

But they won't happen unless we make a decision, as a people, in this election that we will not be devoted, distracted, or divided by the good times before.

Now, there are a lot of young people here, and I'm glad that you're here. But everybody over a certain age can cite some personal experience when you made a big mistake in your life because you thought things were going so well that there were no consequences to the failure to concentrate. Everybody over a certain age—[laughter]—isn't that right? I have about 10 laws of politics, one of which is, you're always most vulnerable when you think you are invulnerable.

This country will never get an election like this again in our lifetime, when all these things are in alignment. And now we have to make a decision about what we want to do for our children and our grandchildren. And it's not as if we don't know what the great opportunities and the great challenges of the next 30 or 40 years are going to be. So we have no excuse. We know.

So if somebody asks you why you came tonight, say, "I got to see the President, and he told a joke or two, and we took a nice picture. But I care about the America and the world my children and grandchildren are going to live in, and I want us to use this election to take what Theodore Roosevelt called, almost 100 years ago, the long look ahead."

Thank you very much.

---

*Audience member.* One or two questions.

*Judicial Nominations*

*Audience member.* [Inaudible]—so much about the future, and one of the reasons I think everybody is here is because of their concern. And one of the key things that keeps coming up in this election is not about the next 4 years; I think it has a great effect on the Federal judiciary for the next 30 years. I don't know the statistics, but I know the Supreme Court is basically up. I just wondered if you could comment on this.

*The President.* I think a lot of people have not given much thought to this, but when you vote for—now, this is a self-interested statement I'm about to make. When you vote for the Senate—[laughter]—and when you vote for President, one of the things you should know is,

I have appointed a very large number of judges. In spite of the fact that I think the Republican Senate has been way too slow in considering our nominees, I've appointed more than 40 percent of all the judges in the city today, but only two members of the Supreme Court.

Most people believe there will be at least two and maybe as many as four members of the Supreme Court retire in the next 4 years. That means—and there are only two groups of people that matter then, the President who nominates and the Senate who confirms.

And all these people have been pretty honest, I must say. The candidates have been pretty honest. Governor Bush said the other day that the two people on the Supreme Court that he most admires were Clarence Thomas and Justice Scalia. That's what he said. So he's sending you a signal. He said, "I want you to know that so you'll know who I'll appoint to the Supreme Court if I get elected." And you have to assume—I can tell you that the people who are in the President's party are more likely to vote to confirm his nominees, whether or not they agree with him.

So you need to think about that. What do you want in a Supreme Court judge? Do you care if they repeal *Roe v. Wade*, or not? Do you want them to? Do you not want them to? It's a big issue. And nobody is talking about it yet, but you should be aware. This is not an idle, sort of sideline conversation. This is a real, significant possibility. And so it's something you should think about. And there's not just that, there are all the civil rights cases and a lot of other issues that are big, big issues. So you should know that.

The power of the President—I really tried to—and my judges were much less politically controversial than previous judges, both Democrat and Republican, because I focused on getting people who had good skills and were highly regarded by the American Bar Association. Even though there were more women and more minorities in my appointees than anybody in the past, they also had the highest ratings. So I tried to keep it out of politics. But it could get very political very fast, and the public would be making a mistake if they didn't take into account these things as they voted.

Thank you.