

This skit of a mock town hall interview with Bush & Rumsfeld was performed by DA-India members at our Take Back Congress event in November 2006. Moderated by "Iowans for Vilsack-Delhi chapter" David Quegg, fuelled with tea provided by "Friends of Americans-Wales chapter" Ann Griffith, and written by a ten-headed committee under the cool discipline of Mark Lemley, read on for some incredible real quotes from B&R.

BUSH AND RUMSFELD

Question #1: With recent reports indicating tens of thousands of Iraqi civilian deaths and over 2700 American casualties, what do you say to the hundreds of thousands of surviving spouses and children of those who have been killed in this brutal conflict?

GEORGE BUSH: "There's only one person who hugs the mothers and the widows, the wives and the kids upon the death of their loved one. Others hug but having committed the troops, I've got an additional responsibility to hug and that's me and I know what it's like."

GEORGE BUSH: I just want you to know that when we talk about war, we're really talking about peace.

GEORGE BUSH: I like to tell people when the final history is written on Iraq, it will look like just a comma because there is – my point is, there's a strong will for democracy.

Question #2: Mr Secretary, What effect has the ever increasing number of Iraqi civilian and American casualties had on the Administration's adaptive strategies for winning the war in Iraq?

RUMSFELD : Death has a tendency to encourage a depressing view of war.

GEORGE BUSH: I think we are welcomed. But it was not a peaceful welcome.

QUESTION #3: Mr. President, Do you feel you have been successful in clearly communicating to the American people the rationale of your Iraq policies?

GEORGE BUSH: "I was proud the other day when both Republicans and Democrats stood with me in the Rose Garden to announce their support for a clear statement of purpose: you disarm, or we will."

GEORGE BUSH: See, in my line of work you got to keep repeating things over and over again for the truth to sink in, to kind of catapult the propaganda.

GEORGE BUSH: I'm the decider, and I decide what is best. And what is best is for Don Rumsfeld to remain as Secretary of Defense.

Question #4: Mr Secretary, Can you clarify the President's recent statement on the progress of the Administrations' strategy in Iraq?

RUMSFELD : Needless to say the President is correct. Whatever it was he said.

Question #5: Mr. President, as the civil liberties of the American people continue to erode under the Patriot Act and the covert surveillance practices of your administration, can you speak to the effectiveness of your policies in increasing the safety of the American people?

GEORGE BUSH: "People say, how can I help on this war against terror? How can I fight evil? You can do so by mentoring a child; by going into a shut-in's house and say I love you."

GEORGE BUSH: We need to counter the shockwave of the evildoer by having individual rate cuts accelerated and by thinking about tax rebates."

Question #6 : Mr.Secretary, the President placed great emphasis on capturing Osama Bin Laden. What can you tell us about his current whereabouts?

RUMSFELD: We do know of certain knowledge that he [Osama Bin Laden] is either in Afghanistan, or in some other country, or dead."

GEORGE BUSH: The best way to find these terrorists who hide in holes is to get people coming forth to describe the location of the hole, is to give clues and data.

Question#7: Secretary Rumsfeld, Where are the supposed weapons of mass destruction?

RUMSFELD: "We know where they are. They're in the area around Tikrit and Baghdad and east, west, south and north somewhat."

RUMSFELD : "I'm not in to this detail stuff. I'm more concepty".

RUMSFELD: There's another way to phrase that and that is the absence of evidence is not the evidence of absence. It is basically saying the same thing in a different way. Simply because you do not have evidence that something does exist does not mean that you have evidence that it doesn't exist".

Question #8 :

Secretary Rumsfeld, Looking back on the strategy your administration employed in the invasion of Iraq, what probability of success did you imagine for your decision?

RUMSFELD: "If I know the answer I'll tell you the answer, and if I don't, I'll just respond, cleverly.

GEORGE BUSH: "When I take action, I'm not going to fire a \$2 million dollar missile at a \$10 empty tent and hit a camel in the butt. It's going to be decisive".

Question# 9 :Mr. President, Do you think the midterm elections are a referendum on the Iraq war?

GEORGE BUSH: think they're a referendum, from my perspective, which is kind of like your perspective, which is the Washington perspective.

GEORGE BUSH: "Our enemies are innovative and resourceful, and so are we. They never stop thinking about new ways to harm our country and our people, and neither do we".

Question #10 Mr. President, The recent conflict between Israel and Lebanon has resulted in many civilian deaths and catastrophic devastation to Lebanon. How is your administration working to build a permanent peace in this volatile region?

GEORGE BUSH: My administration has been calling upon all the leaders in the-in the Middle east to do everything they can to stop the violence, to tell the different parties involved that peace will never happen."

GEORGE BUSH: "And one of the things we've got to make sure that we do anything".

GEORGE BUSH: "There's nothing more deep than recognizing Israel's right to exist. That's the most deep thought of all...I can't think of anything more deep than that right".

GEORGE BUSH: "This foreign policy stuff is a little frustrating".

Question #11 Mr. President, Some have accused you of living in a bubble isolated from reality and protected from dissenting opinions. How do you respond to this charge?

GEORGE BUSH: I appreciate people's opinions, but I'm more interested in news. And the best way to get the news is from objective sources, and the most objective sources I have are people on my staff who tell me what's happening in the world".

GEORGE BUSH: "I know what I believe. I will continue to articulate what I believe and what I believe-I believe what I believe is right".

Question #12 Since you were elected there have been many momentous changes in the world. What event stands out as the most significant event for you?

GEORGE BUSH: I would say the best moment of all was when I caught a 7 ½ pound largemouth bass in my lake".