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HC: (:00) Lawyers couldn't exploit them any longer so that's why I intend to do as president.

RS: (:02) Thank you Senator. I would like to quickly follow-up with Senator Biden.

Do you believe as _____ we're talking about jobs that Americans won't do that is often used as a conversation point in this debate over immigration?

SB: (:21) Let's get it straight. Americans will do any job if you pay them properly.

You know the fact of the matter is that's doesn't mean we don't need guest workers we do, that doesn't mean we don't need, but we should base the number of guest workers that are in the statute that we are trying to pass and we tried to pass before

comprehensive immigration reform based upon need not an absolute number. And we should require employers to offer those jobs to citizens to see if they want those jobs.

Case in point. You had Swift Meats down in North Carolina INS came in, 800 people took off, the fact of the matter is they had to go out and hire people, guess what they had to double the wage and provide health insurance. They got all the North Carolina's they want to come in a slit pigs throats which no one wants to do. They did it. So that doesn't mean there is not room. We need agricultural workers, we need H1B visas we need what in fact exists as a need not as an artificial number to allow employers to drive down wages.

?: (1:25) Well earlier on this panel it was suggested that higher illegal immigrants to do these jobs doesn't drive down wages so I'm interested in hearing the side

SB: (1:33) drives down wages. I think it drove down wages at Swift Meats. What happened? When 800 out of 2800 people left they had to go out and say ok now we'll pay \$10.50 an hour instead of \$6.00 an hour or whatever the number was. And we're

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going to give health insurance and guess what? North Carolina's showed up for the jobs. Now granted the rate that they job is about 57% versus 46% I know it's your home state John but I mean know that's what happened. There is a lot of people who will go out and hang drywall and get a decent wage. There are not a lot of people who are going out and do the agricultural work that's seasonal. So it should be based on need.

RS: (2:14) Let's go to our expert panel again Dr. Juan Andreatti.

JA: (2:20) Thank you Ray and my question is to Senator Edwards at the end of the next president's first term states like Iowa will have a shortage of 150,000 workers in its labor force. This is kind of a two questions in one. This at a time when thousands of immigrants are being rounded up at the work place and even in private homes and many are being subsequently deported. Do you believe a moratorium on raids is needed and what would you do as president to help states like Iowa meet its labor force needs?

JE: (3:09) Well first of all I think these raids and particularly the way they are being conducted separating parents from children just on Thanksgiving, actually the day before Thanksgiving, my kids and I went to work at a local food bank and a woman came through and told me the story of her husband who we're actually trying to help now, but her husband who had lived in the United States of America for seventeen years, they had four children. She had serious, serious health problems and they had stopped him, arrested him, detained him, sent him to Georgia and they are sending him home. And I think the bottom line is that what we need is we need to change the law or reform the laws for immigration in this country so that everybody has a real and meaningful path to citizenship but I want to tag on just very quickly something Senator

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Biden spoke about a few minutes ago. A few months ago I made a poverty tour beginning in New Orleans and went through Mississippi and other places and I was in Canton, Mississippi meeting with poultry workers at a poultry plant where they had been abused in a way that most Americans would never understand. A man had broken his back they said it was his degenerative condition that caused it. Broken his back on the job and they were being taken advantage of every single time they raised a question about not being paid for the work they did or not being treated fairly or working in unsafe conditions what was the first question? What's your immigration status? This is how these employers treat workers. And not only that we have a ground total of four, four bilingual federal workers who are responsible for the enforcement of our fair labor laws. Four. For the entire United States of America. What do you think the chances are that these people's rights are being looked after? They are not. They will be when I'm president of the United States.

RS: (5:06) Senator thank you. We'll move on next to our next candidate to candidate question and Senator Clinton it's your turn.

HC: (5:14) Well today is World Aids Day. And I think it's important on this particular night that we recognize I believe all of us have committed to supporting \$50 billion dollars for global aids relief which I am very committed to and very excited about. But let's not forget that Aids now is growing again in our own country particularly among African American and Latino women. And as I have said before the leading cause of death for African American women between the ages of 25 and 34 is aids. So I want to ask all of my fellow candidates here if they would join me not only in a pledge for what we're going to do globally to address the aids pandemic in Africa and Asia and

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elsewhere but will you join me in a pledge that we're going to do everything we can once again to address the aids pandemic right here in the United States of America and to put the money in that will provide the services and the treatment and the prevention that our own people deserve to have because frankly we have turned our backs, we have frozen the amount of money and I am very worried about what is happening to countless numbers of Americans when it comes to HIV and Aids.

? (6:42) And the answer is yes in 1990 when I was original co-sponsor of the Ryan/White Act we put \$24 billion dollars in. It wasn't popular to do it then. We should be doing a great deal more and it comes down to a simple proposition you have to have education, prevention and you have to provide medical services and medication.

RS: (6:56) Thank you very quickly

? (6:69) And yes I believe that if we have a not for profit health care system which has long term care and pays for pharmaceuticals the people with aids will get the care they need and I would ask you Senator Clinton to join me in that.

? (7:17) I think the most staggering statistic is this recent 50% of all new aids cases are African American. 19% are Latino. That is huge dramatic change a dramatic increase. We need a marshal plan domestically to deal with this issue and its outreach, its screening, it's funding for aids research, it is also an all out effort in our cities to deal with this pandemic disease that is destroying this country. I would make my Vice President the Chairman of the HIV Aids Commission to give it the bureaucratic strength that this issue deserves. You have to elevate it within the bureaucracy.

RS: (8:05) Thank you Governor. Our next question. Senator Obama. The Federal Agency for Health Care research and quality recently reported that both Latinos and

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Blacks receive significantly worse medical care than whites in the United States when they get care. One out of three Hispanics, one out of five black Americans is uninsured. Hispanics are 2 ½ times as likely as a non Hispanic white American to be uninsured. One of three Latinos in the United States hasn't been to the doctor in more than a year. Diabetes, asthma, hypertension are untreated or under treated in communities across America. What can the president do to address this and can we afford it?

BO: (8:52) The president can do everything to address this and can afford it if we are able to bring people together to get it done. And this is something that I am committed to doing as president. But it is indisputable that if you are poor in this country that is hazard's to your health, if you are black or brown to and poor it can be downright deadly. For all the statistics that you cited. And that is why we have to create a comprehensive health care program that is available to all people who need it and I have put forward a plan that says that every single person can buy into a plan that is as good as the health care that I have as a member of congress, that we will emphasize preventative care and we will emphasize the reduction of disparities in that care. Because right now we got, what we know is that even when blacks or Latinos have the same quality of care, or have the same health insurance as whites do that they are not receiving the same quality of care. And that means that we've got to have more black and brown doctors and nurses, we've got to have done studies in terms of making sure that we are eliminating these disparities, we've got to make sure that we are going outreach in these communities ahead of time to prevent disease. Those are all things that are part of the plan that I put together and it is one of my number one priorities as president of the United States.

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RS: (10:18) Senator thank you very much. We'll go back to our panel. Professor Adrian Wing. Wing yes you are next.

AD: (10:29) This is a question for Governor Richardson. The dollar is so weak internationally that some black rappers are even flashing euros in their music videos now. What should be done if anything to restore global confidence in the dollar and how would those measures affect people of color in the United States?

GR: (10:55) Well America has lost its economic leadership. We have a \$9 trillion dollar debt. We've got a weakening dollar. We've got jobs going overseas. These are the steps that I would take as president. What is going to be key is fiscal discipline. I am for a constitutional amendment to balance the budget within a 5-6 year period. We have to balance that budget. This debt is to commercial banks, to China, to India. I've for a line item veto. We need to investments also in science and technology. I would take the new industries of the future. Biomedical, solar, wind, biomass. I would invest in those new industries. This is what I did in my state to create 80,000 new jobs. Give a tax incentive for increasing the prevailing wage. That's the second step that I would take. Invest in science and technologies and industries of the future. The third would be invest in education, invest in kids and science and technology and American not graduating substantially fewer engineers than China and India. It's a competitiveness issue. It's paying our teachers better, it's making sure that we have a competitive economy and I believe to upgrade ourselves again I'm going to make this point in science and math. What we did in my state creating substantial art in the schools programs to boost the science and math proficiency of our kids. Will work, music, dance, sculpture. This is the kind of investment we need to make. Fiscal discipline,

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number two science and technology, invest in the new industries of the future and third invest in education. That's how America will regain its economic leadership.

MN: (12:49) Thank you Governor. I am going to pose this question to Senator Dodd and as a Chairman of the Banking Committee perhaps you will appreciate my request for a dollar figure that goes along with your answer. In looking at the continuing recover in Katrina it's clear that region not just continued recovery after Katrina it's clear that New Orleans and the entire gulf coast region needs a great deal of assistance from the Federal Government. The question is what kind of attention and assistance will they get over the long term. In thinking about some sort of have you ever used the term marshal plan before? If you are talking about quitting together an action plan to help the gulf coast recover what is the dollar amount that you attach to that plan?

SD: (13:37) Well it's a good question. The dollar amount whatever it takes in my view is what we ought to be doing. This is disgraceful. This great American city part of our country we are spending \$10 billion dollars a month on a war in Iraq and yet we find that we aren't funding all of the things we need to do in this country and having watched what happened under this administration when a great American city faced that natural disaster and still people living in trailers and _____ people are still suffering, terribly everyday. So I can't put a dollar number for you but I can tell you what we are doing here. Mary Landro and I have legislation right now to deal with housing trying to get it out of the banking committee on the floor of the United States Senate so that we can start to make a difference in that area and one area of jurisdiction that I'm responsible for we've watched 40,000 people leave that city not coming back. So whatever the investment it takes in my view to get that city back on its feet again the

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gulf _____ is what we ought to be prepared to do as a country here. As a nation here.

MN: (14:30) Why can't you put a dollar amount on it?

SD: (14:30) Well because I don't know what the dollar amount is. We're talking about \$50, \$30, \$60 billion dollars maybe more to make this happen and make this work. It's housing issues, it's job creation, it's seeing to it that we have a Federal Emergency Management Agency that's actually doing a job when future hurricanes come through that area again. So they can put it on a solid footing again. We've walked away from a major part of this country here. And that to me is a disgrace. That is the shame of this administration. Of not stepping up and doing what was necessary to do it. To put people back whole again in their very communities. They've had to leave. They've had to pack up and leave their communities where they have lived for generations in some cases. That should never, ever happen in any part of this country. And particularly in that part of the country and a lot of it was because frankly it's was poor people. Poor people of color. In my view if it had been other parts of the country where there are not people of color I think you would have seen a larger response. From the Bush administration. They didn't do it part because of what it was.

MN: (15:25) Thank you Senator. I would like to pose that same question to Governor Richardson. In thinking about the needs of the gulf coast, post Katrina, the continuing needs if you are putting together an action plan to help that region recover what is the dollar amount that you would attach to that plan?

GR: (15:49) We shouldn't be talking dollars we should be talking a massive commitment on the part of the US government that were never going to let this happen

again. And this means a commitment to ensure that people get their insurance companies pay for the homes that have been lost that we give preference to those have left Katrina. It means bureaucratic changes like having FEMA directly under the president. It means also taking steps appointing people that are competent to deal with natural disasters. It means also there is a law in the congress that Representative Maxine Water has proposed that I support that I don't that it has a dollar figure but it's a commitment that involves the US government in all its strength recognizing that this something can never happen again and it's not just a matter of rebuilding and making those levees functional again. It isn't meaning making sure that those homes come back to the people that owned them, it means saying that as a country you cannot let the American people down without a commitment that we will put all our resources to prevent this from happening again.

MN: (17:15) Thank you Governor. We are going to go to our distinguished panel and take another question from Ben Chavez.

BC: (17:23) Yes thank you. This is for Senator Clinton. This is on economic development question. A lot of what we have discussed on the forum so far has been about some of the issues about the quality of life and again the discrimination the disparity and one of the most hot wrenching experiences is economic inequality in our communities. In the black and brown communities. Hip hop has brought back among youth a return of the entrepreneur spirit. When Dean made reference rappers wanting euros they own their own businesses. And their product is not only demanded in the United States but all over the world. Hip hop is a global cultural phenomena where young people not only own their own labors their own production companies, own

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fashion companies, we are building hip hop soda shops around the world so Senator Clinton if you are elected President what leadership would you take to ensure that young people and Latino and Black communities not only have access to capital but to ensure that economic development the entrepreneur development of American being more inclusive of black and brown youth.

SC: (18:40) Well first of all let me thank and congratulate you and my friend Russell Simmons for what you've done with the hip hop summit because it's been a very important way to highlight a lot of these issues. In New York City we have seen the transformation of Harlem from a combination of government action creating an empowerment zone, the private sector coming in to take advantage of that and an explosion of entrepreneurial dynamism. We've also seen the faith based community like Abyssinians and others that have been partners with it and of course we've seen a lot of hip hop participants and leaders taking advantage of that. So we need this partnership. We need this partnership between the public and private sector and the not for profit and faith based sector. And we need to make sure that young people have a particular stake in what we are going to present. So I am going to do everything I can to make the tools of government work again, like the Small Business Administration, which has frankly been missing in action the last seven years. They've turned their back on black and brown entrepreneurs and business owners. Looking for ways to get back into the business of tax incentives like the empowerment zone and others. And to create more credit through things like micro financing and consulting and technical assistance. I think we can see this happen all over America and not just urban America

but rural America too. That's what I've worked on in New York both in the City and in upstate and I intend to put that to work when I'm president.

MN: (5:27) Senator Clinton thank you. And Ben Chavez thank you for the question. It's time for another candidate to candidate question. And this time question will come from Senator Boraca Obama.

BO: (20:23) Well a lot of what we've talked about today obviously has to do with structural inequalities, economics, but it also has to do with racial attitudes in this country. When we were talking early about the situation with immigrants and many have remarked and they are exactly right that if you watch the republican debates you can see how this issue is being demogoged. There is a consequence to that. Which is that hate crimes against Latinos have gone way up over the last year. We've also seen over the last several months this epidemic of nooses being hung all across the country since Gina the events down in Gina, Louisiana. And it indicates the degree to which a president has to set a tone of bringing all people together as opposed to excluding people. And being willing to talk about racial issues when they arise and having a justice department, a civil rights division of the justice department that is aggressive about investigating but there is one last one point that, I know it's supposed to be a question, its going to Joe, the and that this is, A wide coalition of people from Reverend Sharpton to the anti defamation league have come together around hate crimes legislation I know you have been working on this for quite sometime we need to strengthen the enforcement of hate crimes legislation there is some work being done right now in the house that is pending and just wanted to get your prospective this is something that is very important to me as a member of the judiciary committee can we

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move this forward. It is something that I will prioritize as president but I don't want to have to wait until I am.

Joe: (22:13) Oh by the way we can and we should move it forward the impediment right now is the president. Senator Kennedy and I and 40 other 38 other co-sponsors you are a co-sponsor as well have been pushing this, the funding. Look the bottom line here is it all gets down, for example, I blocked a Delawarean from being the head of the civil rights division when I was chairman of the judiciary committee. To get _____ Patrick an endorser and supporter of yours. We need someone in the civil rights division who is aggressive and we need justice department that is aggressive in going after these hate crimes. I would not wait. Why did we not hear immediately from the justice department in the Gina? Why did we not hear immediately when the rash of burnings took place? Why did we not hear? The reason is that they are not committed. Hate crimes are just that. The vilest and filthiest of crimes. And when you let one celebrated hate crime go unintended you generate, you generate an attitude. And I'll conclude by saying that's why if you notice in my immigration answer the first thing I said is that you have got to take the sting out of this. The majority of people undocumented are not Spanish speaking people taking peoples jobs. That's the start. Tell the truth, prosecute. Have this just department and the civil rights head and I'd be happy to make you the head of the civil rights division with me as president of the United States of America.

MN: (23:47) Senator Biden

JB: (23:48) No but serious.

MN: (23:51) Governor Richardson you had a follow-up there. Very quickly.

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GR: (23:53) Yes and it is very quick and I would suggest and Senator Biden has been a leader in this issue that there is one gap in that bill that goes from the house to the senate and it involves hate crimes that relate to sexual orientation. Transgender. It was not included in the house. Now this is not popular. But I did it four years ago in my state a red a state but if we're going to thorough about ensuring that there is no discrimination on the basis of race, gender or sexual orientation it should include all people and I would hope you would consider including that in the senate bill too.

MN: (24:39) Thank you. I have a question for Senator Clinton in the time that I've been in Iowa I've had a chance to drive through the neighborhood and stop in some of the eateries and the beauty shops and the barber shops the markets and talk to people where they move about. And I want to put to you one of the things that I've actually heard on the street. Here surrounding North High School, some people say that your husband's crime bill is one of the primary factors behind the rising incarceration rate for blacks and Latinos. It earmarked \$8 billion dollars for prisons and continued a trend to harsh or harsher sentencing. How do you view that and what do you say to people who sit in the barber chair and scratch their heads over this? Do you regret in any how this has affected the black community or do you stand by that?

HC: (25:36) Well I think that the results not only at the federal level but at the state level have been an increase an unacceptable increase in incarceration across the board and now we have to address that. Just as you can go and retrospective and say well why was this happening at the time and there were reasons why the congress wanted to push through a certain set of penalties and increase prison construction and there was a lot of support for that across a lot of communities because it's hard to remember

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now but the crime rate in the early 90s was very high. And people were being victimized by crime in their homes, in their neighborhoods and their business. But we've got to take stalk now of the consequences so that's why you know I want to have a thorough review of all of the penalties, of all the kinds of sentencing that is done and more importantly start having more diversion and having more second chance programs and really investing in young people. I put forth a youth opportunity agenda that will keep people out of prison and keep them out of that revolving door and that's what I'm going to focus on when I'm president.

MN: (26:49) Senator Clinton. Thank you.

RS: (26:56) I'd like the next question to go to Senator Dodd but I'd like to hear from other members of the panel of candidates about it. Recently in my house a young Latino turned 18. And when he did he heard from the federal government and he got his post card telling him that in no uncertain terms that in a certain number of days he had to make himself known to the government, register for selective service in case of the need for a call up. Now I have another teenager as a matter of fact she's sitting in the audience tonight. Who is going to turn 18 before too long. But she's not going to hear from the government in that way. And I'm wondering whether this sends the right message about national service. What it means to be called up when your country needs and whether we ought to re-examine how we go about telling young people, asking young people for their service to the country? Senator?

SD: (27:55) Well that's a great, great question. And I think I'm the only candidate here who has articulated a large national service program. As I mentioned earlier that I served in the peace corps back in the 1960s and I did so I've been asked a thousand

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times over the last 41 years why did I join the peace corps and a very simple answer I've given a thousands times is because an American president asked me to. He invited a generation of us to be involved in things larger than ourselves. Some involved in the civil rights movements, the farm workers movement, the military, the justice department, but we all felt we were giving something back and making a difference. I'm I think Joe or someone answer the question on the draft. I don't see a need for the draft I don't believe that is necessary. But if you are going to have one I think it ought to be gender neutral. If we are going to do that but I think all young people ought to be brought it. We don't make separations in my view. But I do want to articulate the idea here that we ought to expand the opportunities. I would a _____ from a 150,000 slots to a millions slots here and connect it with affordability of college education. Retirees who have so much to offer I think are willing to be asked again to participate in the community. Compare if you will when John Kennedy invited a generation of us to do not that long ago and consider what this president asked us to do in the wake of 911. I hear. What was the question? Go shopping in a sense. It was remarkable, remarkable statement to make when you consider how willing people were not only in this country and elsewhere to be involved in the effort or rebuilding our country. Taking it back again. So I'm a strong believer here. I believe we ought to do what Maryland has done. Maryland has a requirement that every high school student before you graduate commit 100 hours of public service in your community. I'd like that to be a part of every community in this country here. To learn the habit of giving. The idea of giving something back to your community. Developing that idea, developing that habit I think can carry you through life. And we're richer for it. So I'm a very strong advocate of

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universal national service not required but extending that invitation to people be involved and being a part of things larger than themselves.

RS: (29:51) Thank you Senator Dodd. Let me. Everybody wants to jump in on this question but let me just refine it just briefly and get very quick hits from the rest of the panel. If it did not necessarily mean military service, and if it did not necessarily mean combat service, should the country examine registering women at 18 as well and I will go from left to right, Senator Clinton?

HC: (30:15) Yes.

RS: (30:17) Senator Edwards:

SE: (30:18) Is this yes no?

RS: (30:20) Yes we're kind of pressed for time.

SE: (30:22) Yes. The answer is yes but can I just say a 15 second follow-up. I do think that it's absolutely crucial that we ask Americans to be patriotic about something other than war. To ask Americans to be willing to take the action that makes this country what it's capable of being. As Chris spoke about John Kennedy's call to action I think we need a president who asks Americans to sacrifice.

RS: (30:43) Congressmen Kucinich:

CK: (30:45) I think we need to move this country away from militarism and away from wars and instrument a policy and reach out to our young people as John Kennedy did and said ask not what your country can do for you ask what you can do for your country there is many different ways to serve. One of which is in the military that's honorable service but for that question to come at this time when we have our young people in Iraq on a war based on lies and we have this country preparing to go to war against Iran I

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think that we have to say no to a draft and put in the context of America must change its direction and this forum here tonight if it means anything it should mean a new direction for America away from war and towards giving our young people a real future where they can use all their talents and ability serving in many different capacities.

RS: (31:34) Thank you Congressman. Senator Biden?

SB: (31:41) The answer is yes 1988 Sam not only introduced a bill mandatory universal service you get to pick on of three things if you chose the army it's six months, if you chose a domestic peace corps it's two years, if you chose foreign peace corps you only have to do it a year. Everyone man woman, men and women when they get to be eighteen they can chose what they want but there should be universal service unless there is an extreme physical disability.

RS: (32:05) Senator Obama?

SO: (32:06) Yes. The reason right now I live in Chicago is because I moved to Chicago to work as a community organizer. Working on the streets of Chicago to help impoverished communities. It was the best education I ever had. Because it taught me ordinary people can do extraordinary things when they come together. Every young person should have that opportunity to serve and do something that is bigger than themselves. And when they do it not only does the country benefit but they do as well.

RS: (32:36) Governor Richardson?

GR: (32:39) My answer is yes. And I outlined a plan two years of college tuition paid off by the government, one year of national service. But I'm going to go beyond that and say when it comes to the country sacrificing and the people sacrificing I sense in especially Iowa's that we need to pull together. We can't have easy answers anymore.

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And one area where I will ask the American people to sacrifice is when it comes to reducing our dependence on foreign oil and also reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

And that means being more sensitive with mass transit and appliances and air conditioning and I believe the American people today want to give something back.

They are able all over the country to say we want to be inspired. We want to be brought together. We want to deal with issues and then if it's for the common good we are ready to take those steps.

RS: (33:38) Thank you governor. Let's go back to the panel. To _____
Gonzales from the Iowa commission on Latinos.

AG: (33:46) Thank you Ray and this question is for Senator Edwards. Here membership is the only true anti poverty program. Union members earn up to 30% more than their non-union counterparts and in the case of Latinos and African Americans it goes as far as 50% difference in salaries and earnings from union members to non-union members. More than 57,000 million workers in this country say that they would join a union if they got a chance to do so. But when employers fire one in every four workers who want to join a union and when employers violate with impunity two fist labor laws that rule the labor relations these days with impunity what are they to do they need a new route to really get dignity and respect in the work place. What would you do, what do you see the role of president in protecting union jobs encouraging union jobs who flourish in this country and protecting the rights of a worker who stands up to his employer and invokes the law that protects them and gets fired for doing so?

SE: (34:43) Well first we need a president of the United States who's actually willing to walk on the White House lawn and say the word Union. Second we need a president of the United States who will explain to the American people that the union movement helped build the great middle class in the United States of America that absolutely crucial and they will be crucial to building the middle class and strengthening the middle class in the future. We have well over 50 million people as you pointed out in this country who would like to join a union. What we need to do if we really want to strengthen and grow economic security if we want to strengthen and grow the middle class in the country we must strengthen and grow the organized labor movement. In order to do that I know from what I have seen personally that the abuses are ramped. I mean completely ramped. The law is on the side of big corporations as it is in many other areas and not on the side of workers. So what we need to do is change the law. If you can join the republic party by signing your name to a card every worker in America should be able to join a union by signing their name to a card. And when I am president of the United States and it becomes necessary for the union and strength and solidarity to go out on strike when they are walking that picket line no one will walk through that picket line and take their job away for them. Not when I'm president of the United States.

MN: (36:06) Thank you Senator and thank you for the question. This has been a wonderful evening but its time to round the corner to our final chapter closing statements from each of the candidates. This was decided by a random draw the order of these closing statements and because of that you are going to hear again from Mr. Edwards.

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SE: (36:22) Thank you. Thank you all very much for being here. Thank you for our panelists for participating. You know here is my belief. I think we have a wall that's been built around Washington DC. And no one understands that wall better than African Americans and Latinos in America. Because you have been left on the outside of that wall. And that wall has been built by people with money and power to protect their own interests. And to make sure that their interests are taken care of and not the interests of the vast majority of the American people. It's everything from drug companies, stopping universal health care, insurance companies stopping universal health care, oil companies and power companies stopping the protection of our environment and dealing with global warming. We have seen, I've seen in my own lifetime strength of people of courage who led the civil rights movements in America I mentioned earlier I grew up in the segregated south I have seen people of courage who stood up for what was right and for what was moral and just. Our generation is faced with an enormous challenge. Will we take that wall down. Will we have the strength and courage to reclaim this democracy for the many not for the few because if we do and I believe we will with the right leadership, with the right fighter as president we are going to meet the test of moral, the moral test of our generation. Which is to make certain that our children have a better life than we had and to make absolutely certain that we leave America better than we found it.

MN: (37:54) Thank you Senator Edwards. We move next to Governor Richardson.

GR: (38:03) I told those Latinos _____ . And I want to more than anything we need to bring this country together. I want to thank the civil rights movement. And the efforts of African Americans that pave the way for many of us

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and history may be made with an election of a woman president, African American, Latino I'm positive about this country. You know I know we are negative sometimes and the end of the world but you know I'm optimistic, I'm patriotic I think that we're moving forward. And my last point I know this is a minority forum but we minorities always get put in boxes. African Americans, Hispanics, pollsters parties think well they only care about immigration or civil rights or affirmative action. I think what is one of the most fundamental misconceptions about minorities is that we care about all issues. We care about health care and education. We care about moving this country forward. And I just want to say to voters of Iowa I'm honored to have been put through this process of scrutiny, of being welcomed into your homes and I'm honored to participate today in this forum.

MN: (39:30) Governor Richardson. Thank you. We hear now from Representative Dennis Kucinich.

DK: (39:42) Thank you very much. I carry a copy of the constitution with me which is very relevant to this audience because in the 14th amendment it talks about the guarantee of due process and equal protection of the law in the 15th amendment not denying the right to vote based on race, color but you know what our constitution is being shredded. We're losing our country to lies. To war based on lies. And to debt. This is one of the reasons why I've introduced articles of impeachment to call this administration accountable. So we have to start focusing on the things that people really need. I grew up in the city of Cleveland the oldest of seven. My parents never owned a home. We were renters. We lived in 21 different places by the time I was 17 including a couple cars. So my politics is very practical. People need jobs and that's

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why I stand for a full employment economy with a new WPA. People need health care that's why I'm the only one up here who stands for a not for profit health care system where everyone is covered and recognizes that these health insurance companies are making money not providing health care. I stand for educational opportunities starting at age 3 and going all the way through to and including college. If you want your country back you give me your vote and I'll give you your country back. Thank you very much.

MN: (41:00) Representative Kucinich. Thank you.

RS: (41:04) For our next closing statement we got to Senator Joe Biden who has one minute.

JB: (41:06) That would be a change. First of all you know there is a lot of debate in this election and I have great respect for all my colleagues here whether this is about experience or change the truth is it is about action. The next president is going to have act immediately. A lot of you wonder why I always talk about Iraq. Iraq is like a big boulder sitting in the middle road. It's sucking up a \$150 billion dollars a year now. Unless you end that war in Iraq all the things we all care about are not going to be able to be done. But they are going to have to move quickly we're going to move quickly to end this war to get the money available to deal with health care, to deal with education, to deal with all the things we've all talked about tonight. And it is true there is a great opportunity here. If I had gotten amnesia in 1968 when I got involved in the civil rights movement in 1964 and I woke up today and they said there was an African American, woman and a Hispanic running I'd say God that's wonderful. I mean that sincerely. I mean that sincerely. But I'll hope you'll all judges those of you and what I've found

about the African American and Hispanic community they go for whoever they think has the greatest quality. You're point earlier today. And the point I'm making to you is this. Take a look at our record. My entire career is based upon civil rights, civil liberties and working to make sure we do everything from extend the voting rights act to make sure that we have a death penalty procedures act to make sure we provide opportunity for everybody. So I hope you take a look. The American people are ready for change folks. They are ready for change, pragmatic simple straight forward solutions but it requires action from the day we get sworn in.

RS: (42:36) Thank you Senator. Let's go next to Senator Boraca Obama.

BO: (42:41) I am running for president because of what Dr. King called the fierce urgency of now. We have urgent problems but we've seen an administration that is adrift and the American people understand this urgency but they haven't had the leadership to bring people together, overcome the special interests that are dominating Washington and speak honestly about how we are going to solve these problems. Now I don't want to wake up four years from now and find out that we got millions more young African American, Latino youth who are in prison as opposed to going to college. I don't want to wake up and find out that we've got millions more Americans without health insurance. I don't want to find out that we have not made more progress in making sure that working Americans have a job that pays a living wage and can retire with dignity and with respect. I am standing here because somebody somewhere at some point in time stood up when it was risky, stood up when it was hard, stood up when it wasn't popular. We have to stand up on behalf of future generations and if you and I join me I promise you we can change America.

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RS: (43:58) Thank you Senator Obama. Let's go next to Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut. Senator Dodd.

SD: (44:07) Well first of all thank all of you for inviting us to be a part of this evening. In 33 days this state is going to make a very important decision. The first state in the country that will begin the selection process. You need to make a decision about which of us up here can win an election. First and foremost. Who can not only bring democrats but independents and republicans who seek change to support our ticket. It is not a foregone conclusion that any democrat we nominate will win the election next fall. We need to win that election. We need to make sure that our nominee has the ability to reach out and draw a broad section of our country to support our ideas and policies. And then to carry that forward. I know that people that talk about turning up the heat or rallying people or firing people up. We've got to tone things down a bit in my view in this country here. We need to understand that we've got to come together as a people here. We need to elect a president that has the proven ability to bring people together to make a difference for our country. So what I've done for a quarter of a century when I started the children's caucus. When I wrote the family of medical leave act. When I did the first childcare legislation on autism, premature births, infant screening, headstart. I brought democrats and republicans to make those changes in our country. That's what this country wants desperately. They're tired of the fighting. They want a nation once again work together to produce the results for our country. It begins in Iowa in 33 days. You have the responsibility now of choosing to send us out further in these other contests to make our case and then to win this election not on behalf of our party our individual candidacies. We are all at risk here and it our joint

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task as a generation to make a difference for country in the world in which we live. And I think you for the opportunity to make my case. Thank you.

RS: (46:06) Senator Clinton.

HC: (46:08) Well I'm running for president to continue the work that I've done for 35 years. Work that is incredibly important to me that I've seen literally transform lives from my work with the children's defense fund to chairing the legal services corporation, to fighting for change in Arkansas for better education and health care to helping to create the state children's health insurance program to insure 6 million children in our country to working in a bipartisan manner in the senate to really solve what should be nonpartisan American problems. We have a lot of work to do. And whoever holds up his or her hand to take the oath of office on January 20th 2009 will have to begin immediately to repair the damage that has been done by the Bush/Cheney administration but more importantly to restore pride in our country again. To begin to do the hard work of making sure every American has health care, to having an energy policy that will put millions of Americans to work with green power jobs and a lot of those necks in those colors are going to be black and brown. To having an education system that works for everyone from pre-kindergarten to college affordability. To once again send out a message around the world that American values will be respected not only around the world but here at home. I'm running for president to make it clear that we will make progress together and I hope that I can earn your support for the Iowa caucuses because that's where the road to the White House starts. Thank you all very much.

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RS: (47:58) I'd like to thank this large and enthusiastic audience who came to North High School in Des Moines tonight. They were terrific and right with it and paying attention to every answer. It's great to have you with us tonight. Thanks to all the candidates for being with us in Des Moines as well.

MN: (48:13) And thanks also to Wayne Ford and Mary Campos the founders of the Iowa Brown and Black debate. Stay with us. Coverage will continue. Special coverage with Dan Rather.

RS: (48:26) And for Michelle Norris I am Ray Suarez. Thanks for being with us. Goodnight.

DR: (48:37) So the crowd in the high school auditorium begins to file out. Some sort towards the stage where the candidates are taking off their microphones and in some cases saying goodnight to one another. As your reporters think about this particular forum and keep in mind not a debate they were honest enough and candid enough to call it a forum and not a debate. There were some moments of substance. Some minutes of substance. Some things were discussed that had not been discussed or at least not discussed at the length they were here tonight such as should the United States continue its blockage of Cuba, particularly as long as Fidel Castro is still alive and influential there. A number of subjects were touched on having to deal with racial justice in the United States. One of the hopes of the founders and sponsors of this Brown and Black Debate was realized as there was a good deal of discussion about such things as education, immigration. Immigration got a fair amount of time. But I think it's also fair to say that were as it become all too common in these affairs a good deal of side stepping and doing what's known in the political factor as the old side

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shuffle. With that comes to mind that George Washington it was said could jump 23 feet, which was a record in those days and today we do have politicians who can sidestep a lot farther than that. Keeping in mind that it take a lot to put your name out there running for president of the United States but again it needs to be underscored that no matter what the forum is, no matter what you call it, that the candidates have the opportunity and they take advantage of the opportunity to sidestep quite a bit and there was no shortage of that here tonight. Now we've pulled out few not necessarily the highlights of this forum but a few so lets take a look. First there was an interesting exchange between New Mexico's Governor Richardson and Senator Clinton. So let's put that up for you first have a look and listen.

GR: (50:56) I'd like to ask Senator Clinton a question. Like me her husband, President Clinton was a CEO. And was a successful CEO and was a successful president. He balanced the budget like I did in New Mexico. He created new jobs and my question to Senator Clinton is don't you think that Governors make good presidents? And I'd like to yield to the rest of my time to supplement your answer.

HC: (51:45) Well Bill I think they also make good vice presidents.

DR: (51:55) Pretty good thrust and _____ there and some humor which is always in short supply with these forums. There also was the moment that the audience seemed particularly riveted on when Former Senator from North Carolina John Edwards talked about progress in his lifetime on race relations. Take a listen to this.

JE: (52:15) I think that if you grew up the way I did and you've described it very well I grew up in the 50s and 60s in the south in South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina and

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I grew up in the segregated south. I saw up close, up close what it means to have overt discrimination. I saw how African Americans including my friends were treated. We have made progress but we have much progress left to make and the extraordinary inequality that we have been discussing here tonight whether it's education inequality, healthcare inequality, income inequality, asset inequality, across that entire waterfront if you are African American in this country today you are much more likely to have healthcare problems, to not have healthcare coverage, to not have 10% of the assets as Ray mentioned a few minutes ago that white families. So have we made progress yes we have made progress but we have a long march in front of us. To create the equality of that Dr. King spoke about.

DR: (53:23) John Edwards. Then there was the moment when Barack Obama talked about making comebacks.

BO: (53:29) Well nationally Senator Clinton I think is very well known and for wonderful public service that she has rendered as well as her husband and African American voters are like any other voters. Which is that until they get to know you and your track record they are going to be asking questions. They are not sure. And so in the state of Illinois up until a month before I ran for the United States Senate we had a third of the African American vote. We ended with 92% because people started finding out this is somebody who has worked for racial profiling legislation. This is somebody who has helped to bring an end to wrongful convictions in death penalty cases. This is somebody who has expanded healthcare for people who didn't have it. So my job is to get known in this race. But understand this African American voters, Latino voters, women voters, what they are really concerned about is not identify issues or symbolism

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they are trying to figure who's going to help make sure they can pay the rent, who is going to make that they don't lose their house, who is going to make sure that they can send their children to college. And I believe I can bring the country together, overcome the special interests, stand up for what's right in order to make that happen and you know are pretty well in Iowa so far. Where people are getting to know that record.

DR: (54:43) Boraca Obama from the just completed Brown and Black Forum for presidential candidates all democrats since the republicans declined to appear here in Des Moines. Now joining me on the set just outside the auditorium where the forum took place is Mary Campos one of the two founders of this Brown and Black Forum and my first question to you Mary is that did this meet your expectations? Or not?

MC: (55:19) Well I would say it did. I would say it did. Certainly.

DR: (55:25) Very good. Now so far as I know you and Wayne the co-sponsors of this have not announced the support for any candidates. Do you have a candidate?

MC: (55:36) I'm still thinking. I'm still thinking it over. I think that it was said that we have group that's tom terrific candidates and I think in each one I can find something that I admire and that I honestly believe that they can deliver. I think that the things that were said tonight are things that are going to help us win this election and I'm going to think about it and possibly by the caucuses I'll be sitting with where I want to be.

DR: (56:08) As you look at the field here what issue given what was transpired here tonight what issue still does not get as much focus, as much attention as you think it should.

MC: (56:23) Probably I think that one of the things that we just assume that we are going to do is to be sure that we have a working community. We have _____ jobs.

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Jobs and we have to encourage our young people to stay in school so that they can become qualified. We've already talked about it and acknowledged the lack of doctors and nurses and scientists. You know I thought we need to do this thing. And so I'm just hoping that we will get one ok.

DR: (56:54) Mary Campos thanks for being with us. So this Brown and Black Forum for presidential candidates comes to a close. We want to thank the fine folks with the Brown and Black Forum for tonight's event and my colleagues tonight Ray Suarez and Michelle Norris. As you think about what happened here this evening you may want to keep in mind something your reporters learned over a lifetime of covering political campaigns which is overnight is a long time in politics. A week is forever. And in this presidential nomination race, the first in the nation Iowa caucuses are still a month away. Not a single vote has been counted anywhere for any presidential candidate, democrat or republican. So let's be clear. Iowa remains a wide open particularly volatile race in both parties polling spin and media reports tend to emphasize the horse race aspects of the campaigns focusing on guesses and that's all they are guesses about who's up and who's down. Who appears to be winning and who's losing at any particular moment. This is at the expense of covering where the candidates actually stand on issues and what they might or might not do if elected about the economy, healthcare, Iraq, Afghanistan, Iran, China, racial justice and a long list of other important items. If character and stands on the issues as opposed to personality money and media savvy and manipulation are to be decisive in choosing the next president of our beloved country it is up to you Mr. and Ms. Citizen to make them so. From Des Moines Iowa for HDNet I'm Dan Rather. Good night.