

What Bill Clinton Wrote vs. What Bill Clinton Said

By [Dashiell Bennett](#) | 11:14 AM ET

If you were following any journalists on Twitter last night, one of the most remarked upon aspects of Bill Clinton's nomination speech was how liberally he deviated from the prepared text. What was handed out to the media was four pages of single-spaced, small font text, but — as an exasperated TelePrompter operator found out — that was really just a guideline to what Clinton actually wanted to say during his 49-minute address. We decided to compare the two versions to see how one of the great speechmakers of his era goes about his business.

Most experienced public speakers know how to deviate and alter and add flourishes to their prepared remarks on the fly, but few do it as well as Clinton. (Even if you disagree with what he's saying.) As you can see below, from a purely rhetorical standpoint nearly all of his changes enhanced the text in some way and brought added emphasis to arguments. Notice his frequent changing of "should vote for Barack Obama" to "must vote." And his even more frequent use of "Now" and "Look" when beginning a point. Many of his best lines — like his "bloodsport" quote — were either [ad-libbed](#) or added in back in at the last moment.

White House [sources say they edited the speech for length](#) and that Clinton ignored their changes, but most of the major additions seemed to be throwaway lines or personal asides. Most of the original substance remained. The parts that were mostly likely cut and then re-inserted were the section about Richard Lugar (who was defeated by his own party for working with Obama), his lengthy riff on cooperation, and his closing line about George Washington.

There was one flub, however, when he inadvertently referred to second lady Jill Biden as "Joe."

Here is [copy of the speech as it was written](#) and provided to the media by the Democratic Party. Here's [a transcript of what Clinton actually said](#), (as compiled by The New York Times.) Our version below is based off the written text with Clinton's insertions in italics and his deletions struck out. See what you think of his oratory skills.

Now, Mr. Mayor, fellow Democrats, We're here to nominate a president, and I've got one in mind.

I want to nominate a man whose own life has known its fair share of adversity and uncertainty. *I want to nominate* A man who ran for president to change the course of an already weak economy and then just six weeks before the election, saw it suffer the biggest collapse since the Great Depression. A man who stopped the slide into depression and put us on the long road to recovery, knowing all the while that no matter how many jobs ~~were created and saved~~ *he saved or created*, there were still millions more waiting, ~~trying to feed their children and~~ *worried about feeding their own kids, trying to* keep their hopes alive.

I want to nominate a man cool on the outside but ~~burning~~ *who burns* for America on the inside. *I want* A man who believes *with no doubt that* we can build a new American Dream economy driven by innovation and creativity, *but [sic]* education and — *yes* — *by* cooperation.

And by the way, after last night, I want A man who had the good sense to marry Michelle Obama.

I want Barack Obama to be the next president of the United States and I proudly nominate him as the standard bearer of the Democratic Party.

Now, folks, In Tampa a few days ago, we heard a lot of talk all about how the president and the Democrats don't really believe in free enterprise and individual initiative, how we want everyone to be dependent on the government, how bad we are for the economy.

The Republican narrative — *this alternative universe* — is says that all of us every one of us in this room who amounts to anything, are we' re all completely self-made. One of our greatest Democratic chairmen *the greatest chairmen the Democratic Party ever had*, Bob Strauss, used to say that every politician wants you every voter to believe he was born in a log cabin he built himself, but, *as Strauss then admitted*, it ain't so.

We Democrats, *we* think the country works better with a strong middle class, *with* real opportunities for poor people *folks* to work their way into it and *with* a relentless focus on the future, with business and government *actually* working together to promote growth and broadly shared prosperity. ~~We think~~ *You see, we believe that "we're all in this together" is a far better philosophy than "you're on your own." It is.*

So Who's right? Well, since 1961, *for 52 years now*, the Republicans have held the White House 28 years, the Democrats 24. In those 52 years, our economy produced 66 million private sector jobs. *So* What's the jobs score? Republicans 24 million, Democrats 42 million.

Now, there' s a reason for this. It turns out that advancing equal opportunity and economic empowerment is both morally right and good economics, *Why?* because ~~discrimination,~~ ~~poverty~~ *poverty, discrimination* and ignorance restrict growth, *When you stifle human potential, when you don' t invest in new ideas, it doesn' t just cut off the people who are affected; it hurts us all. We know that while* investments in education, *and* infrastructure and scientific and technological research increase ~~it~~ *growth, creating more—They increase* good jobs and *they create* new wealth for all *the rest* of us.

Now, there's something I've noticed lately. You probably have too. And it's this. Maybe just because I grew up in a different time, but Though I often disagree with Republicans, I actually never learned to hate them the way the far right that now controls their party seems to hate our President Obama and the a lot of other Democrats. After all, that would be impossible for me because President Eisenhower sent federal troops to my home state to integrate Little Rock Central High and President Eisenhower built the interstate highway system. And as governor—When I was a governor, I worked with President Reagan and his White House on the first round of welfare reform and with President George H.W. Bush on national education goals. I am actually grateful to — if you saw from the film what I do today, I have to be grateful, and you should be, too — that President George W. Bush for supported PEPFAR, which is saving It saved the lives of millions of people in poor countries and to And I have been honored to work with both Presidents Bush for the work we've done together after on natural disasters in the aftermath of the South Asia tsunami, Hurricane Katrina and the Haitian earthquake. horrible earthquake in Haiti.

Through my foundation, both in America and around the world, I'm work working all the time with Democrats, Republicans and Independents, Sometimes I couldn't tell you for the life who I'm working with because who are focused we focus on solving problems and seizing opportunities, not fighting each other. all the time.

And so here's what I want to say to you, and here's what I want the people at home to think about. When times are tough, and people are frustrated and angry and hurting and uncertain, the politics of constant conflict may be good politics but in the real world, cooperation works better. But what is good politics does not necessarily work in the real world. What works in the real world is cooperation. What works in the real world is cooperation, business and government, foundations and universities. Ask the mayors who are here. Los Angeles is getting green and Chicago is getting an infrastructure bank because Republicans and Democrats are working together to get it. They didn't check their brains at the door. They didn't stop disagreeing, but their purpose was to get

something done. Now, why is this true? Why does cooperation work better than constant conflict? Because After all, nobody's right all the time, and a broken clock is right twice a day. All of us are destined to live our lives between those two extremes. And every one of us — every one of us and every one of them, we' re compelled to spend our fleeting lives between those two extremes, knowing we' re never going to be right all the time and hoping we' re right more than twice a day.

Unfortunately, the faction that now dominates the Republican Party doesn't see it that way. They think government is *always* the enemy, *they' re always right*, and compromise is weakness. *Just in the last couple of elections, they defeated two distinguished Republican senators because they dared to cooperate with Democrats on issues important to the future of the country, even national security. They beat a Republican congressman with almost a hundred percent voting record on every conservative score, because he said he realized he did not have to hate the president to disagree with him. Boy, that was a nonstarter, and they threw him out.*

One of the main reasons ~~America should~~ *we ought to* re-elect President Obama is that he is still committed to *constructive* cooperation. *Look at his record. Look at his record. Look at his record.* He appointed Republican secretaries of defense, the army and transportation. He appointed a vice president who ran against him in 2008, and *he* trusted ~~him~~ *that vice president* to oversee the successful end of the war in Iraq and the implementation of the recovery act. And Joe Biden did a great job with both.

He — *President Obama* — *President Obama* appointed *several members of his* Cabinet ~~members who~~ *even though they* supported Hillary in the primaries. Heck, he even appointed Hillary. *Wait a minute. I am — I am very proud of her. I'm so proud of her and grateful to our entire* *I am proud of the job she and the national security team have done for America. for all they've done* *I am grateful that they have worked together* to make us safer and stronger and to build a world with more partners and fewer enemies. *I' m grateful for the relationship of respect and partnership she and the president have enjoyed and the*

signal that sends to the rest of the world, that democracy does not have a blood — have to be a blood sport, it can be an honorable enterprise that advances the public interest.

Now besides the national security team, I'm also very grateful to the young men and women who serve our country in the military who've served our country in uniform through these perilous times and I am especially grateful to Michelle Obama and Jill Joe Biden for supporting those military families when while their loved ones are were overseas and for helping supporting our veterans, when they come home bearing the wounds of war, or needing help with education, housing, and jobs. or jobs or housing.

President Obama's *whole* record on national security is a tribute to his strength, and to his judgment, and to his preference for inclusion and partnership over partisanship. *We need more of it in Washington, D.C.*

Now, we all know that He also tried to work with congressional Republicans on health care, debt reduction, and jobs, ~~but~~ *And* that didn't work out so well. ~~Probably~~ *But it could have been* because, as the Senate Republican leader *said*, in a remarkable moment of candor, ~~said~~ *two full* years before the election, their No. 1 priority was not to put America back to work, ~~but it was~~ to put *the* President Obama out of work. *Well, wait a minute* Senator, I hate to break it to you, but we're going to keep President Obama on the job.

Now, are you ready for that? Are you willing to work for it. Oh, wait a minute. In Tampa — in Tampa — did y' all watch their convention? I did. In Tampa, the Republican argument against the president's re-election was *actually* pretty simple *pretty snappy*. we left him a total mess, he hasn't cleaned it up fast enough, so fire him and put us back in.

Now — (cheers, applause) — but they did it well. They looked good; they sounded good. They convinced me that they all love their families and their children and were grateful they'd been born in America and all that — really, I'm not being — they did. And this is important, they convinced me they were honorable people who believed what they said and

they' re going to keep every commitment they' ve made. We just got to make sure the American people know what those commitments are.

Because In order to look like an acceptable, reasonable, moderate alternative to President Obama, they just didn' t ~~couldn't~~ say very much about the ideas they have offered over the last two years. ~~You see~~ They couldn' t because they want to go back to the same old policies that got us into trouble in the first place: They want to cut taxes for high-income Americans even more than President Bush did; They want to get rid of those pesky financial regulations designed to prevent another crash and prohibit future bailouts; They want to actually ~~to~~ increase defense spending over a decade \$2 trillion more than the Pentagon has requested without saying what they'll spend the money it on; And they want to make enormous cuts in the rest of the budget, especially programs that help the middle class and poor kids children As another president once said- there they go again.

Now I like the argument for President Obama's re-election a lot better. Here it is. He inherited a deeply damaged economy, He put a floor under the crash, He began the long hard road to recovery, and laid the foundation for a modern, more well-balanced economy that will produce millions of good new jobs, vibrant new businesses, and lots of new wealth for ~~the~~ innovators.

Now Are we where we want to be today? No. Is the president satisfied? ~~No~~ Of course not. But Are we better off than we were when he took office, ~~with an~~ And listen to this. Listen to this. Everybody — (inaudible) — when President Barack Obama took office, the economy was in free fall, It had just shrunk 9 full percent of GDP. We were losing 750,000 jobs a month. Are we doing better than that today? The answer is yes.

I understand the challenge we face. Now, look. Here' s the challenge he faces and the challenge all of you who support him face. I get it. I know it. I' ve been there. ~~I know~~ many A lot of Americans are still angry and frustrated ~~with the~~ about this economy. ~~Though~~ If you look at the numbers, you know employment is growing, banks are beginning

to lend *again*. And in a lot of places, and even housing prices are picking up a bit even beginning to pick up, too many people don't feel it. But too many people do not feel it yet.

I experienced *had* the same thing *happen* in 1994 and early 1995. We could see that ~~the~~ Our policies were working, ~~that~~ and the economy was growing but most people didn't feel it yet. Thankfully, By 1996, the economy was roaring, *everybody felt it, and we were* halfway through the longest peacetime expansion in ~~American history~~ *the history of the United States*. But — wait, wait. The difference this time is purely in the *circumstances*. President Obama started with a much weaker economy than I did. *Listen to me, now*. No president- *no president*, not me or not any of my predecessors, *no one* could have repaired all the damage *that he found* in just four years.

Now — but — he has — he has laid the foundation for a new, modern, successful economy of shared prosperity. ~~But conditions are improving~~ and if you'll renew the President's contract you will feel it. ~~I believe that with all my heart.~~ *Folks, whether the American people believe what I just said or not may be the whole election. I just want you to know that I believe it. With all my heart, I believe it. Now, why do I believe it?*

I'm fixing to tell you why. I believe it because President Obama's approach embodies the values, the ideas, and the direction America ~~must~~ *has to* take to build a 21st century version of the American Dream in: a nation of shared opportunities, ~~shared prosperity and shared responsibilities.~~ *shared responsibilities, shared prosperity, a shared sense of community.*

So *let' s get* back to the story. In 2010, as the president's recovery program kicked in, the job losses stopped and things began to turn around.

The Recovery Act saved and created millions of jobs and cut taxes — *let me say this again* — *cut taxes* for 95 percent of the American people. *And*, In the last 29 months ~~the~~ *our* economy has produced about 4.5-*and one-half* million private sector jobs. *We could*

have done better, But last year, the Republicans blocked the president's jobs plan costing the economy more than a million new jobs. So here's another jobs-score: President Obama plus 4.5-*and one-half* million, congressional Republicans zero.

~~Over that same period~~, *During this period — during this period*, more than 500,000 manufacturing jobs have been created under President Obama- *That' s* the first time manufacturing jobs have increased since the 1990s. *And I' ll tell you something else*. The auto industry restructuring worked. It saved more than a million jobs, *and* not just at GM, Chrysler and their dealerships, but in auto parts manufacturing all over the country. That's why even *the* auto-makers ~~that~~ *who* weren't part of the deal supported it. They needed to save ~~the~~ *those parts* suppliers too. Like I said, we're all in this together.

So what' s happened? ~~Now~~ there are 250,000 more people working in the auto industry than *on* the day the companies were restructured. *So — now, we all know that* Gov. Romney opposed the plan to save GM and Chrysler. So here's another jobs score: *Are you listening in Michigan and Ohio and across the country? Here' s another job score:* Obama 250,000, Romney, zero.

Now, The agreement the administration made with management, labor and environmental groups to double car mileage ~~over the next few years is another good deal~~ *that was a good deal too*: it will cut *your gas prices in half*, your gas bill ~~in half~~. *No matter what the price is, if you double the mileage of your car, your bill will be half what it would have been. It will* make us more energy independent, *It will* cut greenhouse gas emissions, and ~~add another 500,000 good jobs~~ according to several analyses, over the next 20 years, it' ll bring us another half a million good new jobs into the American economy.

President Obama's "~~all of the above~~" energy plan *The president' s energy strategy, which he calls " all of the above,"* is helping too- the boom in oil and gas production combined with greater energy efficiency has driven oil imports to a near 20-year low and natural gas production to an all-time high. Renewable energy production has ~~also~~ doubled.

~~We do need more new jobs, lots of them, Of course, we need a lot more new jobs.~~ but there are already more than three million jobs open and unfilled in America today, mostly because the applicants *the people who apply for them* don't yet have the required skills to do them. We have to prepare more Americans for the new jobs that are being *actually going to be* created in a world fueled by new technology. *The old economy is not coming back. We' ve got to build a new one and educate people to do those jobs. That's why investments in our people are more important than ever.*

The president *and his education secretary* ~~has~~ *have* supported community colleges and employers in working together to train people for open jobs *that are actually open* in their communities. And, *even more important* after a decade in which exploding college costs have increased the drop-out rate so much that ~~we've fallen to the percentage of our young people with four-year college degrees has gone down so much that we have dropped~~ to 16th in the world in the percentage of young people with college degrees. *So the president' s student loan is more important than ever. Here' s what it does — (cheers, applause) — here' s what it does. You need to tell every voter where you live about this. It his student loan reform* lowers the cost of federal student loans and even more important, *it* gives students the right to repay ~~the~~ *those* loans as a *clear, fixed, low* percentage of their incomes for up to 20 years.

Now what does this mean? What does this mean? Think of it. It ~~That~~ means no one will *ever* have to drop-out of college for fear they can't repay their debt, and ~~no one will~~ have to turn down a job, as a teacher, a police officer or a small town doctor because it doesn't pay enough to make the debt payments. *And it means that if someone wants to take a job with a modest income, a teacher, a police officer, if they want to be a small-town doctor in a little rural area, they won' t have to turn those jobs down because they don' t pay enough to repay they debt. Their debt obligation will be determined by their salary.* This will change the future for young Americans.

I don't know about you, but on all these issues, I know we're better off because President Obama made these decisions he did.

Now, That brings me to health care.

The Republicans call it *derisively* Obamacare and *They* say it's a government takeover of health care that they'll *repeal a disaster, and that if we' ll just elect them they' ll repeal it.* Well, Are they right? Let's *take a* look at what's *actually* happened so far. First, Individuals and businesses have ~~secured~~ *already gotten* more than a billion dollars in refunds from their insurance premiums because the new law requires 80 percent to 85 percent of your premiums to ~~be spent on~~ *go to your* health care, not profits or promotion.

And the gains are even greater than that because a bunch of Other insurance companies have ~~lowered~~ *applied to lower* their rates to ~~meet~~ *comply with* the requirement. *Second,* More than 3 million young people between 19 and 25 are insured for the first time because their parents' *policies can cover them* ~~can now carry them on family policies.~~ Millions of seniors are receiving preventive care ~~including~~ *all the way from* breast cancer screenings ~~and~~ *to* tests for heart problems *and scores of other things.* *And younger people are getting them, too.* *Fourth,* Soon the insurance companies, not the government, *the insurance companies,* will have millions of new customers many of them middle class people with pre-existing conditions *who never could get insurance before.*

Now, finally, listen to this. And For the last two years — *after going up at three times the rate of inflation for a decade,* for the last two years, health care ~~spending has grown~~ *costs have been* under 4 percent, *in both years* for the first time in 50 years.

So *let me ask you something.* Are we all better off because President Obama fought for *health care reform* ~~it and passed it?~~ You bet we are.

Now, There were two other attacks on the president in Tampa that *I think* deserve an answer. *First*, Both Gov. Romney and congressman Ryan attacked the president for allegedly robbing Medicare of \$716 billion. *That' s the same attack they leveled against the Congress in 2010, and they got a lot of votes on it. But it' s not true. Look, here' s what really happened. You be the judge.* Here's what really happened. There were no cuts to benefits *at all*. None. What the president did was *to save money by taking the recommendations of a commission of professionals to cut* ~~cutting~~ unwarranted subsidies to providers and insurance companies that weren't making people any healthier *and were not necessary to get the providers to provide the service.. And instead of raiding Medicare* He used the savings to close the donut hole in the Medicare drug program, *and — you all got to listen carefully to this; this is really important*—and to add eight years to the life of the Medicare Trust Fund *so it is solvent till 2024.* ~~It's now solvent until 2024.~~ So President Obama and the Democrats didn't weaken Medicare, they strengthened it Medicare.

Now, When congressman Ryan looked into the ~~the~~ *that* TV camera and attacked President Obama's *Medicare savings as, quote "the biggest coldest power play" in raiding Medicare,* I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. ~~You see,~~ *because that \$716 billion is exactly to the dollar the same amount of Medicare savings congressman Ryan had he has in his own budget. You got to get one thing — it takes some brass to attack a guy for doing what you did. So ... now, you' re having a good time, but this is getting serious, and I want you to listen. It' s important, because a lot of people believe this stuff.*

Now, At least on *this issue, on this one issue,* Gov. Romney's been consistent. He *attacked President Obama too, but he actually* wants to repeal the ~~the~~ *those* savings and give the money back to the insurance companies, *He wants to go back to the old system, which means we' ll re-open the donut hole and force seniors to pay more for drugs, and we' ll reduce the life of the Medicare Trust Fund by eight full years.* So ~~now~~ if he's elected and does what he promised *to do* Medicare will *now* ~~go~~ *grow [sic]* broke by 2016. *Think about that. If that happens, you That means, after all, we won't have to wait*

until their voucher program ~~to begin~~ *kicks in* in 2023 to see the end Medicare as we know it. *They' re going to do it to us sooner than we thought.*

Now, folks, this is serious, ~~But~~ because it gets worse. And you won' t be laughing when I finish telling you this. They also want to block grant Medicaid and cut it by a third over the coming *decade 10 years*. Of course, ~~that will hurt~~ *that' s going to really hurt a lot of poor kids, but that's not all. Lot of folks don' t know it, but nearly* Almost two-thirds of Medicaid is spent on nursing home care for *Medicare seniors who are eligible for Medicaid.*

*It' s going to end Medicare as we know it. And a lot of that money is also spent to help ~~and~~ on people with disabilities, including kids from middle-class families, with special needs like, ~~Down syndrome or autism~~ *a lot of middle-class families whose kids have Down' s syndrome or autism or other severe conditions. I don't know how those families are going to deal with it. And honestly, let' s think about it, if that happens, I don' t know what those families are going to do. So I know what I' m going to do. I' m going to do everything I can to see that it doesn' t happen. We can' t let it happen. We can' t.**

Now — *wait a minute* — let's look at the ~~Republican charge~~ *other big charge the Republicans made. It' s a real doozy. They actually have charged and run ads saying that President Obama wants to weaken the work requirements in the welfare reform bill I signed that moved millions of people from welfare to work. Wait, you need to know, here' s what happened. Nobody ever tells you what really happened* — Here's what happened.

When some Republican governors asked *if they could have waivers* to try new ways to put people on welfare back to work, the Obama administration *listened because we all know it' s hard for even people with good work histories to get jobs today. So moving folks from welfare to work is a real challenge. And the administration agreed to give waivers to those governors and others only* ~~said they would only do it~~ if they had a credible plan to increase employment by 20 percent *and they could keep the waivers only if they did increase employment. You hear that? More work. Now, did I make myself clear? The requirement*

was for more work, not less. So this is personal to me. We moved millions of people off welfare. It was one of the reasons that in the eight years I was president, we had a hundred times as many people move out of poverty into the middle class than happened under the previous 12 years, a hundred times as many. It's a big deal. ~~So~~ But I am telling you the claim that President Obama weakened welfare reform's work requirement is just not true.

But they keep ~~on running the ads claiming it running ads on it.~~ You want to know why? As their campaign pollster said "we're not going to let our campaign be dictated by fact checkers." Now finally I can say, that is true. I couldn't have said it better myself—~~just hope you remember that every time you see the ad.~~ And I hope you and every American within the sound of my voice remembers it every time they see one of those ads and it turns into an ad to re-elect Barack Obama and keep the fundamental principles of personal empowerment and moving everybody who can get a job into work as soon as we can.

Now, Let's talk about the debt. Today, interest rates are low, lower than the rate of inflation. People are practically paying us to borrow money, to hold their money for them. But it will become a big problem when the economy grows and interest rates start to rise. ~~We have to deal with it~~ We've got to deal with this big long-term debt problem or it will deal with us. It will gobble up a bigger and bigger percentage of the federal budget we'd rather spend on education and health care and science and technology. It — we've got to deal with it. Now, what has the president done? ~~President Obama~~ He has offered a reasonable plan with \$4 trillion in debt reduction over a decade, ~~with \$2 of spending reductions for every \$1 of revenue increases,~~ with 2 1/2 trillion (dollars) coming from — for every \$2 1/2 trillion in spending cuts, he raises a dollar in new revenues — 2 1/2-to-1 and tight controls on future spending. It's That's the kind of balanced approach proposed by the bipartisan Simpson-Bowles commission, a bipartisan commission.

Now, I think the president's this plan is better than the Governor Romney's plan, because First, the Romney plan failed the first test of fiscal responsibility: The numbers just don't add up.

~~It's supposed to be a debt reduction plan but it begins with \$5 trillion in tax cuts over a 10-year period.~~ *I mean, consider this. What would you do if you had this problem? Somebody says, oh, we've got a big debt problem. We've got to reduce the debt. So what's the first thing you say we're going to do? Well, to reduce the debt, we're going to have another \$5 trillion in tax cuts heavily weighted to upper-income people. That makes the debt hole bigger before they even start to dig out. So we'll make the debt hole bigger before we start to get out of it.*

Now, when you say, what are you going to do about this \$5 trillion you just added on? They say they'll—oh, we'll make it up by eliminating loopholes in the tax code. When So then you ask "well, which loopholes and how much?" You know what they say? "See me about that after the election on that." I'm not making it up. That's their position. See me about that after the election.

Now, People ask me all the time how we delivered got four surplus budgets in a row. What new ideas did we bring to Washington? I always give a one-word answer: arithmetic. If—arithmetic! If they stay with a \$5 trillion tax cut plan—in a debt reduction plan?—the arithmetic tells us no matter what they say that one of three things will is about to happen:

1) assuming they try to do what they say they'll do, get rid of—pay—cover it by deductions, cutting those deductions, one, they'll have to eliminate so many deductions like the ones for home mortgages and charitable giving that middle class families will see their tax bill go up an average of \$2,000 year while people making over anybody who makes \$3 million or more a year get will still get a 250,000 dollar tax cut see their tax bill go down \$250,000, or

2) they'll have to cut so much spending that they'll obliterate the budget for our the national parks, for ensuring clean air, clean water, safe food, safe air travel; or they'll cut way back on Pell Grants, college loans, early childhood education, child nutrition programs, all

~~the and other~~ programs that help *to empower* middle class families and ~~poor children~~ *help poor kids*, ~~not to mention cutting~~ *Oh, they' ll cut back on* investments in roads *and* bridges *and* science *and* technology *and* *biomedical* research. *That' s what they' ll do. They' ll hurt the middle class and the poor and put the future on hold to give tax cuts to upper-income people who' ve been getting it all along.*

Or 3) *in spite of all the rhetoric*, they'll *just* do what they've been doing for *more than* thirty plus years now- *They' ll go in and* cut taxes *way* more than they cut spending, *especially with that big defense increase*, and they' ll *just* explode the debt and weaken the economy. *And they' ll destroy the federal government' s ability to help you by letting interest gobble up all your tax payments. Remember, Don' t you ever forget when you hear them talking about this that* Republican economic policies quadrupled the *national* debt before I took office, *in the 12 years before I took office*, and doubled it after ~~left~~ *the debt in the eight years after I left, because it defied arithmetic. It was a highly inconvenient thing for them in our debates that I was just a country boy from Arkansas, and I came from a place where people still thought two and two was four. It' s arithmetic. We simply can't afford to give the reins of government to someone who will double-down on trickle-down.*

Really. Think about this: President Obama's plan cuts the debt, honors our values, ~~and~~ brightens the future ~~for~~ *of* our children, our families and our nation. *It' s a heck of a lot better. It passes the arithmetic test, and far more important, it passes the values test.*

My fellow Americans, *all of us in this grand hall and everybody watching at home, when we vote in this election, you have to decide* ~~we' ll be deciding~~ what kind of country ~~you~~ *we* want to live in. If you want a ~~you're on your own, winner take all~~ *winner-take- all, you' re-on-your-own* society you should support the Republican ticket. *But* If you want a country of shared opportunities and shared responsibilities- a "we're all in it *this* together" society, you should vote for Barack Obama and Joe Biden.

If you want every American to vote and you think it's wrong to change voting procedures just to reduce the turnout of younger, poorer, minority and disabled voters, you should support Barack Obama. *And* if you think the president was right to open the doors of American opportunity to *all those* young immigrants brought here as children *when they were young so they can serve in the military or go to college* ~~who want to go to college or serve in the military~~, you should *must* vote for Barack Obama. If you want a future of shared prosperity, where the middle class is growing and poverty is declining, where the American Dream is *really* alive and well *again*, and where the United States ~~remains the leading~~ *maintains its leadership as a* force for peace and prosperity in *this* a highly competitive world, you should *have to* vote for Barack Obama.

Look, I love our country *so much*.- and I know we're coming back. For more than 200 years, through every crisis, *we' ve always come back* ~~we've always come out stronger than we went in.~~ *People have predicted our demise ever since George Washington was criticized for being a mediocre surveyor with a bad set of wooden false teeth. And so far, every single person that' s bet against America has lost money because we always come back. We come through every fire a little stronger and a little better. And we will again as long as we do it together. We *And we do it because in the end we decide to* champion the cause for which our founders pledged their lives, their fortunes, their sacred honor- ~~to form~~ the cause of forming a more perfect union.*

~~If that's what you believe, if that's what you want, we have to re-elect President Barack Obama.~~ *My fellow Americans, if that is what you want, if that is what you believe, you must vote and you must re-elect President Barack Obama.*

God bless you - God bless America.