

# VITAL SPEECHES

— OF THE DAY —

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**386 We Will Stand a Free People**

Address by GEORGE W. BUSH,  
President of the United States

**390 China**

Address by BARBARA HACKMAN  
FRANKLIN, President and Chief Executive  
Officer, Barbara Franklin Enterprises, and  
former U.S. Secretary of Commerce

**393 Too Worried About Making Mistakes**

Address by NEWT GINGRICH, author  
and former Speaker of the U.S. House of  
Representatives

**398 From My Crystal Ball**

Address by ARDEN L. BEMENT, Jr., Director,  
National Science Foundation

**400 The Importance of Volunteers in  
Political Campaigns**

ADDRESS BY JOHN L. NAPIER, former  
U.S. Congressman and U.S. Court of Federal  
Claims Judge, congressional counsel in U.S.  
Senate and outside counsel to U.S. House  
of Representatives committee investigating  
political influence in the House Post Office

**403 The Energy Workforce of the Future**

Address by RALPH IZZO, Chairman, Presi-  
dent and Chief Executive Officer, Public Ser-  
vice Enterprise Group

**406 Defending All Living Things**

Address by WAYNE PACELLE, President, the  
Humane Society of the United States

**410 Fair and Equal Housing Access**

Address by JAMES H. CARR, Chief Operat-  
ing Officer National Community Reinvest-  
ment Coalition

**415 U.S. Job Market**

Address by CARL CAMDEN, Chief Executive  
Officer, Kelly Services

**420 Energy**

Address by MIKE MORRIS, Chairman,  
President and Chief Executive Officer,  
American Electric Power

**422 Nuclear Energy**

Address by DENNIS SPURGEON, U.S.  
Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy

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## Speech of the Month

**425 Technology to Reach our Efficiency Potential**

Address by DAVE COTE, Chairman and  
Chief Executive Officer, Honeywell

*THE BEST THOUGHTS OF THE BEST MINDS ON CURRENT NATIONAL QUESTIONS*

**IMPARTIAL · CONSTRUCTIVE · AUTHENTIC**

use is technology if we do not successfully master the human-technology interface?

To build a global research network, a virtual university, or an earthquake warning system, we must first understand social networks and how individuals respond and adapt to change. To advance cyber-learning, we must understand the role of child development, cognition, and language acquisition.

Finally, the introduction of any new technology, such as nanotechnology, requires careful consideration of environmental, health, and safety concerns.

I can assure you that the staff of the National Science Foundation is enmeshed in all of these developments and is primed to respond to the changing frontiers on many levels.

Similar transformations are taking place outside the traditional sciences. According to Caroline Levander, Director of the Humanities Research Center at Rice University, collaboration across disciplines and new tools are growing features in humanities research as well.

There is a move afoot to systematically collect, digitize, and share the data from humanities research so that the information is more accessible to educators and decisionmakers.

It will be the melding of many sources of information that innovators and national leaders will turn to in meeting the challenges of the coming decades.

As Florida State's prescient leaders remind us with this distinguished, yet diverse, gathering, we benefit equally from the long-standing relationship between science and the arts. While our methods may differ, we share a driving ambition to topple the status quo and imagine new opportunities into existence.

Each year, the National Science Foundation invites artists and writers to join the scientists conducting research in Antarctica, because we know that we can learn from each other.

The visual and performing arts have always taken advantage of technological advancements, from the nanoparticles of gold placed in medieval stained glass windows to the synthesis of color in tubes of acrylic paint. The newest directions in art--just as in science and the humanities--will be served by computer synthesis, modeling, simulation and visualization.

Likewise, new mathematical insights on the properties of grids, patterns and multidimensional representations, are stimulated by the arts. In computational centers across the country, a new, interdisciplinary breed of worker is incorporating the concepts of 3-D visualization into models of the brain and the galaxies. Yesterday, at NSF headquarters, award-winning photographer James Balog discussed his work in the Arctic, helping scientists document the changes in Arctic glaciers.

As we move forward as a society, we will need the combined potential of our senses, our machines, and our creativity to determine where we are going, how we will get there, and what impact we want to have along the way.

As the results of the investments we are making are realized in the coming decades, I predict dramatic transformation of the way we live, work, think, and perform.

My vision is punctuated, and amplified, by a hundred bright explosions, representing the results of your own distinguished research. Again, I congratulate you on your accomplishments, and wish you a leading role in the excitement of the 21st century. ♦

## The Importance of Volunteers in Political Campaigns

### WE MUST RECRUIT MORE TO SECURE VICTORY

Address by JOHN L. NAPIER, former U.S. Congressman and U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge, congressional counsel in U.S. Senate and outside counsel to U.S. House of Representatives committee investigating political influence in the House Post Office

*Delivered to The Waccamaw Neck Republican Club, Pawleys Island, South Carolina, June 16, 2008*

**T**hank you, Jim, and thank you for all you have done for the party, the community and the Nation.

The first time I spoke to a political gathering this size was in Florence almost 30 years ago. It was in my first campaign for the United States Congress. My opponent and I were asked why we wanted to be in Congress. I quoted Aristotle: "If a man would move the world, he must first move himself." I said I was moved to be a candidate so I could contribute to change for a better society.

When it came my opponent's time to speak, he looked straight at me and said: "I don't know much about what

Aristotle said, but I know what Miss Susie Jones told me at the corner grocery in last week. She said the price of gas is too high. Unemployment is high. Inflation is high. And I want the job to change those things."

Well, I never quoted Aristotle again in politics until tonight. And to make matters worse, I later found out that it was not Aristotle, but Socrates, who had said that a man must first move himself if he wanted to move the world. The message that I had wanted to convey then, and want to make now, is that politics is serious business.

First, thank you for the great opportunity to be

with you. Second, thank you for coming out this evening. Third, I hope we can accomplish one goal—to underscore and re-enforce how critical it is to organize and mobilize early in this election cycle if we are to win. And I hope you leave here tonight with it firmly in your mind that politics is serious business, and you can make a difference in how that business is run.

I believe your attendance attests to your recognition of this fact. The stakes could not be higher, because whoever eventually wins helps to determine the allocation of power at the local, state, and federal levels of our government. You—as volunteers—play a key role in helping to develop and implement a winning strategy.

But before talking about your critical role as a volunteer, I would like to discuss several basic principles of sociology and political science. They are things we all already know, but I suggest it is worthwhile to remind ourselves of them to stress the importance of why we are here....why we should consider politics so seriously.

By definition, government is that part of the social system under which the right and power to make laws, and the right and power to enforce them, is vested. While not a formal part of the government, political gatherings such as this one form the base from which government derives its power and legitimacy.

Power is nothing more than the ability to affect one's surroundings, but one of the most enduring rules of history has been that political power does not exist in a vacuum.

Political power takes on meaning only when it is perceived that it can be used, or when it is actually used. It is otherwise a latent or passive force until it is activated. But when it is activated, it has tremendous force and consequences.

In political debate, if one protagonist does not exert his or her will, it is an historic phenomenon that another player will exert his or her will. If one group does not exercise its rights and privileges, then other groups rush in to fill the void. Where one group demurs and hesitates, and is bashful, its influence shrinks. This activity and movement in society defines who holds political power.

Last year I had the opportunity to speak about the interaction of business and government before the Executive Officers Council of the National Association of Home Builders in Washington. I would like to re-state what I said there: "How government is organized and where power is concentrated translates into how we live, how we spend our money, how we occupy our leisure time, what freedoms we enjoy, how we build up and secure our holdings, and how we are able to pass along these holdings to our children and grandchildren. Or put another way, our dealings with the government determine to a major extent how the pie is divided and how much we get, how much we give, and how we live our everyday lives."

In short, I was saying politics is serious business. The election process is more than a popularity contest between individuals. It is more than an academic exercise in debating political theory. It is more than a sport. In its very essence, the election process is the key to who holds political power. The allocation of political power determines how government is organized, and in a very real sense, affects our economic and spiritual freedoms.

Political power shifts among groups according to how people best organize and utilize their resources, gain or lose momentum, and ultimately how they choose to exercise their influence. This organization, utilization, and mobilization of resources is the essence of politics, which is nothing less than the allocation of power in our democratic society.

This shift of power depends on three factors: [1] the temper of the times and the historical cycle we live in, [2] the specific issues of the day, and [3] how different segments in society organize and mobilize their resources. Political power is never static; it is always changing.

Our task, then, if we want to maximize our political influence, is organization, utilization and mobilization of resources. We must identify the issues most important, determine which issues are susceptible to being influenced by public opinion, and aggressively shape the debate on those issues.

In his landmark work, *The Cycles of American History*, the liberal historian, Dr. Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. wrote about cycles in American politics. He recognized one clear fact: "...[T]he cycle is not automatic, neither is it self-enforcing. It takes people to make the cycle work."

We live in a pluralistic society. Elected politicians are one of many groups who make a pluralistic society work. They help further shape the issues that their constituencies define and identify to them by casting votes or making executive decisions. They represent us. They can, if energized, mobilize their constituencies. They are in the forefront.

But because of the pluralistic nature of society, elected officials are not the only players in the process. Others are equally important, and none is more important than the volunteer....the fund-raiser; the party officer; the volunteer who hands out literature, mans the phones, sends e-mails, provides public relations and legal advice; and those who just talk for the campaign. Without any of these components, a campaign cannot be successful.

I was a Republican candidate in the early 1980's in three congressional campaigns—one primary and two general elections. The geographical area I represented comprised South Carolina's old Sixth District: Georgetown, Horry, Berkeley, Florence, Williamsburg, Clarendon, Lee, Marion, Dillon, Marlboro, and Darlington counties. Before reapportionment into the current district configuration, it was the second

largest congressional district in land mass east of the Mississippi. The demographics were challenging for a Republican. The minority population comprised 43% of the district. Tobacco was the primary agricultural commodity in the inland area and tourism was primary economic interest along the coast. Food Stamp recipients comprised about 45% of the population. Florence was the largest city. Florence, Myrtle Beach, and the Waccamaw Neck were the emerging Republican areas.

When we began the campaign, polls showed me with about 3% name identification. But volunteers were at the center of the effort. Congressional conduct had offended the sense of what a number of people wanted in a congressional representative, and they wanted change. I had previous congressional staff experience, and became a candidate. As the candidate, I was the one selected to carry the larger message that the Sixth District was dedicated to good government. But it was the volunteers who gave the campaign its focus, its life, and momentum. And that is probably one of the most important points—to be successful from an historical perspective, campaigns really must be larger than the individual candidates.

In each of the races I ran, the result was derived from a combination of forces dealing with an assortment of national issues, some local issues in spots, coping with how political boundaries were drawn, mobilizing voter turn-out, campaign finances, campaign organization, and turn-out. But most important of all, it was the volunteers who set the mood, the message, the tempo, and the momentum.

There is nothing more important in politics than a group of dedicated volunteers. Enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers shape the outlook for both the candidate and the party organization.

When I first announced my candidacy and the polls showed me trailing badly, it was the enthusiasm and commitment of the volunteers that sustained me. When the campaign contributions did not come in, it was the volunteers who still stuffed the envelopes and did not give up. When the going got tough late at night driving from Georgetown to Dillon, or from Murrells Inlet to Bennettsville, it was the knowledge that the volunteers were still up stuffing envelopes in Florence that kept me going. When only 5 or 10 people showed up at our first “meet and greets” and I got discouraged, it was the volunteers who made sure there was a larger crowd the next time.

It was the volunteers who buoyed my spirits, gave me encouragement, held my feet to the fire, and gave the campaign the momentum necessary to win. There is nothing more important than the enthusiasm of the volunteers.

The same factors influence elections today. Even at the congressional level, national issues are not issues that the candidates can handpick. The candidates can choose what position to take or which issues to emphasize, but

the issues themselves are generally the result of matters outside the candidate's immediate control, with the exception of scandals.

Tip O'Neill once said that all politics is local. Translated, that means Democrats are generally strong because most Democrats' proposals are oriented to the short term, rather than to the more long term, solution-based answers the Republicans generally advocate. You can generally see the Democrats' short answers show up more quickly at the local level. Democrats generally craft their answers more on the “now,” while Republicans are not so focused on the immediate as on the future. That makes Republican politics a hard sell to voters who want immediate, instant, short term results at the expense of long term implications.

We see that today in the campaign at the national level. All one has to do is to add up the costs of the Democrats' spending initiatives. All one has to do is to look at the implications of the Democrats' foreign policy.... seek accommodation now and the future will take its own course. That logic is appealing to many voters.

So how do Republicans win against the Democrats?

My response is that we have to be better at identifying and emphasizing issues which resonate with the electorate. We have to recruit articulate candidates. We have to raise more campaign funds to get our message out. We have to establish superior campaign organizations. We have to create fail-safe voter turn-out programs. And most of all, to make these things happen, we have to have dedicated, enthusiastic, and committed volunteers who understand that politics is serious business.

And as Republicans, we have to be true to our basic principles.....a strong national security, private enterprise, and limited government. We must be inclusive, not exclusive, and search for issues that help us build coalitions.

But we cannot and should not try to be all things to all people. There are some issues where Republicans cannot yield. We must maintain the high ground on a strong national defense and homeland defense program, which not only includes anti-terrorism preparedness but natural disaster preparedness as well, to include a fundamental re-evaluation of all our infrastructure needs. We must advocate limited government and less spending, based on our needs, not our desires; and education, social, and infrastructure programs that can withstand vigorous cost-benefit analyses. The issue of energy independence is a natural for Republicans. There are all kinds of opportunities to support more tax incentives and research and development credits for innovative energy solutions.

Holding political power is important, but not the end in itself. Political power should be used to protect our interests, but also to help people and to make positive changes in society. I submit that is what each of us should and do demand. By virtue of volunteering, volunteers have

equity and credit with the campaigns and candidates.

With equity in the campaign, volunteers must be sure our candidates have the resources to win. For those who have the resources to be contributors or fund-raisers, the campaigns need you. For those who can do research, the campaigns need you. For those who can man phone banks or send e-mails, the campaigns need you. For those who can provide public relations and legal advice, the campaigns need your expertise. Those who can enthusiastically talk up the candidates' and the party's values are indispensable.

Volunteers are not dependent on the campaign, and volunteers can always be frank with the candidate and "tell it like it is." An enthusiastic volunteer—whether a Finance Chair or one talking up the merits of the campaign—is really at the heart of the effort. The volunteer's depth of conviction and commitment of support is both infectious and contagious. Enthusiastic volunteers create a synergy with the candidate that transfers to the voters and can transform the whole nature of a campaign.

As active volunteers in a campaign, we become a valuable asset to the candidate when he or she wins. We increase our standing with those whom we have supported, and we become more effective guardians of the values we have espoused.

Let me end where I began: Politics is serious business. How government is organized and where power is concentrated translates into how we live, how we spend our money, how we occupy our leisure time,

what freedoms we enjoy, how we build up and secure our holdings, and how we are able to pass these holdings along to whomever we wish. Government determines to a major extent how the pie is divided and how much we get, how much we give, and how we live our everyday lives.

The talent --the brain power, organizing skills, and fund-raising capacity-- in this room tonight is exceptional. I look around and see men and women who have succeeded at missions impossible...people who make things happen and who perform best when the challenge is the greatest...people who have succeeded as volunteers in other missions.

I challenge you, as volunteers, to consider again just how high the stakes are in 2008, and how you, as you have done before, can make a difference. We have no choice but to tend to our politics as we tend to our businesses, or we may well relinquish forever our claim to complain about the direction of our government.

In the words of Aristotle, or Socrates, or whoever: "If a man would move the world, he must first move himself." Or up-dated to common, everyday language: Politics is serious business. If you want to affect the direction of your government, you have to commit to being involved in politics.

So let us begin immediately to re-double our commitment and our efforts in the next 4 ½ months. We need to prepare, to organize, and to mobilize our resources. Above all we need to recruit more volunteers to ensure victory for our candidates, our party, and above all, for the principles which make America great. ♦

## The Energy Workforce of the Future

### EDUCATION IS OUR FIRST STEP

Address by RALPH IZZO, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Public Service Enterprise Group  
*Delivered to the National Meeting of Labor and Management Public Affairs Committee, Washington, D.C., June 27, 2008*

Some years ago, several storms collided in the Northeast to produce what has been called the perfect storm. Without exaggeration, the energy industry could face a perfect storm unless we ramp up efforts to prepare the highly skilled workforce of the future.

Powerful currents are heading our way: the wave of Baby Boomers retiring...the lack of skilled replacement workers...growing energy needs — including for green energy.

It is important to issue storm alerts. But even more important is taking action before the storm hits.

We need to invest in workforce preparedness, development and training...and do this with the degree of care and attention that energy companies give to preparing for whatever the weather may throw our way.

Moreover, we need to think about workforce

development more comprehensively than in the past. Workforce development is a safety issue, a reliability issue, a customer care and green issue rolled into one.

Investing in the future of our industry begins with investing in people. If this sounds familiar, it should.

Skilled, dedicated and motivated employees have always been our most important asset and will continue to be. They are the key to achieving operational excellence, which is the foundation for success in our industry.

To put it bluntly, we would not be anywhere without the skilled trades and the hard-working men and women who built America's energy infrastructure and who provide energy around the clock and throughout the year...with a reliability that is the envy of the world yet is often taken