



July 26, 2004

Donald B. Crawford, President

THE STAND
ELECTION 2004
WAR
THE WAR
TERRORISM

The war in Iraq, or at least the American occupation of Iraq continues. There is abundant criticism of that war and the decision to go to war. No sensible, sane person wants war. Only the insane care nothing about death and destruction. If the job is done, mission accomplished, it is time for our brothers and sisters to come home.

Other than extreme pacifists, there are those against war who nonetheless are willing to accept so-called just wars. If the evil to be eradicated is extreme, then more is justified. President Bush and the Republicans, and by the way a large majority of Democrats, thought the war justified in 2002. Hindsight is a beautiful thing, and elections provide the impetus for rationalization and mind-changes in order to posture politically. Now, say the Democrats, Bush was wrong and we were duped.

Regardless, what of war? What should we the people, we American citizens think of war, and how should our nation respond in military fashion? That is the real, long-term issue. In that regard, there is the matter of defense, the size and capability of the military, reaction to nuclear threat among others. And, of course there is the necessity for Americans to evaluate the risk and threat of TERRORISM.

Terrorism. I suggest that the threat of terrorism is more important to Americans than the war in Iraq. Although America is involved in Iraq and will be for some time, hopefully in a much lesser way, the threat of terrorism in America and the world at large is greater than ever. What do we Americans do, and how do we go about doing it? It is clear how President Bush and the Republicans view the matter and will respond. Republicans regard terrorism as an imminent and permanent threat and want the government fully prepared to defend our country and we the people as much as possible.

Homeland Defense, Tom Ridge and our various protective agencies (i.e., CIA & FBI) are priorities, now and for the next four years if Bush is reelected. That for me is a good thing. The protection of our land and our people, including those who do not see the terrorist threat as imminent, is an absolute priority. That is right for America in every respect in my view. What do you think?

There are many who are unclear as to precisely what Kerry and Edwards would do, the policy, priority and approach they would have if elected regarding the military and especially terrorism. No sane person whether Republican or Democrat can tolerate terrorism, but what will they do? Would the Democrat administration aggressively pursue anti-terrorist policies, fund the agencies, and make certain that America views terrorism as a priority, always watchful and on the alert? And, what of the military which protects our borders and our interests worldwide? Will a Kerry-Edwards administration actively and aggressively defend America and its rights here and abroad? Will such an administration recognize and attack all terrorists, including extreme Islam at work and all other terrorist organizations? The vast majority of we the people do not wish to live in fear and wish to respond to challenge with courage. We want to travel, shop, attend public places and otherwise have the freedom our lifestyle affords without intimidation. Will a Kerry-Edwards administration allow us to do that? I for one would like to know precisely and exactly what Kerry-Edwards will do rather than say. If they will pursue terrorism as aggressively as the Bush administration, and respond to new challenges in the next four years which you can bet will be considerable, I can rest assured. What do you think?

I have watched and participated in Presidential elections since Franklin Delano Roosevelt. I remember full well the Truman-Dewey election and all that such an election entailed. I remember Eisenhower, and the incredible dynamics of the Nixon-Kennedy drama, and the succession and election of Lyndon Baines Johnson, and the rebirth of Richard Nixon, the destruction of Richard Nixon, the lame duck session of Gerald Ford, the protest-reactive election of Jimmy Carter, the golden age of eight years of Ronald Reagan, followed by Bush the I, the dramatic years of Bill Clinton, and the election of Bush the II. Much in those elections were negative. But, I have never seen, heard or felt such hostility and antipathy directed against George W. Bush by any and all who would oppose him. The reaction is akin to hatred, personal hatred which skews the political process in a way egregiously harmful to all Americans. The Democrats on all levels are hammering Bush and the Republicans with such vindictive rhetoric that THE ISSUES ARE BEING OBSCURED! We know where Bush stands for the most part in virtually every major issue. But what exactly do the Democrats stand for? What for example is the position of Kerry-Edwards on terrorism, precisely and exactly? Bush and everything he has done is wrong, of course, but how, and why are these policies and actions wrong? More importantly, what precisely and exactly will the Democrats do to effectuate change and make things better. WHAT PRECISLY AND EXACTLY WILL THEY DO? If I know what Bush will do, and I do not know what Kerry will do, then I opt for Bush. At least I know what he will do. If I want a strong America in military terms, and if I want the strongest and greatest possible effort to control and defeat terrorism, then I vote for Bush. If you feel the same way, then you should vote for Bush.

The Stand-Election 2004

July 26, 2004

Page-3

If on the other hand you are Democrat by persuasion, and you feel that the aggressive response to terrorism should be a priority, then you should demand of the Democrats a policy, a promise well defined so that you the Democrat can know what to expect from our government regarding terrorism, if Kerry-Edwards are elected. Antipathy directed toward George Bush is simply not enough. It ought to be politically inadequate in this critical day and age in which we live.

The issues. Real answers, real policies, real commitment to the issues are what this election should be all about. We the people should demand that both parties and all parties identify and respond to the issues in clear and precise fashion. I wait for Kerry-Edwards to tell me (and you) exactly what they will do with regard to terrorism. What do you think?

DBC/dw