, WE HAVE SEEN THAT TOYOTA HAS OVERTAKEN FORD AND GENERAL MOTORS AS HAS BECOME THE LEADING MANUFACTURER FOR AUTOMOBILES AND SALES IN THE WORLD.

YES, HEALTH CARE IS STILL OUT THERE.

THE SECOND THING IS, AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR THERE WERE SOME PRICE CONTROLS PLACED UPON EMPLOYERS.

EMPLOYERS DECIDED THAT THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP EMPLOYEES WAS TO GIVE THEM HEALTH INSURANCE. AND AT THAT TIME 82% OF THE EMPLOYEES WERE COVERED BY EMPLOYER-OWNED, OPERATED, CONTROLLED, PURCHASED HEALTH INSURANCE.

TODAY IT'S 60%.

FOR THOSE EMPLOYEES THAT ARE WITH COMPANIES WITH 50 OR FEWER EMPLOYEES, IT'S DOWN AROUND 45%, ON ITS WAY DOWN.

THE THIRD THING, AND THE BIGGEST DRIVER, IS THE FACT THAT IN 2014 MEDICARE STARTS GOING BROKE IN THIS COUNTRY.

UP UNTIL 2014, MEDICARE HAS BEEN SENDING MONEY INTO THE UNITED STATES TREASURY.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT GOES INTO THE TREASURY? IT'S SPENT AND CONGRESS GIVES AN I.O.U.

MEDICARE WANTS THE CONGRESS TO REPAY THOSE I.O.U.'S.

CONGRESS IS BROKE.

WE'RE SPENDING EIGHT AND A HALF BILLION A MONTH ON THE IRAQ WAR, AND WE'LL HAVE A HUGE DEFICIT UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. CONGRESS IS GOING

TO BE FACED WITH THREE DECISION ITEMS IN 2014, UNLESS WE WANT TO SUPPORT TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA.

FIRST THING THEY CAN DO IS HAVE PRICE CONTROLS IN HEALTH CARE. HOW MANY AMERICANS WOULD LIKE TO STAND AROUND AND SEE THAT HAPPEN, AND DETERMINE WHEN YOU CAN GO IN FOR ELECTIVE SURGERY? OR NUMBER TWO, WE CAN GO TO A GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED SYSTEM. SOME PEOPLE LIKE THAT.

I FIND IT VERY, VERY, VERY PROBLEMATIC.

IT TAKES AWAY INNOVATION. IF THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLS EVERYTHING, COMPANIES ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE INNOVATION TO COME UP WITH NEW DRUGS, THERAPIES, PROCEDURES TO FIX YOU, CURE YOU. OR THEY CAN RAISE TAXES, HUGE TAXES.

I'VE COME UP WITH A PLAN.

WE HAVE TO COMPLETELY TRANSFORM HEALTH CARE.

I WANT TO HIT A COUPLE OF OTHER ITEMS AND THEN GET TO YOUR QUESTIONS. THE FIRST THING IS, OUT OF THAT TWO TRILLION DOLLARS, 93% OF THAT COST GOES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TO WAIT FOR YOU TO GET SICK.

THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM IS THE ONLY THING THAT WE WAIT UNTIL PEOPLE COLLAPSE, AND THEN PUT THEM IN THE HOSPITAL.

THEN WE SPEND 93% OF THE TWO TRILLION TO CUR YOU, AND ONLY 7% TO KEEP YOU WELL IN THE FIRST PLACE.

DOES ANYBODY IN NEW HAMPSHIRE THINK THAT'S A SMART IDEA? SO THE FIRST THING YOU HAVE TO DO IS COME TO AN AGREEMENT THAT WE'VE GOT TO TRANSFORM HEALTH CARE AND PUT THE EMPHASIS ON WELLNESS AND PREVENTION, AND NOT CURATIVE.

THE SECOND THING IS WE'VE GOT TO START TALKING ABOUT CHANGING HUMAN NATURE, AND THAT'S DIFFICULT.

PEOPLE DON'T LIKE TO HEAR THAT. WE THINK WE'RE AMERICANS, STRONG, TOUGH, YOU KNOW, WE'RE HEALTHY. THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS, WE'RE NOT VERY HEALTHY IN AMERICA.

125 MILLION OF US HAVE ONE OR MORE CHRONIC ILLNESSES.

IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE, YOU'VE GOT TO CHANGE CHRONIC ILLNESSES. THE FIRST BIG ONE IS TOBACCO. TOBACCO-RELATED ILLNESSES KILLED 143,000 AMERICANS LAST YEAR. AND YET, NICOTINE IS NOT REGULATED.

SOME OF YOU TAKE BABY ASPIRINS EVERY SINGLE DAY FOR YOUR CIRCULATORY SYSTEMS.

I DO, THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES DOES. IT'S REGULATED BY THE F.D.A.

NICOTINE IS NOT.

I USED TO GO AROUND THE BUILDING AND TAKE CIGARETTES OUT OF PEOPLE'S MOUTHS AND TELL THEM THEY SHOULDN'T SMOKE.

I GOT SLAPPED A COUPLE OF TIMES. ONE TIME A GENTLEMAN SAW ME COMING AND PUT THE CIGARETTE IN HIS SHIRT POCKET.

>> I BANNED SMOKING IN ALL BUILDINGS ON THE PROPERTY. I MADE THEM GO OVER TO THE E.P.A. AND SMOKE.

THAT WAS A DOWNER, BUT I GOT THE ATTITUDE OUT THERE, AND THE CHANGE.

THE SECOND ONE IS DIABETES. LAST YEAR 18 MILLION AMERICAN HAD TYPE II DIABETES.

THIS YEAR 22 MILLION AMERICANS HAVE TYPE II DIABETES.

AND 41 MILLION AMERICANS ARE PREDIABETIC.

IT'S COST \$14 BILLION, AND WE CAN'T AFFORD THAT.

AND YET, WE'VE DONE EXHAUSTIVE STUDIES THAT SAY IF YOU WALK TEN MINUTES A DAY AND LOSE BODY WEIGHT, YOU CAN REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD.

BRING IN NUTRITION, ESPECIALLY FOR MINORITIES, BECAUSE IT'S EPIDEMIC WITH NATIVE AMERICANS, AFRICAN-AMERICANS, AND WITH LATINOS.

THE THIRD BIG ONE IS OBESITY. WE'RE JUST TOO DARN FAT IN AMERICA.

I KNOW YOU CAN LOOK IN THE MIRROR AND SAY, CHUNKY IS GOOD, BUT SLIM IS BETTER.

WE AVERAGE A HIGH NUMBER OF CALORIES A DAY.

I WANT TO BEAT FRANCE IN EVERYTHING EXCEPT THIS.

WE CONSUME ON AVERAGE 158 POUNDS A SUGAR A YEAR, THAT'S A WHOLE PERSON.

THE NEXT CLOSEST COUNTRY IS MEXICO AT 110 POUNDS.

IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE, YOU'VE GOT TO CHANGE CHRONIC ILLNESSES. THE NEXT THING, YOU'VE GOT TO MONITOR DISEASES.

25% OF THE PEOPLE HAVE 75% OF THE DISEASES.

WE HAVE TO FIND OUT HOW TO TREAT PEOPLE WITH DIABETES, PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY.

MAKE SURE THEY TAKE MEDICINE. 13% OF THE PEOPLE—ACCORDING TO THIS STUDY, 13% NEVER TAKE THE PRESCRIPTION TO THE PHARMACIST. 27% TAKE IT TO THE PHARMACIST AND NEVER PICK IT UP.

THAT'S 27%.

IF YOU CAN CHANGE HEALTH CARE, YOU CAN IMAGINE, JUST BY MONITORING PEOPLE TAKING THEIR MEDICINE, YOU CAN HAVE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT.

ONE THIRD OF THE INDIVIDUALS GOING INTO MEDICARE THIS YEAR ARE DIABETIC, AND ONLY 50% EVEN KNOW THEY ARE.

IF YOU MANAGE THOSE INDIVIDUALS, YOU WILL FIND OUT AND START TREATING THEM BEFORE THEY GET SO SERIOUSLY SICK THAT IT ENDS UP MAYBE WITH AN AMPUTATION. MONITOR DISEASES.

THE THIRD ONE IS, LET'S START USING INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. WE ALL HAVE PALM PILOTS.

I KNOW ALL OF YOU DO, BECAUSE MOST OF YOU ARE LOOKING AT THEM. [LAUGHTER]

>> WE'D BE ABLE TO DO IT.

YOU CAN PUT YOUR NAME ON HERE.

JIM.

RIGHT.

GREAT AMERICAN.

A LITTLE ARROGANT.

[LAUGHTER]

MEDICINES, GO IN FOR ANOTHER MALADY, PUTS IT IN, PUTS THE MEDICINE THAT WILL TREAT IT, AND ANY CONTRAINDICATORS.

50% OF AMERICANS WHO DIED IN HOSPITALS, IT WAS THE WRONG MEDICINE OR THE WRONG KIND OR THE WRONG AMOUNT. AND 93% OF DOCTORS STILL WRITE OUT PRESCRIPTIONS.

YOU CAN CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF HEALTH CARE IF YOU CHANGE THIS. THE FOURTH THING IS, ISN'T IT STRANGE THAT WE HAVE 47 MILLION AMERICANS THAT ARE UNINSURED IN THIS COUNTRY?

47 MILLION AMERICANS ARE UNINSURED.

AND WHERE DO THEY GO FOR THEIR HEALTH CARE?

THE EMERGENCY ROOM, RIGHT? WHAT'S THE MOST EXPENSIVE HEALTH CARE THERE IS?

EMERGENCY ROOM.

WHO PAYS FOR IT?

WE DO.

DOES THAT MAKE ANY SENSE TO ANY RATIONAL AMERICAN?

YOU CAN COVER PEOPLE WITH BASIC INSURANCE, PUT IT OUT TO THE INSURANCE COMPANIES OF AMERICA, AND DON'T LIMIT IT TO COMPANIES THAT SELL HEALTH INSURANCE IN YOUR STATE.

SET IT UP FOR A WIDE-OPEN

CONTRACT WITH NO MANDATES FROM

CONGRESS OR THE STATE

LEGISLATURE.

IT WOULD PUT IN HEALTH INSURANCE, IT WOULD BE COMPETITIVE, THAT POOR PEOPLE COULD AFFORD.

THEY CAN GO TO A REGULAR DOCTOR, TO A CLINIC, WITHOUT WAITING TO GET SO SICK TO GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM WHERE YOU HAVE TO SPEND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS. I'M TELLING YOU, I COULD GO INTO MANY MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTH CARE. BUT WE HAVE TO DO IT.

AND WE CAN DO IT.

IT REQUIRES TOUGH WORK A LITTLE LUCK.

BUT IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE HEALTH CARE, AND I BELIEVE IT IS WORTH SAVING, WE HAVE TO DO IT.

THE NEXT THING IS, EVERYBODY'S CONCERNED ABOUT THE IRAQ WAR, AS I AM, AS YOU ARE.

I'M ABSOLUTELY AMAZED WHEN I AM IN IOWA OR NEW HAMPSHIRE, THAT IT'S THE NUMBER ONE QUESTION THAT PEOPLE ASK ME.

YOU KNOW SOMETHING, NOBODY HAS A PLAN OUT THERE HOW TO WIN THE PEACE OR WIN THE COUNTRY FOR IRAQ.

SO I'VE LAID OUT A PLAN.

THE FIRST THING IS, WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY AS AMERICANS TO MAKE SURE THAT ANY YOUNG MAN OR WOMAN IN HARM'S WAY THAT'S SUPPORTING OUR WAR EFFORT HAS GOT TO HAVE THE RESOURCES AT THE READY TO PROTECT THEMSELVES. THAT'S JUST A BOND WITH AMERICANS AND OUR COUNTRY. BUT BEYOND THAT, NOBODY'S LAID OUT A PLAN.

SO I'VE LAID OUT A PLAN ON HOW TO WIN THE PEACE AND DEVELOP A COUNTRY THAT WILL BE DEMOCRATIC, THAT WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO SURVIVE AND THRIVE.

FIRST OFF, I WOULD REQUIRE THE AL-MALIKI GOVERNMENT TO VOTE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THEY WANT US IN THEIR COUNTRY.

THE AL-MALIKI GOVERNMENT IS DULY ELECTED, JUST LIKE THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

WE'RE VERY APPRECIATIVE AND HAPPY THAT THEY WENT OUT AND ELECTED THAT GOVERNMENT. LET'S ASK THAT GOVERNMENT TO VOTE.

IF THEY VOTE YES, WHICH I THINK THEY WILL, IT IMMEDIATELY GIVES US A LEGITIMACY FOR BEING THERE. IF THEY VOTE NO, THEY DON'T WANT US THERE, WE SHOULD LEAVE. SECOND THING: JUST LIKE NEW HAMPSHIRE IS A STATE THAT ELECTS THEIR OWN STATE LEADERS, WE HAVE 50 STATES ACROSS AMERICA, IRAQ HAS 18 TERRITORIES.

WHY DON'T WE REQUIRE THEM TO ELECT STATE LEADERS, JUST LIKE WE DO IN NEW HAMPSHIRE AND WISCONSIN AND MASSACHUSETTS. IF WE DO SO, SHIITE-DOMINATED TERRITORIES WILL ELECT A SHIITE GOVERNMENT, AND SUNNIS WOULD ELECT SUNNI GOVERNMENTS, KURDS WILL ELECT KURDS.

AND YOU WILL SEE A MIGRATION OF PEOPLE MOVING INTO SHIITE-DOMINATED COUNTRIES, TERRITORIES, SUNNIS WILL, AND KURDS WILL.

YOU GET AWAY FROM THIS INTERNECINE CIVIL WAR THAT'S BEEN GOING ON, THE TRIBAL CONTEST, THE TRIBAL QUEST AND CONFLICT THAT'S BEEN GOING ON FOR 1400 YEARS BETWEEN THE SHIITES AND SUNNIS.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO CHANGE THAT BY FORCING PEOPLE TO LIVE TOGETHER. IF YOU ALLOW THEM TO LIVE SEPARATELY IN STATE TERRITORIES, THEY WILL BELIEVE IN THEIR LEADERS AND TERRITORIES, AND GET AWAY FROM THIS INTERNECINE CIVIL WAR.

I WOULD OPERATE THE OIL INDUSTRY THE WAY ALASKA DOES.

I WOULD GIVE ONE THIRD TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, ONE THIRD TO THE 18 TERRITORIES, AND ONE THIRD TO EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD.

IF EVERY MAN, WOMAN, AND CHILD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO RECEIVE THAT MONEY, YOU CAN WELL IMAGINE, JUST LIKE YOU, YOU WOULD START INVESTING IN YOUR FAMILY, IN SMALL BUSINESS. I'VE BEEN TO BAGHDAD, I'VE SEEN THE INDIVIDUALS.

THEY'RE GREAT ENTREPRENEURS. IF THEY GET A STEADY STREAM OF INCOME, THEY'LL START BUILDING A RESTAURANT, A SHOP, AND THEY WILL BE INVITING PEOPLE IN. THEY WILL NOT WANT TO BLOW THEM UP OR HAVE ANY KIND OF HARM DONE TO THEM BECAUSE THEY WILL BE THEIR CUSTOMERS.

THEY'LL WANT INDIVIDUALS TO COME IN AND GROW THEIR BUSINESS. SO MY PLAN IS LAID OUT THERE, WITH THE IDEA THAT THIS IS A WAY TO BUILD DEMOCRACY AND BUILD THAT COUNTRY.

THE FINAL THING I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT, BEFORE I OPEN MYSELF UP FOR QUESTIONS, IS I AM SAD, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

WHEN I GO AROUND THE WORLD, I'M SAD AT THE TREMENDOUS HOSTILITY AND HATRED THAT SOME COUNTRIES HAVE TOWARDS OUR GREAT COUNTRY. I LOVE THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

I LOVE WHAT WE STAND FOR, I LOVE THE FACT THAT WE'RE A BEACON OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY AND CHOICE AND OPPORTUNITY, AND YET SOME PEOPLE REALLY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT US.

I USED TO GO TO AFGHANISTAN WHEN I WAS SECRETARY OF HEALTH, EVERY SINGLE YEAR, AND I FOUND OUT THAT THE TALIBAN HAD ACTUALLY DESTROYED THAT

COUNTRY. THEY WOULD NOT ALLOW GIRLS TO GO TO SCHOOL, WOMEN COULD NOT PRACTICE MEDICINE OR ANY PROFESSIONS.

I ASKED, I WENT IN TO SEE THE HOSPITALS AND SAW HOW THEY TREATED WOMEN.

IN MOST OF THE HOSPITALS THERE WAS NO RUNNING WATER.

IF A WOMAN HAD TO GO IN FOR A CESAREAN OR BREECH BIRTH, THE DOCTOR WOULD COME IN FROM THE STREET AND WOULD NOT SCRUB UP, AND START OPERATING ON THAT POOR WOMAN.

INFECTION, DEATH, AND ONE OUT OF FOUR CHILDREN DIE BEFORE AGE FIVE. SO I CAME BACK AND TALKED TO THE PRESIDENT AND COLIN POWELL AND DONALD RUMSFELD.

AND WE RAISED TWO AND A HALF MILLION, AND WE BUILT A HOSPITAL IN KABUL FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE DAY I OPENED IT UP ON EASTER SUNDAY, 2003, I WAS ABSOLUTELY AMAZED TO SEE OVER 750 WOMEN WHO WERE NOT INVITED CAME FROM ALL OVER THE COMMUNITIES TO SAY THANK YOU, TO SAY THANK YOU, BECAUSE THEY HAD A HOSPITAL FINALLY FOR THEM AND FOR THEIR CHILDREN.

THAT WAS POWERFUL.

I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, HOW COULD WE START CHANGING PEOPLE'S ATTITUDE AROUND THE WORLD BY USING HEALTH CARE?

AND MOTIVATING POOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN COUNTRIES THAT REALLY DISLIKE, DESPISE AMERICA, AND PEOPLE SUPPORTING THE JIHADIST MOVEMENT AGAINST AMERICA.

I SEE THAT WE HAVE TWO HOSPITAL SHIPS, ONE IS BERTHED IN BALTIMORE, AND ONE IS BERTHED IN SAN DIEGO.

WHAT A TREMENDOUS WAY TO SEND IN 68 OF THEIR BEST AND BRIGHTEST GRADUATES, TO SERVE A YEAR ON THAT SHIP, FLOATING AROUND THE WORLD TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. CAN YOU IMAGINE ONE OF THESE GIANT SHIPS, 1500 BEDS, GOING INTO A PORT IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR AFRICA OR ASIA, GOING IN TO A PORT WITH THE AMERICAN FLAG FURLING AND YOUNG IDEALISTIC DOCTORS GETTING OFF AND GOING OUT AND MINISTERING TO THE NEEDS OF THAT COMMUNITY AND THAT COUNTRY.

IT WOULD BE A PUBLIC RELATIONS EXTRAVAGANZA.

HOW THEY COULD EDUCATE THE DOCTORS AND PEOPLE IN THOSE COUNTRIES!

WE COULD DO THAT IN HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION.

AND IT'S MORE LASTING, AND IT WOULD ACCOMPLISH A GREAT DEAL MORE.

SO LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HAVE IDEAS.

I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF IDEAS, AND I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF AMERICA TO IMPLEMENT BIG IDEAS.

AND I'M WORRIED THAT THE

CANDIDATES ARE SO INTIMIDATED BY COMING OUT AND ANNOUNCING IDEAS, THAT THEY ONLY WANT TO TALK ABOUT GENERALITIES.

I WANT TO COME AND TALK TO YOU ABOUT MY PASSION, MY BELIEFS, AND ABOUT THE POWER OF IDEAS AND IDEALS TO MAKE AMERICA STRONGER AND BETTER TOMORROW, AND HEALTHIER THAN IT IS TODAY. SO IN CONCLUSION, I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT MY GERMAN FATHER, I'VE GOT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT MY IRISH MOTHER.

SHE ALWAYS TAUGHT ME THE IRISH BLESSING, AND I FINISH UP MY SPEECHES BY GIVING YOU THE IRISH BLESSING.

MAY THE ROAD RISE TO MEET YOU, MAY THE WIND ALWAYS BE AT YOUR BACK, AND MAY THE SUN SHINE WARM UPON YOUR FACE AND THE RAYS FALL SOFT UPON YOUR FIELDS, AND UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN, MAY GOD HOLD YOU IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

[APPLAUSE]

>> QUESTIONS.

SIR, IN THE BACK.

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS ON HOW YOU WOULD STOP THE INFLUX OF TERRORIST BOMBERS COMING IN FROM SYRIA?

TOMMY THOMPSON: IN TO WHERE?

UNIDENTIFIED MAN: COMING IN TO IRAQ FROM SYRIA. >> I WOULD DO SOMETHING, SIR, THAT COLIN POWELL TAUGHT US. I WOULD PUT IN PLACE THREE POINTS.

NEVER GO TO WAR UNLESS YOU HAVE A GENUINE MERITORIOUS REASON FOR GOING TO WAR.

NUMBER TWO, WHEN YOU GO TO WAR, YOU GO WITH ALL THE STRENGTH YOU HAVE, OVERPOWER AND WIN THAT WAR AT ALL COSTS, SEAL THE BORDERS, AND PROTECT ANY KIND OF INTRUSIONS WHATSOEVER.

AND NUMBER THREE, HAVE AN EXIT STRATEGY.

I DO NOT BELIEVE WE DID TWO AND THREE IN THIS LAST WAR, AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM WE'VE GOT. WE TRIED TO GET BY WITHOUT THE FULL FORCE, AND WE DISBANDED THE IRAQI ARMY TOO SOON.

WE SHOULD HAVE PUT IT ALONG THE BORDERS TO PROTECT US FROM SYRIA AND IRAN, AND WE DIDN'T DO THAT. THOSE WERE MISTAKES.

RIGHT NOW, IT MAY BE TOO LATE, BUT RIGHT NOW WE'VE GOT TO SEE IF THE SURGE CAPACITY IS GOING TO WORK.

BUT THAT IS WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE AND WHAT I WILL DO IN THE FUTURE AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

YES, SIR.

QUESTION: [NO AUDIO] TELL US ABOUT YOUR IDEAS FOR [INAUDIBLE].

TOMMY THOMPSON: WE ARE A COUNTRY OF IMMIGRANTS, BUT WE'RE ALSO A COUNTRY OF LAWS.

WE HAVE TO PROTECT OUR BORDER, WE HAVE TO ENFORCE OUR LAWS, AND WE'VE GOT TO ENFORCE THE LAWS THAT ARE THERE.

WE HAVE TO HAVE CONTROLLED ACCESS BECAUSE THERE ARE A LOT OF INDIVIDUALS THAT ARE ATTEMPTING TO COME INTO AMERICA ILLEGALLY, A LOT OF INDIVIDUALS THAT WANT TO DO HARM TO AMERICA, WANT TO COME IN TO OUR COUNTRY. AND IT MAKES NO SENSE TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS LIKE THAT, THAT WANT TO DO A HARM TO AMERICA AND AMERICANS, TO ALLOW THEM TO COME IN.

YOU HAVE TO HAVE A WAY FOR LEGAL IMMIGRANTS TO COME IN HERE TO OUR GREAT COUNTRY.

THOSE INDIVIDUALS HAVE GOT TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO COME IN THROUGH THE LAWS THAT WE HAVE. AND WE SHOULD ALSO SET UP A TAMPERPROOF CARD FOR

THOSE PEOPLE COMING INTO AMERICA LEGALLY, SO WHEN YOU GO TO AN EMPLOYER, AN EMPLOYER HAS THAT CARD.

AND IF THEY DO NOT HAVE THAT CARD, THAT EMPLOYER SHOULD BE PENALIZED.

I DO NOT BELIEVE IN AMNESTY.

YES, SIR.

QUESTION: [INAUDIBLE]

TOMMY THOMPSON: I BELIEVE WHAT WE FIRST NEED TO DO, BEFORE WE GO TO THAT POSITION, I BELIEVE VERY STRONGLY THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS GOT TO CALL IN OUR ALLIES FROM NATO, FROM THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN TREATY ORGANIZATION, AND SIT DOWN WITH THEM AND SAY, WE CANNOT DO THIS ALONE. WE HAVE GOT TO HAVE A UNITED

FRONT, WHEN THE UNITED NATIONS WILL NOT DO THE NECESSARY HEAVY LIFTING TO ACCOMPLISH THAT. THEREFORE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THROUGH HIS OR HER AWESOME POWERS, ARE GOING TO HAVE TO BRING IN OUR ALLIES AND SET DOWN EXACTLY WHAT WE WANT TO DO, EXACTLY WHAT GOODS AND SERVICES ARE GOING TO BE ABLE TO BE SOLD TO IRAN, HOW YOU LIMIT THAT.

BECAUSE THAT IS HOW YOU'RE GOING TO REALLY CHANGE IRAN'S ATTITUDE, IS BY LIMITING THE THINGS THAT GO INTO THAT COUNTRY, AND THAT IS WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE.

THEN YOU CAN GO IN AFTER YOU'VE GONE THROUGH THOSE PREREQUISITE STEPS, SO YOU HAVE A UNITED FRONT, JUST LIKE WE DID IN THE FIRST GLOBAL WAR.

THEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE ABLE TO GO IN WITH A UNITED FRONT WITH IRAN, AND THEN YOU CAN START NEGOTIATIONS.

>> YES, MA'AM.

QUESTION: WHAT DID WE DO WRONG WITH KATRINA?

TOMMY THOMPSON: EVERYTHING.

QUESTION: WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE? >> WHAT WE DID WRONG IS THAT IT WAS SO SERIOUS AND SO COMPLETELY DEVASTATING THAT NOBODY TOOK CHARGE.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DIDN'T TAKE CHARGE SOON ENOUGH, THE STATE GOVERNMENTS DIDN'T TAKE CHARGE, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. SOMEBODY'S GOT TO BE IN CHARGE. WHEN THERE'S A TRAGEDY OF THIS MAGNITUDE, YOU'VE GOT TO BE ABLE TO MOVE QUICKER, AND THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS GOT TO SUPERVISE IT, NUMBER ONE.

NUMBER TWO, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BRING IN ALL THE RESOURCES. JUST LIKE GOING TO WAR, YOU HAVE TO GO WITH THE RESOURCES TO DO IT.

WE SPENT TOO MUCH TIME TALKING AND POINTING FINGERS AND DIDN'T GO IN WITH THE RESOURCES. THIRD, WE SHOULD HAVE MADE SURE THAT THE HEALTH SECTOR IS NOT IN FEMA, IT'S PUT BACK INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

THEY SHOULD HAVE BEEN SETTING UP MOBILE HOSPITALS AND SYSTEMS IN THAT AREA OF DEVASTATION FASTER. I THINK THAT IT WAS JUST TOO BIG, AND WE JUST WEREN'T READY. AND SO WE HAVE TO GET READY.

BUT IT'S NOT ONLY KATRINA. WE HAVE TO GET READY ON THE PROTECTION OF FOOD.

WE HAVE TO GET READY ON THE PROTECTION OF OUR BORDERS. WE'VE GOT TO CONTINUE TO IMPROVE OUR PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM. WE'VE GOT TO MAKE SURE THAT OUR HOMELAND IS SECURE.

AND I DON'T THINK WE—WE, AS AMERICANS, WE TAKE A LOOK AT A PROBLEM, AND WE GET VERY CONCERNED ABOUT IT.

AND THEN THE TIME COMES, LIKE 9/11, OUR PASSION AGAINST WHAT TOOK PLACE IN 9/11 STARTS WANING.

WE'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER IT, BUT WE DON'T HAVE THE SAME SORT OF IMPETUS TO GET THINGS DONE. THAT'S WHAT WE HAVE TO DO. IT'S NOT ONLY FEMA, IT'S NOT ONLY A HURRICANE OR A TORNADO, IT IS ALL OF THESE THINGS TOGETHER.

WE HAVE TO START INVESTING IN THIS COUNTRY TO BUILD THE PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR, OUR BORDER SECURITY, OUR INSPECTIONS SYSTEM.

WE INSPECT, LADIES AND

GENTLEMEN, LESS THAN 1% OF THE FOOD COMING IN TO AMERICA. WE'VE ALREADY SEEN THE KINDS OF PROBLEMS WE'RE HAVING WITH SPINACH, LETTUCE, WITH PETER PAN PEANUT BUTTER, AND NOW WITH WHEAT GLUTEN FOR ANIMALS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE START PUTTING OUR ASSETS AND RESOURCES INTO SECURING OUR HOMELAND, AND THAT'S WHAT WE NEED TO DO. >> [INAUDIBLE]

TOMMY THOMPSON: YOU KNOW, IT'S SOMEWHAT SURPRISING TO ME THAT PEOPLE THINK THAT WE CAN EVER BE AS GOOD AND AS POWERFUL AS WE CAN, WHEN WE INVEST AND IMPORT 61% OF OUR OIL.

YOU CANNOT BE ABLE TO BE

COMPLETELY INDEPENDENT WHEN 61% OF YOUR OIL AND ENERGY NEEDS ARE IMPORTED, ESPECIALLY FROM THE MIDDLE EAST AND OPEC NATIONS. AND SEVERAL OF THOSE COUNTRIES AND CAUSES, MONEY IS BEING FUNNELED FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THROUGH THE PURCHASE OF OUR OIL, IS GOING INTO CAUSES THAT ARE ABSOLUTELY HARMFUL TO AMERICA.

SO IF WE REALLY ARE GOING TO MAKE AMERICA SECURE, WE'VE GOT TO START BECOMING ENERGY INDEPENDENT.

WE HAVE TO BE WILLING TO LOOK AT HYDROGEN, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE LOOKING AT SOLAR, LOOKING AT WATER, WIND, AND ETHANOL. I WAS FOR ETHANOL BEFORE ETHANOL WAS COOL.

I STARTED PURCHASING E-85 CARS IN THE 1990'S FOR THE STATE FLEET. TERRY BRANSTEAD AND MYSELF ARE THE FIRST TO SET UP ETHANOL COALITIONS WITH GOVERNORS THAT HAD CORN-PRODUCING STATES THAT WANTED TO GO INTO ETHANOL.

BUT YOU CAN NOT ONLY PRODUCE IT FROM CORN.

SWITCHGRASS, CELLULOIDS HAS GOT A GREAT ENERGY EFFICIENCY, BETTER THAN CORN.

NEW HAMPSHIRE HAS A LOT OF FOREST PRODUCTS.

ALL UP AND DOWN THE NORTHEAST YOU CAN START BUILDING ETHANOL PLANTS USING WOOD.

THAT'S THE KIND OF RESEARCH WE'VE GOT TO USE, AND WE HAVE TO BE WILLING TO INVEST IN THAT KIND OF RESEARCH.

YES, HOW ARE YOU?

>> [INAUDIBLE] HOW WOULD YOU UNDO WHAT WE'VE DONE TO OURSELVES, TO GO TO YOUR QUESTION OF AN ABSENCE OF ANY GLOBAL—

>> WELL, MICHAEL, I THINK I ANSWERED IT SOMEWHAT BY TELLING

YOU THAT I WOULD PUT THE EMPHASIS ON MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL DIPLOMACY.

I REALLY WOULD USE OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, OUR EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, AND USE THAT LIKE WE DID IN THE GLOBAL FUND, THE SAME GLOBAL FUND WHICH I WAS PART OF WHEN IT STARTED OUT TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA IN THE WORLD.

WE GREW FROM NOTHING TO A CORPUS OF AROUND \$8 MILLION. WE HAVE 300 PROJECTS GOING TO FIGHT AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA.

WE CAN SEND MEDICAL SHIPS AROUND THE WORLD AND START USING OUR SYSTEM TO HELP TRAIN OTHER EDUCATORS IN OTHER COUNTRIES. WE HAVE GOT TO GET BACK TO EXPORTING GLOBAL AND EDUCATIONAL AMBASSADORS, AND START DEVELOPING A CHANGE OF PHILOSOPHY, A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE TOWARDS AMERICA.

THAT'S HOW I WOULD DO IT.

YES, SIR.

>> WHAT ARE YOUR OPINIONS ON HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS? >> HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS?

>> YES.

>> H.S.A.'S, I THINK ANYTHING WE DO IN THE HEALTH CARE ARENA IS HELPFUL.

YOU KNOW, WE HAVE, AS I

INDICATED, WE HAVE A DECLINING NUMBER OF EMPLOYERS OFFERING HEALTH INSURANCE.

THE ONES THAT ARE LEFT ARE INCREASING THEIR COPAYS. HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS IS A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.

IT'S NOT THE TOTAL SOLUTION, BUT IT'S PART OF THE SOLUTION FOR INDIVIDUALS THAT WANT TO BE ABLE TO INVEST IN AN ACCOUNT THAT'S PORTABLE AND CAN BE ROLLED OVER AND CAN BE USED.

AND IF YOU DON'T USE IT, YOU CAN CONTINUE TO HAVE THE MONEY DEPOSITED AND GROW.

IT'S A GOOD PHILOSOPHY.

IT'S NOT THE TOTAL THING, BUT IT'S JUST PART OF IT.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO IN HEALTH CARE IS NOT JUST LOOK AT ONE ITEM.

IN ORDER TO CHANGE THE SYSTEM, YOU HAVE TO BE HOLISTIC.

YOU HAVE TO BE LOOKING AT H.S.A.'S AND H.R.A.'S, YOU HAVE TO LOOK AT HOW TO RESTRUCTURE MEDICARE, RESTRUCTURE MEDICAID. HOW DO YOU PUT A CAP ON LIABILITY INSURANCE?

HOW DO YOU MAKE SURE YOU MONITOR DISEASES?

HOW DO YOU USE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY?

HOW DO YOU COME UP WITH ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS? ALL OF THESE ARE PIECES OF A TOTAL CHANGE AND TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTH CARE FROM A CURATIVE SYSTEM TO A WELLNESS SYSTEM, AND THAT'S WHERE I'M GOING.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

YOU'VE BEEN A WONDERFUL AUDIENCE. [APPLAUSE]

>> THANK YOU, GOVERNOR THOMPSON, FOR BEING HERE.

A PROGRAM NOTE, OUR FRIENDS AT NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC TELEVISION WILL BE BROADCASTING A VERSION OF THIS EVENT SUNDAY AT NOON, AND ALSO LOOK FOR IT ON THE NEW HAMPSHIRE POLITICAL LIBRARY WEBSITE AS A WEBCAST.

OUR FRIENDS FROM C-SPAN ARE HERE AS WELL.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING.

HAVE A GREAT DAY.

[APPLAUSE]