**Transcription of the 11th Annual Eugene J. McCarthy Lecture with Gov. Jeb Bush**

President Hemesath:

Good evening. My name is Michael Hemesath and I am the president of Saint John’s University and I am honored to be here with you this evening for the 11th annual Eugene McCarthy Lecture. Before I tell you about our guests, it’s incumbent upon me as president of Saint John’s to do something important. If you look behind you, the honeycomb architecture of the Abbey church, of the abbey and university church appears to have purple lights, and it’s just, it’s very important for me to just be clear that those purple lights, much as we love our rivals down on Summit Avenue, those purple lights have nothing to do with the University of Saint Thomas. \***audience applause\*** What those purple lights symbolize is something that we’re going to be accomplishing this evening. It is red and blue coming together and able to have a civil discourse about issues of politics and policy, something that is very important in this country and we have not managed to have those kinds of conversations as well as we should have in the last years. Saint Johns is a place where those conversations take place and we are delighted to have one of those conversations taking place this evening. I want to extend a warm Saint John’s welcome to our featured speaker, former Florida governor and 2016 Republican presidential candidate, Jeb Bush, **\*audience applause\*** and his interviewer, award winning Minnesota Public Radio journalist, and Saint John’s graduate, Gary Eichten. **\*audience applause\*** We’re very grateful to be hosting this event in this beautiful and sacred space, the Saint John’s Abbey and University Church. We’re also honored to have with us this evening Senator McCarthy’s son, Michael McCarthy and his niece Marybeth McCarthy Yarrow,who’s joining us this evening from Florida and from Michi- er, from Washington. And also this evening with us are former Minnesota Senator and Saint John’s graduate Dave Durenburger. **\*audience applause\*** The College of Saint Benedict President, Mary Dana Hinton, **\*audience applause\*** and former member of the US House of Representatives and current University of North Dakota President and Saint John’s alumn, Mark Kennedy and his wife Debbie. **\*audience applause\*** And finally a heartfelt thanks to Saint John’s board of trustees member Steve Halverson for his instrumental role in bringing his friend Governor Bush to our campus. **\*audience applause\*** And also in absentia, a special thanks to Dan and Katharine Whalen for the endowment that created the Eugene J. McCarthy Center at Saint John’s. **\*audience applause\*** Conscience and courage in public life were hallmarks of Eugene McCarthy and Saint John’s was always in his blood. He graduated from Saint John’s at the age of 19 with top academic honors while also excelling in baseball and hockey. Gene inspired countless students here on our campus and he was even a member of the monastic community for a brief period of time. And although Eugene’s life took him far from Minnesota and led him to a professional life in Washington D.C. in Congress and a run for the presidency, he never left this place. And tonight we celebrate those McCarthy values of conscience and courage in everyday life. Thank you once again to Governor Bush and to our guest interviewer Gary Eichten as they strive to contribute to civil public discourse and the common good. And now I’d like to introduce my colleague, Matt Lindstrom, the Edward L. Henry Professor of Political Science and the Director of the McCarthy Center. **\*audience applause\***

**Matt Lindstrom:**

Thank you President Hemesath and welcome to tonight’s exciting program. What a great crowd! Beautiful lighting Adam, as well. It’s a big honor to lead the McCarthy center into our second decade of existence. Last year we celebrate the Center’s 10th year and Gene McCarthy’s 100th birthday, highlighted, in fact, by congressional law to name the Collegeville post office over here after Senator McCarthy. For students out here the McCarthy Center provides numerous opportunities for you to learn through our events on and off campus, through our study tours, including, in fact, one to New York city this May, as well as our mentor program, and if you’re really lucky you could get paired up with Gary Eichten here, Minnesota Public Radio. As our country and world evolve from the 2016 presidential election, issues related to civility, inclusiveness, ethics, and equity continue to challenge us all here at Saint Ben’s and Saint John’s as well as across the country. This lecture series has the theme of conscience and courage in public life. We all have the power to act, to be civil- civically engaged, and to burst out of our bubbles in order to build empathy as well as understanding. Like Senator Eugene McCarthy’s life-long ettherts-efforts to challenge the status quo, Governor Jeb Bush’s public service in Florida as well as around the country push the bar of excellence to new levels. Jeb Bush is never afraid to ask the question, *Why not?* and then push for new ways of doing things. From education to health care reform, to a comprehensive plan to protect the everglades, Governor Bush has developed bipartisan support for innovative solutions for vexing policy problems. And in the Benediction spirit, he listens first and leads with grace and humility. So Governor Bush, we are thrilled you are here and welcome to Saint John’s and Saint Ben’s. **\*audience applause\*** I also would like to extend my deep appreciation to our good friend Gary Eichten for his participation in tonight’s events. A trailblazer himself, I know all of us appreciate Gary’s exemplary service to Minnesota Public Radio and our community at Saint Ben’s/Saint John’s. Students out there, keep in mind we have an Eichten fellowship program available to all student at Saint Ben’s/Saint John’s, which gives you an opportunity to work at Minnesota Public Radio, so watch out for those emails inviting you to apply. And students, as I mentioned, if you’re interested in the mentor program you might have the opportunity to pair up with this guy here, as was Kathryn Hockman, who is our student who will introduce our distinguished guest. Kathryn was in fact paired up with Mr. Eichten. She is a senior political science major and communication minor. She’s been involved with the McCarthy Center since day one. She plays a critical role in our social media and just about everything else with the center. She’s a stellar student, she studied abroad in South Africa, she’s involved in the women’s choir, she’s involved in the crew, and just about everything else as well. I’m not sure how she does it, but she does a really good job and I appreciate your involvement with the McCarthy Center, Kathryn. And I’d like to, Help me welcome Kathryn to the stage **\*audience applause\*** Thank you Kathryn.

**Kathryn Hockman:**

Thank you professor Lindstrom. It is an honor to introduce two exemplary individuals, both with unique careers and public service. The first, Gary Eichten, has served as my McCarthy Center mentor, which has been a wonderful experience. A graduate of Saint John’s University, Gary is a well-known figure in Minnesota. His voice became a staple in Minnesotan households for over 30 years, offering wit and insight every morning as the host of MPR’s midday program. His distinguished career in the world of journalism started when Eichten was an undergrad at Saint John’s University. He served as a student announcer for KSJR, a radio station started in Collegeville in 1967. This unassuming station grew into Minnesota Public Radio and served as a forerunner for National Public Radio. His career in journalism is filled with accolades. From being awarded the 2011 Graven award, recognizing his significant contributions to the field, along with helping develop two Peabody award-winning documentaries. Eichten’s non-confrontational, unbiased approach to reporting makes him a stand out figure in this era of journalism. Please join me in welcoming Gary Eichten to our stage tonight. **\*Applause\*** It gives me great pleasure to introduce our eleventh annual Eugene J McCarthy Center lecturer Governor Jeb Bush. Governor Bush graduated from the University of Texas at Austin. After graduation, he started a real estate development company, **\*laughter on stage\*** which grew into one of the largest commercial real estate companies in south Florida. From 1987 to 1988, Governor Bush served as Florida’s secretary of commerce. In 1989, Bush served as the campaign Manager of Alana Ross Lutenen, the first Cuban-American to be elected to congress. Governor Bush was elected the 43rd governor of Florida on November 3rd 1998, and remains one of the only Republican governors reelected for a second term in the state’s history. Throughout his terms as governor, Bush pushed for education reform in Florida’s school system. This passion inspired Governor Bush to develop several non-profits focusing on education, including the Foundation for Florida’s Future and the Foundations for Excellence in education. As you also may know, in 2016, Governor Bush ran for the Republican nomination of President. Governor Bush’s dedication to serving the public and assisting working class Americans exemplifies the values held by Eugene J. McCarthy. Governor Bush’s career and public service serves as an inspiration not only for future policy makers, but for the students here at the College of St. Benedicts and St. John’s University. Ladies and Gentleman, please join me in welcoming Governor Jeb Bush. **\*applause\***

**Jeb Bush:**

Thank you, thank you.

**Gary Eichten:**

Well thank you , thank you Katherine. You done good. You done good. Good evening, I’m Gary Eichten. My great honor to introduce Governor Jeb Bush, a former governor of Florida and former Republican candidate for president. Governor Bush is-

**Jeb Bush:**

They might not have remembered that; that didn’t last very long. **\*laughter\***

**Gary Eichten:**

It was memorable, though, Governor. **\*Laughter\***

**Jeb Bush**:

That’s what my wife says. **\*Laughter\***

**Gary Eichten:**

Governor’s been busy, traveling the country, talking about the big issue facing America: education, immigration, race relations, the economy, health care, President Trump. So, a let’s get started. Lots of ground to cover. Governor, thanks for being here.

**Jeb Bush:**

Thank you Gary.

**Gary Eichten:**

Big, big turnout for you.

**Jeb Bush:**

Good to be here. I had a spent the day, the afternoon touring the campus. I don’t know what is better, the football team and the stadium or the a incredible bible that is going to be shown to the world in the next couple weeks, or the kiln a with world class pottery, I don’t know or the students, I don’t know. **\*Laughter\*** Maybe the president? It’s like tied for 5th the five incredible things that I have enjoyed by being here and it’s a joy to be with you all as well.

**Gary Eichten:**

Well, I do want to focus on a leadership, and a public service and the rest, but a couple of quick questions before we get started. What’s the a situation in Florida right now, your hometown, Miami?

**Jeb Bush:**

Miami is doing alright. A, We had, I think we had 7 million homes without power um when the storm went through. Steve lives in Jacksonville, and I don’t think people up there expected a the storm surge to a flood you know downtown Jacksonville with eight feet of water. Um, it hit the whole peninsula, so it was devastating in that regard, but we, we were blessed. We didn’t get hit by a in Miami we didn’t get by, the um we had flurries of hurricane force winds. Um, Florida is pretty good at this though, Gary. We, we’ve had our fair share. I had 8 hurricanes and 4 tropical storms in 16 months and the citizens of the state and the local and state officials really got good at preparing and recovering quickly and that’s what they’re doing now. So, Governor Scott has done a good job, a FEMA has done a good job. FEMA wasn’t as good, um, they what FEMA the President Obama did some good things and some bad things I would say as President. The best thing he did was hire Craig Fugate, who was my emergency operations center guy. For 8 years he served as FEMA and he reformed it dramatically, and they’ve been responsive so I’m, I’m confident that Florida will get back on its feet. Less confident about Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands, and the Caribbean Islands. I worry about, my, my wife’s from Mexico, I worry about the earthquake there. There’s, we’ve had a run of natural disasters that are pretty devastating. Harvey did the same thing in Texas, so if you’re in the praying mood, uh pray for the people that are suffering from these disasters and hope that they recover quickly.

**Gary Eichten:**

There’s a theory as you well know, Governor, that the uh rash of serious, severe weather events is the result of climate change. Do you buy that?

**Jeb Bush:**

No. I don’t buy it. I mean, we had 10 years, we had 8 hurricanes and 4 tropical storms 10 years ago, ugh and then we didn’t have a storm ‘til a that brushed our state last year, and then Irma hit it. A, what I would say is that the severity of these storms may be, may be worse, a given the a water temperatures in the Gulf and then the Atlantic Ocean being hotter, that does bring more powerful storms. But, the, a, the number of storms isn’t a, there’s no, there’s no actual direct proof that it’s because of climate change. One of the problems is people like living in paradise. We have 1,000 people a day moving into our state and generally people like to live on the coast. So, the impact of these storms has, impacts a broader number of people for sure. Houston is the fastest growing city in the United States. They have a great business climate, a lots of high wage jobs, and so a, this impact is now impacting broader, larger numbers of people as well, so um. What we, what we should do, though, rather than getting into debate about, politicizing hurricanes because that’s the last thing people really want to hear about when they don’t have power and don’t have water and lost their jobs, what we ought to do is plan for the long-term things. Assume for a moment that a the climate is changing, which it is, then put in place local mitigation plans to deal with this over a long-term basis. So, Houston, the Gulf Coast area of Texas, has something like, if you take Louisiana and Texas it’s two-thirds of the refining capacity of the United States. It’s an economic security issue, but they’ve, they keep rebuilding in flood zones and surprise that there’re floods. Maybe they need to invest in long-term mitigation to deal with a with dealing with that. Similarly in Florida, the, the tides are rising moderately but that has an impact on our, on our state for sure. We need to begin to change our land use planning, and um how we deal with growth management. In a fast growing state, we can’t just keep doing the same thing given the, the changing nature of the climate.

**Gary Eichten:**

Let’s move on to uh President Donald Trump. A, you predicted

**Jeb Bush:**

Why? Why? What’s the point? I mean \***Laughter\*** He’s so, he’s so **\*applause\*,** no, I wasn’t making that point, I was, he’s so uninteresting. He’s never in the news, never says anything, why would you want to talk about him? **\*Laughter\***

**Gary Eichten:**

You predicted that, a, he was going to be a chaos president

**Jeb Bush:**

We’re gonna talk about him anyway.

**Gary Eichten:**

A, is he?

**Jeb Bush:**

He’s chaotic, for damn sure, yeah. **\*Laughter\*** Yeah, no, it’s um it’s either a strategy or it’s his character. One way or the other, it’s, it’s a increasingly about him, or consistently about him. And uh, it makes it harder to achieve the things that I’m sure he and his team want to achieve. You can’t, leadership’s not about creating chaos around you so that everybody’s speculating about what you say and why you say it. It’s about developing strategies and bringing people towards those strategies to accomplish things. And in the case of Washington, our democracy requires a bipartisanship, and it also requires leadership to bring order to a rambunctious Republican Party as well. And the President, um, when it’s all about him, and the chaos he brings with him, is not helping his cause.

**Gary Eichten:**

Should we be encouraged by his willingness to talk with the Democrats about, you know, some substantial issues - government shutdown, hurricane relief,

**Jeb Bush:**

Yeah, no, I think

**Gary Eichten:**

That kind of thing. Is that good or?

**Jeb Bush:**

I guess I’m old school. I don’t think that’s a bad thing at all, um. I, **\*chuckles\*** I, all of a sudden they’re, uh, Chuck and, Chuck and Nancy all of a sudden, and it’s like uh **\*Laughter\*** Uh, it’s kinda funny how uh they were demonized the day before and now they’re best buddies, but. Look, anything we can do to get to substantial, I mean, the problem in Washington is even when people agree, they can’t, get to, you know, get to yes, and get to a conclusion. And that, the founders envisioned a, they created a system designed around divided government, and the friction between the executive and the legislative and the judiciary and in between, and the legislature, you know, in the Congress, there’s, there’s a natural friction that was designed by our founders and it requires a commitment to compromise, to build consensus, and to forge, forge uh agreements to get to yes. And right now, that muscle is atrophied beyond belief. It is, it is gone. Can I give you an example of it?

**Gary Eichten:**

Sure.

**Jeb Bush:**

It’s a nerdy subject, but an important one. About four years ago, um, the scandal of the Veteran’s Administration first came out. Scandalous beyond belief of people that died on waiting lists and people were bonused because they got rid of the waiting list by not giving care. They just, they just got rid of the waiting list and 130 million dollars of bonuses went out to these career civil service a people that have lifetime protection and employment. So the congress got, you know, legitimately angry. The House passed a bill. The Senate passed a bill. John McCain was the, was the committee chair. Bernie Sanders was the a ranking member. In the House it was Jeff Miller and a Democrat. And they go to conference. It’s kind of, this is like, you know, how a bill was made. It’s like third grade Sesame Street things.

**Gary Eichten**:

Mmhmm.

**Jeb Brush**:

This is. So they go to conference. And McCain tells me this story, that the other three members start arguing, undoing where they had already agreed. Which, Senator, tell me if I’m wrong, but you’re supposed to put those aside if you’ve already agreed, you’re supposed to put those aside and focus on the four or five things that you don’t agree on and reach compromise and consensus and go forward. So McCain, who’s kind of a cantankerous soul, got angry and started shouting profanities I think and said, “I’m going on the floor of the Senate and I’m gonna call all you guys out because you don’t know what you’re doing!” And then it dawned on him, he tell me this story, that they had never been to conference committee before.

**Gary Eichten**:

They didn’t know how it worked?

**Jeb Bush**:

They didn’t know how it worked. So you have members of the legislature that have been elected since 2008 or 2006 when the gridlock started in the dramatic faction, fashion that it is, that have never actually seen how our democracy is supposed to work. They’re armed camps. They’re tribes, two tribes, maybe six tribes the Republican party, two or three in the Democratic party. They’re all in their little, little, you know, niches, and they don’t know how it works. So we’ve got a long way to go to get to where we need to be. And you would want a president to understand that and to try to begin to, to move back to how regular order of business is supposed to be taken place. We’re the greatest country on the face of the earth. And our democracy, it’s not, look, think about it. We’ve had a pretty good ride. Two hundred and what, forty years of existence. This, this massive gridlock, you could count maybe two decades worth of massive gridlock in our countries history, you count the civil war, you count what’s going on now, a few other times in our history, but most of the time, we’ve had leaders that have been able to forge consensus and I think it’s incumbent upon us as citizens of this country to demand it again. It happens in the state capitals. It should happen in Washington.

**Gary Eichten**:

Let me ask you this, a kind of moral, ethical question. So you’re a member of Congress today and you’re really unhappy with President Trump. Really unhappy. You find him, the things he says and does just morally…

**Jeb Bush:**

Yeah

**Gary Eichten**:

Just bad. Okay. He comes out with a program that is, public policy wise, pretty good.

**Jeb Bush:**

Yeah.

**Gary Eichten:**

Do you support him-

**Jeb Bush:**

Yes!

**Gary Eichten:**

Or do you stand and say, “By golly, we, I can’t, I can’t stand with you.”

**Jeb Bush:**

Just, my advice is get some therapy on the Trump derangement syndrome part of this where you’re like freakin’ out because it’s Donald Trump and because that plays, that’s, that’s where he gets his energy. Everybody, you know, yelling and screaming about the outrageous things that he does or says, cause he does far less than what he says. Uh, in terms of the outrageousness, he says outrageous things, but his actual, you know, it’s emerging that the policies are a little more orthodox than, he’s not draining the swamp for sure and the tax reform issues, the foreign policy issues are more mainstream than, than, than, I’m not saying what he says, there are emerging as more mainstream. So, yes, if you, if you don’t like him put that aside, get your therapy there, take care of whatever it is, you know…like it’s nuts. I have to get therapy on airplanes now and I’m not a big Trump fan as you can tell, but you know take a chill pill and when you have an agreement with him, or or anybody else in Washington, it’s not just president Trump, if you have an agreement, shake a hand and do the deal for crying out loud. I mean, what’s wrong with that? That’s the way it is supposed to work, and you’re not violating your principles when you find a way to find common ground with someone who may not agree with you on ninety percent of things, but on that one thing they do. So, DACA, would be a good example. The so-called dreamers, have many of them have been in the country since they were four or five, some fifteen years old, there is eight hundred thousand of them, they came here illegally, but they came through no fault of their own. They came with their parents. They have no nexus to their former country. Many of them don’t even speak the language. Uh, they’ve made their mark in our country. Seventy percent of Americans believe that they should be given legal status, most believe they should be given citizenship, a majority of Republicans believe that that’s the case. For cryin- the president believes that, that’s the case now. He’s had a nice change towards, umm, towards the right direction. A, Chuck and Nancy believe it and Speaker Ryan and McConnell believe it, for cryin-So, here’s an example, everybody agrees and that should be done in a week, literally. It’s not the most complicated thing in the world, but because everybody’s on guard, everybody’s worried about getting primaried, everybody’s worried about their own interests; we’ve, we’ve lost this ability to forge the kind of consensus on the easy things to get done. I mean, there are a lot of tough things where there’s big disagreements. We have to get the easy things done first so that the atrophy and that, and that consensus muscle begins to be built up again.

**Gary Eichten:**

Now you have said you are not interested in running for president again, right?

**Jeb Bush:**

I had a blast doing it, butumm, **\*laugher\*** it was, it was an incredible experience. I promise you, it was, umm, it was an experience of a lifetime, but, a, I-I kinda feel, I don’t feel functional obsolescence, but, um, what I believe that needs to be done and how you go about doing it, I feel a little out of place a running for president. Where you have to do things that appears, I don’t know,

**Gary Eichten:**

Well, let me ask you-

**Jeb Bush:**

Put me aside for a moment because it’s not about me, look, I am 64, I gave it my best shot. There is, there’s a whole new generation of conservative leaders that I think will emerge going forward.

**Gary Eichten:**

Let me, let me ask you this question, let’s assume that you did get elected, how, setting aside the stylistic stuff and the bombast and all that, setting that aside. How would a President Bush differ from President Trump?

**Jeb Bush:**

\***Laughter\*** Come on, come on, I mean really, ah, I would hope that I would a, be more humble-

**Gary Eichten:**

**-**But in terms of policies and stuff like that

**Jeb Bush:**

No, there is a question of leadership first and foremost. Look, ideology matters, I’m, I’m a, you know, I got to execute on timeless principles that I truly believe in which are about entrepreneurial capitalism, limited government, I’m, I’m a conservative on moral issues., I was a conservative and I, and I, it was a joy to be able to act on my core beliefs. And whenever I had a chance to do it, I did it, and I did it with gusto, I did it with as much energy as possible, um, but, this is not just about ideology, it’s about leadership as well. And leaders have to be humble in complex times. It’s not all about them. So the first step, that a, in a very hyper-partisan environment, President Obama could have been, I think in many ways, could have been a transcendent president. Had he recognized that he could have changed the climate, but he, he got frustrated, he doubled down on his team, he jammed down Obamacare, Dodd-Frank down the throat, he used executive powers without going to Congress, some of which he didn’t have the authority to do, some of which he did. He, he, he made the situation, that was getting worse, even worse and President Trump has not tried to change that to any significant degree. So, the first step is to listen to what the other side has to say, have the humility to say, look I’ve got my deeply held views, but that doesn’t mean I disrespect you for having deeply held views that disagree with me. Umm, build consensus from outside, from, you know, from outside in. From down up, rather than trying to do it the way that it’s been going on now, which is the exact opposite. It’s, it’s, you know, up, down and I’m, powers in Washington out. We need to get back to what America does really well. We are a bottom up country. And, so, listening and having the skills to make this happen, there have been extraordinary presidents in our history, if you think about it that, were flawed and we’re all imperfect under God’s watchful eye, right? I mean, that’s the nature of, that’s the one thing we all have in common, is that we are imperfect. Think of Lyndon Johnson, have you read Caro’s book, Caro’s book on Johnson? The last volume.

**Gary Eichten:**

Parts of it. Yes, uh huh.

**Jeb Bush:**

Phenomenal book, for the six weeks or seven weeks after the assassination of John F. Kennedy, Vice President, then President a Johnson got the Kennedy tax cuts passed. I always call them the Kennedy tax cuts, cause’ as a conservative we always threw that in the face of the liberals saying, ‘well your guy –you know- was for the twenty-five percent across the board cut in taxes.’ That was Lyndon Johnson that got that passed. He created a budget that was for the first time since WWII had a dollar for dollar reduction. Not because he wanted it, because he was setting the stage for the most meaningful civil rights legislation passed in this country’s history. He did all this with all in leadership, he was humble where it was appropriate, he was threatening when it was appropriate, he, he didn’t let people up for air when it was appropriate. But he made it his mission to get these things done in a very divided country at a time when um you know, we had just gone through the tragedy of the assassination of a president. Restoring that, maybe more difficult in this environment, but it, I think it is incumbent upon governors, mayor, and presidents particularly to try to create that climate where that can come back again.

**Gary Eichten**:

You, uh, of course ran in the 2016 campaign. We’re told the Russians were actively trying to influence that campaign. Do you get any sense of that? Do you think there was collusion between the Trump people and the Russians?

**Jeb Bush**: I don’t know, if they did it, they, they were pretty inept about it. Umm, Look, the net result of the election was that Hillary Clinton stopped going to the places where she needed to go to win. I mean, the simple fact is that she lost Wisconsin, uh Michigan, and Pennsylvania. Three states that republicans hadn’t won in a long, long while. And uh, she ran a, a campaign that uh, disaffected a lot of working class Democrats that had historically had voted for the Democratic nominee. Um, that’s the reality, I know that, that will upset Clinton’s supporters. But she ran a horrible campaign. I don’t think the collusion, if there was any, and we’ll find out soon I’m sure. That pales by comparison to the, to the ineptitude of the Clinton campaign.

**Gary Eichten**: North Korea, uh, what is a practical matter, uh can the US or anyone else do to uh stop the North Korean nuclear program?

**Jeb Bush**: Well I think there’s a lot of things we can do. This is the place where President Trump seems to be moving in the right direction. Again, rhetorically, I’m not sure calling the guy Rocket man, is going to like change the course of history. **\*laughter**\* Um, it’s a distraction from the seriousness of this. That’s like you know, people have always made of the presidents of North Korea, both his father, particularly, and he, uh the dictators. And we, we make light of them. But they are brutal dictators. People are starving to death. Uh, they’ll kill, you know, relatives, um, I’m sure we all have that secret desire, but in North Korea they actually act on it. **\*laughter\*** Uh, and they have built nuclear capability that is now reaching the point where they you could imagine in relatively short order they would have the capability of, of having the ballistic missile capability to launch a nuclear attack on US territory. So this is, and certainly, Japan and Korea. So this is serious business. And so belittling the guy is not really the answer but putting um tougher sanctions in place, putting pressure on China, all of these things are important. Russia can play a constructive role. The question is whether or not we should get out of the agreement. And you know, my uh, as a candidate I felt like that we should get out of the agreement. That it was poorly negotiated. All the benefits accrued to um, you know, nn, I’m talking about Iran, but the agreement as it relates to Iran and Korea. How we deal with them um, I’m beginning to believe we need to put increasing pressure um across the board. And be willing then to talk once there is, you know, a changing kind of direction. ‘Cause right now it looks like the North Koreans feel like they’re, they, they have the, the upper hand. Um, there are, there are sanctions that can be put in place with Chinese uh companies that are doing business in, in um, North Korea. Certainly, uh increase sanctions as it relates to uh, the import of oil, which has been, has been done by UN resolution now. Continuing that progress has to be part of this. And the cooperation between Iran and North Korea should give us some great concern as well. So, look. The president has, the good news is President Trump uh may say things that are kind of, seem out of the ordinary in the midst of a, of what is a, a looming crisis. But he’s got really good people around him dealing with this issue. Uh, Secretary Mattis and McMaster. I think Tillerson, all of these guys, uh, Nikki Haley has done a good job as UN ambassador. He has a talented foreign policy team that gives me some comfort.

**Gary Eichten**: He did go to the UN this week, though and say that he is prepared to totally destroy North Korea if they don’t toe the line.

**Jeb Bush:**

Yeah.

**Gary Eichten:**

Do you, uh Governor, just personally, do you ever go to bed thinking good Lord, we could end up in a nuclear war?

**Jeb Bush:** I hope not, uhh, you know the whole fifty years or sixty years of existence was we had a deterrent effect that avoided that conversation and talking loosely about this stuff does give me pause, does give me concern. Trump, when, in the campaign, in the debate, one of these debates. Someone asked, it was Hugh Hewitt, asked him about the Nuclear Triad. Who he’s, he’s, quite, uh, he’s pretty obsessive about the nuclear triad, Hugh Hewitt is. For good reason, it’s an important part of this deterrent. And it’s aging, and so he wanted to ask Trump this question. And Trump clearly had no clue what triad was and it- was kinda scary. Then his, uhh, Hope Hicks, came on the uhh next day and when asked about what President Trump mean by not having a real answer to this. And she said look, is what you need to know, is that he is prepared to use it. Wrong answer. I mean, the deterrent effect is not to use it, it’s not, not to be constantly threatening to use it. It’s to have the quiet strength and the diplomat-diplomacy to back it up to avoid these conversations. And, getting back in the game as it relates to uhh aggressive diplomacy, backed by economic sanctions. And having the military wherewithal as the last resort has got to be the policy.

**Gary Eichten:** Looks like the Senate will be voting on another, uh, healthcare bill next week.

**Jeb Bush:** Yup.

**Gary Eichten:** Another effort to repeal, uh, Obamacare. Uh, should the Senate and the House pass that legislation, or should the members of Congress try to work out something else?

**Jeb Bush:** Well they need to work out something else because Obamacare is not working. Um, I like the idea of shifting power away from Washington, wherever possible back to the states. Remember I was a Governor for eight years. We actually got a waiver, uh, from, on the Medicaid program in Florida that, the mother of all waivers, really, to recast our Medicaid program for, uh, Fort Lauderdale and Jacksonville; which would have been the 25th largest Medicaid program. It was a defined contribution plan, similar to the, to the, the uh, the Cassidy-Graham Bill, it, it created choice counselling for Medicaid beneficiaries, so they were making informed choices; they all had different choices, they weren’t assigned plans. Uhh if they made healthy lifestyle decisions, they were given $250 extra to be able to continue to make those healthy lifestyle decisions. They could take the premium, uh, that was, uh that was theirs for the Medicaid program and go to a private, to go to their employer and pay for the, pay, pay for their private plan. It was very innovative and it worked. And we reduced costs dramatically and we improved outcomes in the Medicaid beneficiaries based on the consumer surveys we did, believed it was a better deal. So why not try different things? I mean Florida would have an approach that might be different than Minnesota. Um, and California may go for a single payer system or a version of that, uh, which would be disastrous, but the federalist system should be allowed to, to thrive, I think, in this environment. Why do we always assume that Washington’s got it figured out. There’s no evidence they do. Why do we always default to them? I mean, is it, can you give me, other than, you know, defending our shores. They do a pretty good job of that. I think the military does a good job. Do you honestly think that, um, training programs designed in Washington are better than the bottom up training programs? Or child, uh, the child welfare system works better when it’s imposed by people in Washington? I, I, I think our country thrives when we embrace the federalist model. The Founders envisioned it that way, and I think we should go back to that.

**Gary Eichten:** But you know the CBO is, well, who knows what they’re really gonna say about this new bill, but, most likely will find that tens of millions of people will lose their insurance or be under insured…

**Jeb Bush:** Uhhhh no, no look.

**Gary Eichten:**...and then, uh, I mean, isn’t it better what we have now?

**Jeb Bush:** With all respect, no. No, I don’t think so. What… it was bad before, to be clear. Our insurance system was, was broken before Obamacare. Obamacare hasn’t made it necessarily better. It’s made it more costly. More people have insurance, but the people that are subsidizing the people that have gotten insurance, most of which are in Medicaid by the way, that will be block granted down, they’re, they’re, not gonna lose their, their, their, uh their insurance. The CBO is designed, for whatever, has a bias towards undercounting revenue and over counting spending in terms of projecting out. So I’m not, I wouldn’t fret as much about that. Uh. You have, and they do it on a baseline that’s not like a family budget. So the baseline for Medicaid is like this, kinda ‘bout an 8% run rate. Anything you do to cut the 8% to 6% or 5%, that’s a cut. Well bring that on in my family budget. I would love that. Uh if I could have , if, if cuts were cutting the growth in my spending by that kind of amount. But in Washington, that’s the way they operate. So, um the question is how much power do we want Washington DC to have and how much innovation do we need to make our healthcare delivery system work far better. And I would argue we need a lot less of Washington and a lot more innovation to take place. So I would be a supporter, as long as you have … the issue that needs to be clearly defined is the question of preexisting conditions. If you opt out of requiring preexisting conditions in your new insurance system, you better have a clear, clear, easy to understand alternative that makes it clear to families that they’re not going to, going to have access to care for people that have chronic illness. And I think this country oughta have the ability given our, given our prosperity, we’re not cutting any of the the existing budget by the way which is why conservatives are somewhat upset about this. This is you know the taxes and spending stay in place. I think a country as prosperous as ours can make that guarantee. That if someone is, has a uh genetic illness, a chronic illness that is no fault of their own that they’re gonna be taken care of.

**Gary Eichten:**

A couple of education questions here, been very active in in education reform. What do you mean when you talk about education reform? What, what, does that mean? Eliminate the public school system as we know it?

**Jeb Bush:**

No, no, no, man

**Gary Eichten:**

That’s, critics are always talking about that.

**Jeb Bush:**

Yeah, I know, I know, that is the old, that’s the new debate is that you demonize before you actually have a, a conversation. So um a system that was designed in the, you know, look we have, we have a… our school system’s designed on an industrial model. We have 32,000, excuse me, 13,000 school boards that that are government run monopolies, with an agricultural model as it relates to the number of days they spend because, you know, the children have to get out in the fields to harvest the crops, right? In Miami, that’s what we do. Uh, 180 days. And, um, it’s it’s not student centered. Time is the constant. Learning’s the variable. So if I, to simplify my passion for this is let’s turn that on its head. Learning should be the constant. God has given every child the ability to learn. They learn at different paces and different ways, but it’s there. Every child can learn. We cannot continue to excuse away the fact that so many children don’t. It’s not life circumstances that, that uh, that dictate someone’s destiny. If you had a quality education for every child irrespective of the level of their income, the color of their skin, whether they have a valet in their name, all that stuff ought to be cast aside and we should move to a student centered system. Where you learn at your own pace, but when you master the material you move on. But if you can’t master the material, we do something else to assure that you do. In Florida, we had a third of our kids in third grade that were functionally illiterate on our measurement. They were level one readers on our dreaded FCAT, the state test that gives kids acne and all sorts of uh contagious diseases apparently. But we measured it and a third of our kids were functionally illiterate the way I would define it. And we eliminated social promotion in third grade because if you if you can’t read by fourth grade the simple fact is those gaps grow and grow and we know what the pathologies that develop. The the the you’re not gonna graduate from high school, in many, you’re gonna, there’s a higher probability of incarceration, you’re not gonna have the skills necessary to live a purposeful life in the new economy that we’re moving towards. So we eliminated social promotion. It was a pretty radical idea. And in its place we said, “We’re gonna put reading coaches in every school to teach teachers how to teach reading because our schools of education don’t. We’re gonna embrace universal pre-k. First state I think to have voluntary universal pre-k for a half day program. We, we made reading our highest priority. We had summer schools for kids that were struggling. And we cut that, in one years time, we cut that in half. And Florida went from literally the bottom of the pack in the nation’s report card on fourth grade reading to 6 out of 50. And we have 56% of our kids are minority students and 57% are free and reduced lunch qualified. So I just reject the notion that the, the establishment in education you know constantly says, whispers sometimes, openly says it. It’s not fair to impose accountability on top of our systems because some kids just can’t do it. Well in Florida, we’ve proven them wrong. All kids can learn. Why don’t we just change the dynamic to be focused on them rather than the economic interests of the adults. I’ve kinda become a little radicalized about this because we don’t we shouldn’t have the, the complacency about this. Look I mean a third of our kids are truly college or career ready. And for those that are sitting in MN saying “Well wait not in MN, we’re you know, like yeah, we’re, we’re we’re great”. Well you’re pretty good. But so its 40%. Okay 40% of your kids are college and/or career ready after we spend more per student than any country in the world. Now how are we gonna, how’re we gonna compete in a world where education has a higher priority in many countries than what we have here in the United states. So I think there should be much more confrontation about the status quo and defending it against you know ch-challenging the status quo and trying to figure out a way to make this you know a left right coalition again where we depoliticize it and begin to dramatically challenge how we, how we move our education system into the 21st century.

**Gary Eichten:**

Question uh about higher ed. Uh and then uh I want to mix in some audience questions. Um how do you balance uh the uh the need for free speech on campus versus what some people would describe as hate speech on campus?

**Jeb Bush:**

Well, so I spoke at, I’ve had some experience with this. Um I taught a course at Harvard for a while, and I had no problems at all and I you know thought I was behind enemy lines a little bit. It was an away game at, at Harvard. Uh but never felt any pressure at all. I went to Cornell, not a problem. There’s like 1,000 people there. But the president of Cornell, or the provost, got up and and read this lengthy thing that was faculty driven that said you know we, we’re, we allow differing points of view. We allow guests to come to speak on campus, and uh but we also allow people to dissent. And I’m uh kinda elbowed the president as he’s going through this lengthy committee driven uh speech document and I go, “Does that mean I’m gonna get, you know, they’re gonna charge the podium here?” And he said, “Don’t worry, we got we got uh we got cops all around.” So that’s the last thing I heard before I went up to speak. Look I mean children, these, these aren’t children that are going to you know universities. These are these are emerging talented adults. They can they can take it when someone comes to their campus and speaks a view that is different than theirs, whether it is from the left or from the right. I mean I think we all need to put on our big boy pants and big girl pants and allow for freedom of expression much more than what appears. I mean people are tortured over this. Um, that’s what universities, that’s why they exist is to have the chance for people to learn new things and have different points of view. It’s why I like going on college campuses, but some of these campuses have totally lost their minds.

**Gary Eichten:**

Mhm

\*audience laughter\*

**Jeb Bush:**

Look at look, I mean look at the Berkeley thing. Ben Shapiro, you know, was called a Nazi. He’s Jewish for crying out loud. **\*laughter and applause\***I mean, it’s like, what’s up with this? This is the first Jewish Nazi I’ve, I’ve ever heard of. Um and he you know he didn’t support Trump. He’s a conservative. That’s not being a Nazi. He’s not a white supremist. Uh, They spent $700,000 to protect him when he spoke at Berkeley. And they created this environment that almost provoked the kind of controversy uh by being so defensive about about the case. He had spoken there apparently before without any problems at all. So, I think we just need to take it back to the chill pill. Maybe a couple of deep breaths on this particular subject would be good. And allow people to come that have different points of view.

**Gary:**

Some uh questions that were submitted earlier by uh by students on campus. Let’s start with this one. Uh, since you come from a noted family of politicians: your father, your brother, your so on…

**Jeb Bush:**

Son

**Gary Eicheten:**

Do uh did you think that you would have to go into politics just to uphold the family name or did you-

**Jeb Bush:**

That’s a good question

**Gary Eichten:**

…Uh uh, you know feel like you had to strike out on your own, carve your own path? How did, how did you deal with that?

**Jeb Bush:**

Yeah that’s a great question. Um my interest in politics started when the greatest man I’ll ever know in my entire life, my dad, ran for president. I was in Caracas, Venezuela and had never really focused on politics. I had a, I was 25 years old, I had two kids, uh my wife and I were there. And he, he said he was running for president. And my first question was president of what? You know,**\*audience laughter\*** I was like I was pretty busy focused on my own life. And I, I just felt a calling to give back to him. **50:47** It was payback time for me. I mean, this guy is like, and I’m gonna get emotional talking about it but he is truly uh if you had to pick and a mom too but if you had to pick a father to be the son of George H.W. Bush would be it. I mean he is just a person of incredible integrity: kind, gentle, treats everybody you know the way you would want, um Christ like in many ways. And uh hes… \*applause\* so what the heck. I just I told, I told Columba, we’re heading back. I’m gonna volunteer in the campaign. We didn’t have a lot of money, and so my first foray into politics was which was to be a surrogate and to be his travel aid in the 1980 campaign was not about politics. But then I kinda liked it, I don’t know, I just kind of overcame my fears. It’s a crazy deal. I mean there’s all sorts of weird things that go on in campaigns. That’s for sure. But um so I got involved when I moved to Miami and um had a chance to be secretary of commerce and saw the role of the governor. I never really wanted to do anything but that.

**Gary Eichten:**

Mhm

**Jeb Bush:**

Um governors are, it’s an extraordinary job. You can really craft, you can lead. You can it’s a great place. There’s lots of runway to establish priorities, bring people to the cause, develop strategies, execute on strategies, all the things that you would you know most people would enjoy doing that likes, that like to be in leadership roles. So, my um interest in politics was really driven by that.

**Gary Eichten:**

Could your dad or Ronald Reagan for that matter get elected today?

**Jeb Bush:**

You know, uh I’ve actually had an opinion about that and I might as well say it again because it’ll make news and everybody, the twitter feed will go crazy. No, and you know who else agrees with me is Michael Reagan. Uh my friend uh, he believes his dad would not be elected in the environment we’re on now. One of the greatest presidents of the 20th century if not the, in my mind. I mean he was extraordinary in every way. He would have a hard time winning. He wouldn’t be conservative enough, or he wouldn’t be this enough. He wouldn’t be that enough. He was too kind to people that didn’t agree. You know whatever there’s all sorts of reasons why in this environment he wouldn’t demonize you enough. I don’t know what the, it’s very different now.

**Gary Eichten:**

How can you give, how can society get back to a point where people like that would at least be considered? Whether you like that particular guy or not.

**Jeb Bush:**

So I will give you some tactical things that I think would be necessary and we all could play this, these are Jeb’s rules, that are rules that I hope you will adapt adopt as well. If you, you’re on one team or the other normally, you’re right down the middle I’m sure. You’re a purple guy politically after all the interviews you’ve done in life. But most people are on one team or the other and if you are critical of someone’s behavior or attitude or action on the other team and you’re critical and you’re openly critical and someone on your team does the exact same thing and you’re silent, shame on You! You should have the exact same attitude about being critical of the behavior irrespective of whether it’s a democrat or a republican, that would be one step. The second step is back to the DACA idea or any other idea where there is broad consensus, act on it. Get back to the business of actually doing smaller constructive important things and begin to realize that there is joy in accomplishing things rather than demonizing the other side. So uh finding those opportunities… Third, uh another tactic is what I call the Nixon and China moment. They’re all sorts of politics in policy World and there is all sorts of opportunities. We did a lot of big things which were very controversial and one of the ways we got through the controversy was finding people that didn’t look like me, didn’t agree with me on many other things, but agreed on that one thing and I put them as a partner in the effort. Uhm because it changes the context. So there is tactical things but the broader question uh relates to culture. The culture is different today. And I am not an expert on culture but ultimately, we have to look at ourselves in the mirror we’re 333 million of us. We create our culture, it’s not something that’s imposed on us, it’s how we interact with everybody else I think that would be the easiest way to describe culture and there has been, we’re different today. Yeah, we’re more polarized perhaps and the internet might have something to do with this. We customize how we acquire our news, makes us really righteous and we validate and I’m right again. Every time I read something that guy is brilliant he totally agrees with me and then also makes you all the research suggest it makes you less tolerant of other people’s view. So, that’s a cultural phenomenon that is, you know, it relates with the the massive change that relates to the internet that has changed political discourse in ways that is, you know,is phenomenal. So it’s going to require a lot of work but ultimately, look, we’ve had big cultural changes in our country… My email address by the way is [Jeb@jeb.org](mailto:Jeb@jeb.org) and this is really changes our culture so that politics begin to work. It’s really not going to change because politics begin to work. It’s us. We allowed this to happen and we have to change who we are in order for the political system to get back to how it has worked magnificently over most of the course of our history. The best example that I know of a change in culture is the Second Great Awakening in the19th century, I think in the 1820s, where Presbyterian ministers, on fire for the Lord, became evangelical and kind of put people back up and gave people more purpose in their lives sbout why family mattered and why debauchery was bad and not just brought a moral moral order back to the country that had lost it’s way after it had lost it’s way with massive west ward migration. But it also brought the abolitionist movement, and the women’s suffrage movement all emerged from this cultural phenomenon that, in this case, was religiously driven. I don’t know what the next big cultural change is. I do think that culture does not move linearly, that there are moments in time where there’s big, there’s a spark and new things emerge I’m hopeful that it would more positive than a negative thing for our country.

**Gary Eitchen:**

Uhm anotherrrr

**Jeb Bush:**

Do you think I am crazy about that by the way is that.

**Gary Eitchen:**

It sounds… It makes good sense actually.

**Jeb Bush:**

Ok good

**Gary Eitchen:**

I think. And with that and maybe a buck and a quarter, you can get a coke. **Laughter\***

**Jeb Bush:**

uh well maybe I’ll… uh I guess im ok with that

**Gary Eitchen:**

Ok, well here’s an audience question. Are there any policy areas that Congress could make bipartisan progress on or are we going to be stuck forever in gridlock?

**Jeb Bush:**

I think on technology questions there is bipartisanship, potential bipartisanship, to. We have all these rules around the old economy and we got a new economy that is dramatically different and we have emerging monopolies. That, that are not emerging. They’re there. And have as mmuch power as the great oligarchs of the 20th century and so I think there is an emerging consensus of hopefully not to kill the innovation that comes from these, this massive sea change, but to bring regulation to the 21st century. That would be a big deal. I mean, that would be, that’s a, that’s a important thing to do, given how important technology and innovation and the internet is in in our lives. Ummm, infrastructure would be, certainly would be a place where there’s bipartisan support. Theres gonna have to be a little give and a little take. Uh, I think we should leverage the federal dollars to include private dollars because I know for a fact there is literaly trillions of dollars globally that is prepared to be invested in long term infrastructure projects. Why wouldn’t we wanna leverage government monies with a. with uh these private sources that are looking for stable sources of return over the long long haul so um. Its gonna require some negotiating to get there but I don’t know anybody in this country that believes this level of infrastructure is adequate for long term sustained growth. You look at the flooding in Houston, and um, there homes and communities in the Houston area that have been flooded like three or four times in the last decade because they keep rebuilding them in the flood zone. Well, maybe you could save some money by investing in infrastructure to uh, protect those areas that need to be protected in a dramatically different way, and along the way, you know, protect a really viable um economic national security issue which is our refining complexes as well. Those long term infrastructure projects that exist all over the country, you could just envision a left-right coalition around repatriating profits to the tune of two trillion dollars cash sitting out overseas because we have this crazy worldwide taxation system, that, that uh, that creates incentives for businesses to keep their money overseas. You could repatriate that money with a one time tax, create a pool of money that could be leveraged with private capital, local and state capital, and eliminate some of the mind-numbing regulatory permitting that makes it impossible to build infrastructure in this country. Uh, and create 50 projects of national purpose. You would help the economy and you would modernize the infrastructure in this country. That would be an example of a left-right kind of coalition, and who knows, it could happen.

**Gary Eichten:**

um, lets see. Does the phrase “All is fair in love and war” also apply to politics?

**Jeb Bush:**

Yes, Yeah there is a lot of that \***Chuckle\***

**Gary Eichten**

Should it?

**Jeb Bush**

Well, look it’s a, it shouldn’t be to the extent, the demonization has probably gone too far, but we’ve had, hell, we’ve had politicians get killed, you know, so, uh, ask Alexander Hamilton how he feels about “All is fair in love and war” I mean there are examples of of club wielding congressmen beating the crap out of someone who didn’t agree with him on the floor of the House of Representatives, and we have examples of that now, uhh, exist as well. Look, in a perfect world, you would want it all to be totally civil, but life doesn’t work that way.

**Gary Eichten:**

Umm, is it possible for a politician who is focused on policy to get elected today or do you have to be a celebrity of some sort?

**Jeb Bush:**

Well um, anyone interested-

**Gary Eichten:**

Not to name names. \***Laughter\***

**Jeb Bush:**

-in my long winded policy papers, that I’m sure you all read with riveting excitement. **\*laughter\*** Um, uh I’m certainly not the example of a. Look, I take responsibility for my loss, um, but we did try to run a policy campaign and it failed miserably in the age of personality. At least this last election, it was a lot about personality, and it was a lot about anger, you know, you could either say understanding people’s anger or preying on their angst, one way or the other, the Republican nominee did an extraordinary job in doing that. And It changed the whole context of the campaign. So on the left you have similar kind of environment as well. So policy isn’t necessarily – I’ve always thought if you want to do big things you better say what you want to do when you run because it gives you the mandate to go do it. And that was my experience when I ran. Uh, it apply didn’t in 2016.

**Gary Eichten:**

Our program is title Conscience and Courage in Public Life, so how much courage should we expect from our public officials, and for that matter, how much honesty?

**Jeb Bush:**

Well, I think we need a lot more of both for sure. Look, its, the test of courage, there are simple tests for that. If you have a deeply held belief and it goes against what your constituency, or your base or name your political term, what they, they agree, but you’re prepared to stick with it and try to persuade them, that’s courageous. It’s not courageous to be, you know, changing your views with the wind, it’s standing on principle, whether you’re right or wrong you believe it with passion and conviction and it may not be popular, that we need more of. Because ultimately leadership is about persuading people, it’s not about mimicking them or mirroring them, it’s about convincing them. And if you can’t stand by what you believe how can you convince anybody? People lose confidence immediately. Honesty, uh, is harder to define I think a little bit. I mean people are called liars now with the drop of a hat when you might have a differing point of view. And one of the things that I think is important, that, that’s hard to do, is admit you’re wrong or change your mind. Those are actually two concepts that actually happen in life with great regularity. Uh, we make mistakes, and in real life, you know, you can say “man I screwed up that was a really dumb idea. I messed up. I apologize.” In politics you do that and the wrath of God comes down on you. And, or having a view that’s based on new information and you change your view then somehow you’ve lost your manhood if you’re a man or womanhood if you’re a woman, that’s wrong too. Because the world is changing at warp speed, and to assume that your view that you held in 1995 is relevant at all in 2017, think about it, the world is radically different and the new information that we have should inform the thinking going forward. So, we don’t have much tolerance for politicians that evolve on views based on new information and we certainly don’t give them a lot of rope, um, we don’t, you know, courage is not rewarded, best as I can tell. Uh, there’s greater down side to that short term basis. But, man, there’s a lot of other things you can do to serve, you can serve your Lord, you can serve your community, you can serve your family, you can serve in all sorts of ways. You don’t have to be a politician. And if it’s miserable because you always have to bend in the wind or put your integrity in the witness protection program or, you know, basically just go along to get along then why do it? It’s a miserable job, no one likes you anymore. I mean, it’s like, if you were a congressman or a senator when you flew back from Washington to Minneapolis on Friday afternoon and you had the emblem that showed that you were a united states senator back then people said “wow! United States Senator David Durenberg, that’s a great deal. Congressman Kennedy, man, we admire you.” Now these poor guys that show up, they keep their head down because people are shouting obscenities at them or whispering them at least. So if you can’t stand on principle and do what you think is right and it’s a miserable job, find something else to do.

**Gary Eichten:**

Former governor Jeb Bush, joining us here this evening. **\*Audience applause\*** For the McCarthy Lecture.

**Jeb Bush:**

Thank you. That was good.

**Applause continues. Gov. Bush stands up, pulls from his a jacket a rat pack towel, and waves it.**