



NATIONAL AGENDA 2019: DIRECTION DEMOCRACY

GOVERNOR CHRIS CHRISTIE

“Deciphering Political Power”

HOSTED BY

Center for Political Communication
with support from the Office of the Provost,
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University of Delaware

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Gov. Chris Christie

University of Delaware alumnus Chris Christie was
the 55th Governor of New Jersey from 2010 to
2018. He earned praise from leaders in both parties
and drew national attention for successes in
battling political corruption, corporate crime, human
trafficking, gangs, terrorism and environmental
polluters. Governor Christie describes his political
life in his book, *Let Me Finish: Trump, the
Kushners, Bannon, New Jersey, and the Power of
In-Your-Face Politics* (2019).

Transcript of Event

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Mitchell Hall, University of Delaware,
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AUDIENCE: [Applause.] [Cheering.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Hi, everybody. It's great to see such a big crowd here tonight to the Ninth Annual National Agenda Speaker Series. Ah, we're here thanks to the University of Delaware's Center for Political Communication, where I'm the Associate Director, um, with support from the Office of the Provost, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Division for Student Life. Thank you so much for all of the support we've gotten. This year's theme is Direction Democracy. You just watched the video. We've been looking at where we're at, where we've been and where we're going in this 240 plus-year experiment that is uniquely American democracy. The CPC is a nonpartisan organization and we feature speakers across the spectrum. And you can find our podcast, transcripts, videos and our complete lineup at cpc.udel.edu. I'd like to remind our audience that civil dialogue is vital to the success of National Agenda so let's agree to be candid but also courteous of each other's views. We will have an audience Q and A at the end of our talk so if you wrote a question in the lobby, ah, before this event, your question might be selected to be asked at the end of the event. So, let's get to business. Tonight, Chris Christie served as the 55th governor of the state of New Jersey from January 2010 to January 2018. Prior to his tenure as Governor he was presidentially appointed United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey serving as a chief federal law enforcement officer. He graduated from the University of Delaware –

AUDIENCE: [Cheering.] [Applause.]

DR. HOFFMAN: – with a BA in political science in 1984 and attained (sic), obtained his law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law in 1987. His recently published book, *Let Me Finish: Trump, the Kushners, Bannon,*



New Jersey and the Power of In-Your-Face Politics, which is for sale in the lobby, was published earlier this year. Ah, the first 50 copies he has signed – I don't know if those are still available but make sure you get one if you can. Christie's popularity has publicly risen and fallen over his career and he's here tonight to talk about politics and democracy in the Trump era. Please welcome back Blue Hen Chris Christie.

AUDIENCE: [Cheering.] [Applause.] [Cheering.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Thank you.

DR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

MR. CHRISTIE: [Indiscernible.]

DR. HOFFMAN: So, I thought we might start talking about your experience here at UD? Um, how –

MR. CHRISTIE: It's the first time I'm on the stage at Mitchell Hall, I can guarantee you that.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: No acting in my background.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, thinking about your own experience at UD and your experience in public office, how would you advise current UD students – you've talked to a few of them tonight before this event – and college students broadly about getting involved in public service? What do they need to do now?

What do they need to know now if they want to contribute to public service?

MR. CHRISTIE: They don't need to do anything or know anything now other than what's in their heart. I mean, public service at its very best is about you



learning and understanding what you believe in your heart and then putting that into action when you get the opportunity to have authority that's given to you by the, the people of the place where you live. And so, I, I, I don't like people who are sitting here right now plotting out their future in great specificity. Like, if you want to get into public life – I, I had a conversation with a student tonight about that and I said, you know, show up. It's about showing up. You know, go work on campaigns; help people, show up at events, and believe me, um, the cream rises to the top. People will [indiscernible] look at you and say so what do you want to do? Like, you've been here eight times, like, ah, do you want to be an operative, do you want to be a candidate? What, what are you interested in? You know, people want folks to be involved in public life, but they want folks who are there genuinely and for the right reasons and that's why you don't need to learn anything now except what you believe. Keep your ears open now during these years especially. Get as many different points of view. Listen to as many points of view as you can and then decide in your heart what it is you really believe and go get it. And, there's nothing that should be able to stop you except for you. And so, that's the way I would go about it.

DR. HOFFMAN: All right –

MR. CHRISTIE: The way I did go about it.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, thinking about your time here as a political science major, one professor seemed to have a great impact on your life and your career. You once described Professor Jim Soles as a continuing influence on your life. What is it about Professor Soles and the University of Delaware that had such an impact on you and your political career?



MR. CHRISTIE: Well, they're two divisible things, right? Let's talk about Dr. Soles first. Um, he cared. He really cared about his students and not just what you did in the classroom but what you were doing outside of the classroom and who you wanted to become. And, he was always there for advice for you and help. And, I did a, a senior project, senior thesis project with him my senior year that was like his offer to me. He said, hey, wouldn't it be great if we got to work together all your senior year; come up with an idea and let's write about it. Um, that was kind of the way he was. And the story I told some of the students in class earlier today was that we kept in touch over the years, after I left here in 1984, and when I was running for Governor in 2009, ah, near the end of the campaign in the last week, ah, I came in from a long day of campaigning, came back to the campaign headquarters and my staff said, listen, you've got a full volunteer phone bank tonight; it would really mean a lot to them if you would go in and just, you know, say hello and say thank you. And, I was beat, but, there were people in there making phone calls for you and you go in and you say hello. And I went into the room and, and there's a bunch of people on cell phones talking. And so, you hear all kinds of voices but then I heard one particular voice. And he never called to tell me he was coming. He arranged it with a mutual friend of ours. He drove up to New Jersey. And he was sitting there with his southern accent in New Jersey –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: So, who ya'll voting for?

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]



MR. CHRISTIE: – I'm thinking to myself, this is probably not going well, Jim, but –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – you know, he – and I walked over to him and I said to him, Dr. Soles, what are you doing here? And he said, I can't count on you to tell me the truth about what's going on up here; I came up here to see myself and talk to voters.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Um, and, I remember walking him out to the car that night as he was leaving to drive back with this friend of mine to Delaware. And I, I said to him, I, I can't believe you did this, I can't tell you how much I appreciate it. And, ah, he just looked at me and said, you know I love you. And he said goodbye and he got in the car and left. Um, there were a few professors here. Right? Um, Soles was the first one I met. He was my academic advisor. He's the one who kind of renewed my interest in politics, that I really wanted to do it. Um, the other two professors that had a huge influence on me here were Professor Oliver who taught foreign policy and was an incredibly serious dude. Um, and you know, I didn't know quite how to take him in the beginning but over the time where I took a number of his classes he definitely taught me, you know, a lot about listening. He was a good listener and you wanted to listen to him. And, the third one is here. I just spotted him. And he's the one who got me into law school. I mean, literally got me into law school. I took his civil liberties classes. I think it was like 401 and 402. Right? And, and –

DR. HOFFMAN: [Chuckle.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – Jim McGee is here. And, he was an extraordinary



inspiration in that he encouraged you to be yourself and to listen to what he was saying, and he clearly had a point of view, but he was encouraging all of us to think, to really think. He was my first law school class years before I ever entered law school. And, I remember after a while I didn't take notes in his class. I just sat there and listened, and, because I was so interested in what he was saying, what he was teaching us. And then he wrote a letter of recommendation for me for law school and it's one of the nicest letters that's ever been written about me and –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – these days, definitely.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – [indiscernible] write about me. But, one of the things he said was: I watch him in class and he doesn't take notes because he's really listening; that's the kind of student you want in your school. And so – I'm so glad you're here tonight, Dr. McGee – and, um, and he is an inspiration. So, for the students I talked to this afternoon, I said to you, there are, there are people you're going to meet here who are friends for life and it's not just the other students. At a place like this, it's the faculty too. And you'll find certain faculty members that I guarantee you – I'm, I hate to say this to Jim, but I'm out of here 35 years now and we still correspond with each other, we still communicate with each other, we're old people so we use Facebook and –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – not all of the new-fangled stuff – and, there's no doubt that those three men had the biggest influence on me when I was here. And, the

school is a place that gave me the greatest gift of my life which is my wife.

AUDIENCE: [Murmuring.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And, I met her here and, um, for all of you who are either with someone now or not with someone now, you can take this however you like, but we were friends dating other people consistently for the first three years that I knew her. And this is how shallow guys are. I'll tell you this story.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: So, we had been friends. We ran for student government together. She was on my ticket. We; I was the student government president. And, she went away for winter session to London and to Paris. And, I was in the Deer Park on that weekend –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – yeah it was still there then too. Um –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – I was at the Deer Park and I was sitting there in that weekend between winter session and spring semester and I saw this woman had her back to me and she was dancing on the dance floor and she had like short hair, like in a bob, and she was dancing and I'm like she looks good; yeah, look at her.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I'm looking at her. And all of a sudden she, and, and she turns around and it was Mary Pat. Now, when she left to go to London she had hair halfway down her back and all of a sudden she came back with this short haircut and she looked completely different to me. And I was like, I'm walking her home tonight.



AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And that's what happened. I, you know, we, we sat, we talked. I said, I'll walk you back – she lived in the Towers.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Good walk from the Deer Park.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Long enough but not too long.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And, um, and we had been dating other people the entire time and I asked her out for the next night. And she said really?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Which is not encouraging if you're a guy.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And, ah, and I said yeah, really. And she said, okay. I'll go out with you. And, ah, that was February of 1984 and we have been together ever since.

AUDIENCE: [Collective ohs.]

MR. CHRISTIE: So, it was a great gift that this place gave me. On top of all of the other experiences, the greatest gift they gave me, um, was my wife who, um, has been in every sense of the word from that moment and even before a full partner, um, in my life and I've been, I'm very fortunate. And I wish she was here tonight. I sent her a picture. As I was walking down the mall of Memorial Hall, ah, because it looks so great tonight –



DR. HOFFMAN: It's the Green now.

MR. CHRISTIE: Yeah. I understand.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: It used to be the Mall, now it's the Green. I, I understand.

I'm not going to try to do it; I'm not screwing up the lingo.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: But I took the picture of it, um, because I wanted her to come tonight and she had something else she had to do and couldn't come. Ah, so I took the picture and the caption I put underneath it, um, just was where we began.

AUDIENCE: [Collective ohs.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And I texted it to her. Now, this is my wife who was a finance major and a very cut and dry person in many ways, so I've gotten absolutely no response to that, by the way, so far.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I got more response from the ladies in the front row and the second row than I got –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – from my own wife.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: But that's marriage everybody. Sometimes yes, sometimes no. It depends on the day.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]



DR. HOFFMAN: All right. Well, enough softball questions –

MR. CHRISTIE: All right.

DR. HOFFMAN: – Gov –

MR. CHRISTIE: You want to get to –

DR. HOFFMAN: Let's –

MR. CHRISTIE: – politics now?

DR. HOFFMAN: Let's get into this.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Really tough I'm passing them to McGee, I'm telling you right now.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: And, thank you for –

MR. CHRISTIE: Stay limber out there –

DR. HOFFMAN: – [indiscernible] for being here.

MR. CHRISTIE: – Jim.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Democrats won big yesterday in Kentucky and Virginia.

MR. CHRISTIE: Um-hum.

DR. HOFFMAN: What do you think, ah, the election results from yesterday portend for 2020?

MR. CHRISTIE: Not much. Um, they're very localized races. So, in Kentucky, if you look at the, the returns there were six statewide races, Republicans won five of the six. Um, Matt Bevin, the Governor who I know and served with was not a very popular guy in Kentucky. Um, he was kind of caustic and abrasive, um, and he, and ,and this will tell you everything you need to know



about Kentucky. He's caustic, abrasive and he only lost by 5,000 votes out of 1.3 million. Um, and every other Republican down the line statewide won. It's Kentucky. Donald Trump won it by 30 points in 2016. So, I don't think it tells us much of anything except that's, that, um, Andy Beshear –

DR. HOFFMAN: Um-hum.

MR. CHRISTIE: – and now you know when you're getting old – I, his father was the governor –

DR. HOFFMAN: Um-hum.

MR. CHRISTIE: – when I became Governor of New Jersey, Steve Beshear. Um, they're really nice guys. And so, they were very nice contrasts to Bevin. Bevin's a lot of things, nice guy would not be one of the things you would call him. And –

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – but the Beshears are very nice men and I think that contrast killed Bevin. And Virginia, I just think that, I think Virginia is a blue state now. I don't, I think with the predominance of government workers especially in the northern part of the state in the Washington suburbs you're seeing consistently since President Obama won it in 2008 that it's been going more and more blue. They've had two Democratic governors now since Bob McDonald left office and it seems like they've been kind of inexorably marching towards being a blue state. So, I wasn't completely shocked about Virginia either. On the other hand, in New Jersey Republicans actually picked up seats. We had just legislative races like Virginia and New Jersey Republicans picked up three seats yesterday. So, but again that was all very localized issues. There, there's some real tax sensitivity. We have a Governor now, my successor, who has raised

taxes pretty significantly and there's some backlash and sensitivity to that. So, I don't think it's as much about what's going to happen in, in a year from now.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, I think what's interesting about the Kentucky race – and I'll, uh, I'll admit here that I grew up in Kentucky – um, is that there's this idea that all politics is local and what Bevin was doing in Kentucky was to make politics national.

MR. CHRISTIE: Um-hum.

DR. HOFFMAN: Do you think that this is a trend that we're, that; is politics still local or can people now run on just a Trump ticket?

MR. CHRISTIE: Yeah, no. Beshear won. [Chuckle.] Bad strategy. But it was the only strategy he had left to him because he was unpopular locally.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: So, if you're unpopular locally you want to be a, you want it to be a national race. Like, if you're Matt Bevin you're sitting there thinking, okay, I'm under water, Trump's plus 30, I'll tie myself to Trump and hope that he's enough of a float that he can get me above water. It was not his preferred strategy because all politics is local, still, especially in off-year elections. But, he couldn't win on his own. The only chance he had to win was to tie himself to Trump. But, Kentuckians in a majority rejected it and said no, we want the guy who we like, and we want the guy who's talking about our issues, not impeachment and all the other things that are going on in Washington. So, I think it, you're right and it's a failed strategy.

DR. HOFFMAN: Okay. Ah –

MR. CHRISTIE: He's moved out of the Governor's Mansion. That lets you know that you lost.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: The staff starts bringing you boxes and stuff. It's not good.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Lets talk about President Trump.

MR. CHRISTIE: Oh, I never thought that would come up.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Great.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Chuckle.] When you were running against Trump in the Republican primary you noted in your book – ah, which again is available in the lobby –

MR. CHRISTIE: Very good. Nice plug. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: From a stylistic perspective he was everything I was but on jet fuel. He was brash. He was direct. He was in your face. I was doing all of the things I normally did yet he was still dominating. How do you explain the early and continued popularity of Trump among his supporters? Why didn't you generate that same kind of enthusiasm among supporters? If you have kind of the same tactic what's different?

MR. CHRISTIE: Well, let's start off with he's a TV star. Right? So, he comes in with 100 percent name ID. Everybody in America knew who Donald Trump was. Most people knew who I was but not everybody. Everybody knew who he



was. And I'll give you, the best way to explain what happened in Iowa and New Hampshire in 2016 vis a vis me and Donald Trump is this anecdote. Um, my wife was going door to door in New Hampshire. And she went up to a Republican household, knocked on the door, nice woman in her 60's answered the door. She said, hi, I'm Mary Pat Christie, I wanted to give you some literature about my husband;. And she said, oh my goodness, you're married to Governor Christie? And she said yes, I am. And she says, oh dear, come inside. So, Mary Pat's like yeah, all right, here we go.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: So, she goes in and the woman says to her, oh my gosh, we love your husband. He is so smart and articulate and honest; hah, I mean, we're voting for Trump. But, we hope –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – that your; we hope that Trump makes your husband Vice President or Attorney General.

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And Mary Pat said, wait, wait a second. Can I just ask you, if you think my husband is smart and articulate and honest why are you voting for Trump? And she reached over and grabbed Mary Pat's hand like she was consoling her, and she goes, oh dear, we don't need another politician.

AUDIENCE: [Groans.]

MR. CHRISTIE: That summarizes 2016. That summarizes why he beat everybody in the Republican field and why he beat Hillary Clinton. A majority of people in this country felt like politics was broken; that they had trusted other politicians like George W. Bush and Barack Obama to fix it; they hadn't, and they

said hey, isn't that the guy who fires everybody on TV? And he's a billionaire right? Let's give him a shot. I'm telling you that's what it was. I, and, and as I was on the ground watching it happen it was completely foreign to me. I could not understand how people were going in the direction they were going. But, you could feel it. And, so, you know, that's what happened. I mean I think my approach was exactly the right approach at exactly the wrong time. And, you know, that's why people ask me like after you like how long does it take you to get over it? It took me a weekend. And the reason it only took me a weekend was because I wouldn't have done another thing differently. It wasn't like I was sitting there saying to myself, oh, God, if I had only done this or that or this I could have. No. He was destined to win at this time. And, that was it. And, it was beyond reason; it was emotion. And, you know, that happens sometimes in American politics and it happened in 2016.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, so, in your book, you also note that you had been friends with Donald Trump for 18 years now?

MR. CHRISTIE: Um-hum.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um, so, but what you said in your book was that you could, you felt like you could speak to him in ways that other staffers wouldn't dare. That you could tell him, ah, what you really were thinking, and he wouldn't blow up at you. Ah, you mentioned you were just at the White House recently; you were talking to him.

MR. CHRISTIE: Yeah.

DR. HOFFMAN: This is the kind of thing we, we've been hearing in, ah, National Agenda this year. Just last week it was revealed that John Kelly had warned, warned Trump against getting a Yes-man for Chief of Staff or he'd get



impeached. Dan Pfeiffer, who was our first guest here at National Agenda, said, ah, a senior advisor, advisor to Obama said he was, um, emphasized how important it was to Obama to have people around him who challenged his perspective. Do you think this is an essential part of being good leaders; surrounding people with, surrounding yourself with people who don't always agree with you?

MR. CHRISTIE: Indispensable. And, I was saying this to the students earlier today, I, listen, I was Governor of New Jersey, the 10th largest state in the country and the most powerful – McGee's going to like this – the most powerful constitutional governorship in the country – I studied it – and –

AUDIENCE: [Chuckles.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – so I had people kissing my rear end every day. Every day. Oh, Governor, you're brilliant. Governor, that proposal is outstanding. That speech was amazing. You handled that town hall with such great style. Like, listen, it's nice, but it doesn't make you any smarter. And it doesn't make you any better. The people who make you smarter and better are the people who come in and say, you're really, did you really want to say that? Are you really going to turn down this deal? Are you really going to make that proposal now? Are you really going to trust that person? Those are the people who make you better. And, it's indispensable to effective executive leadership. Indispensable. And, it; but listen, there are times when there has to be a deal between you and your staff. Sometimes they have to be permitted to speak to you with utter disrespect when you're not listening, and you've got to give them a pass. You can't go like, you're fired. Get out of here. You know, you've got to give them a pass. And they have to be willing to take heat from you when you're angry or



emotional about something and be willing to hang in there and come back and put their head in the mouth of the lion a second time. And, I was incredibly fortunate as Governor because I had an incredible group of people that worked with me in the U.S. Attorney's Office and I brought 29 Assistant United States Attorneys to the Governor's Office with me after I won. And, spread them throughout government in different positions. So, they knew me. They knew how I liked to lead. They knew my strengths; they knew my weaknesses. So, not only could they do great things to make me better as they had all seven years I was U.S. Attorney, but they could teach all the others. So a woman, who actually runs my institute now – her name is Michele Brown, who worked with me; was my Counsel at the U.S. Attorney's Office, and was my Appointments Counsel in the Governor's Office – and she told me that in the first year she spent a third of her time counseling cabinet members about how to deal with me. They would all come to her and go okay, I've got this bit of bad news, how do I do it, you know how to do it. And sometimes she'd teach them how to do it and sometimes she'd say to them I'll do it; give it to me I'll take it; you come in and just watch. You need people like that. And, unfortunately for the President he doesn't have almost anyone who does that for him. Almost. A couple of people, um, but not many and not nearly enough.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, you end your book by saying, maybe the second half of the first Trump term will prove that compromise is not a dirty word. Compromise is one of your big emphases as a politician. You said, maybe we can stick to our principles and also reach beyond our tribes. This really resonated with me because my students are reading a book about how we are tribal and we want to become part of the red team or the blue team, as you have mentioned.

Do you think this is still possible in the Trump presidency? Do you still remain hopeful in this –

MR. CHRISTIE: [Chuckle.] Not for the next year. Um, you know, we're going to go through impeachment and trial and then an election. The chance for him to do that has passed. Now, you know, can we do that in the next four years? I'm skeptical depending on who the Democratic candidate is. You know, I think there's a, one or two people over there who I think would take that approach. I think most of the rest of them would not; ah, would take a more Trump type approach which has been get the uniforms on and get to hittin' (sic). Um, and so, I, you know, I'm not very hopeful about that at the moment but I, I, I am hopeful in the longer term – and by the longer term I mean in the next five years – that this kind of thing is going to exhaust the American people. And, they're going to be exhausted by the volume and they're going to be exhausted by the lack of progress on things that they really care about. And I think the combination of the two will lead to a very, very different election in 2024 but it's not going to happen in the next year. In the next year both sides have decided they don't want to do it. You know, I mean, Democrats could have made a bunch of different decisions in Congress, um, since they've been in charge of the House whether it's regarding USMCA or infrastructure, some other issues where they might be able to build some common ground, and they've determined no, that they're going to focus on impeachment. It's their call. They won the elections. Elections have consequences. But, they have not contributed to building that, that opportunity either and the President clearly hasn't. So, I don't have any hope for that in the next year. We'll see, you know, what happens beyond 2020 depending upon what the results of the election are going to be.



DR. HOFFMAN: So, picture yourself in 2024 or leading up to 2024, are you running?

MR. CHRISTIE: Oh, God, I don't know yet. Um, listen, I don't think; once you decide in your own mind, and it took me awhile to decide this, that you could be President then it's hard to stop wanting to be President because then you watch everything that goes on and you say to yourself, oh, I wouldn't have done that. Or, I would have done this more aggressively or this less aggressively or; you, you, you can't help yourself, at least I can't help myself but to do that. Um, so I would never rule it out but the other thing I was saying tonight at dinner was that I can't do it again unless I think I have a chance to win. You know, I, I felt like I had a legitimate chance to win in 2016. It didn't work out. But I never woke up in the morning during that race thinking this is a lost cause, what the hell am I doing here in Iowa or New Hampshire? But, um, so I, I have no idea. You have to see what the atmosphere is like then; who else is running; what kind of support you can, you can, you know, assemble for yourself, and all of the rest of that. But, I will say this, there's nothing else I want to run for. Um, I couldn't imagine myself in the United States Senate. I'd rather commit suicide –

DR. HOFFMAN: [Chuckle.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – than be in the United States Senate. I mean, when the greatest part of your day is oh my bill just got marked up in the subcommittee. You know –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – once you've been a governor –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]



MR. CHRISTIE: – [chuckle] you're like, come on, man. You know, like I'm supposed to get things done. I have an executive mentality. I want to have a task. I want to figure out how to accomplish the task. And I want to accomplish it. And I want to check it off and go to the next one. And when you're in Congress, especially in the Senate, because I don't need to get 51 votes, I've got to get 60. Spare me.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Let someone else do it.

DR. HOFFMAN: All right, well, let's move on to a Congressional issue which is the impeachment process. Ah, just today, Representative Adam Schiff, Chairman of the Intelligence Committee, a Democrat, announced that the first public impeachment hearings will kick off next Wednesday. Ah, they're going to look at, ah, William Taylor, the top American envoy in Ukraine; and George Kent, a top state Democratic official. On Friday they'll hear from Marie Yavonovitch, the former American Ambassador to Ukraine. So, what should we expect to see now that this inquiry goes public? We have such little history of these impeachment proceedings happening in this democracy. What do you expect to see as this goes public? Will impeachment; will, will opinions towards impeachment shift? Will people pay attention to these hearings? Is this going to be part of the national dialogue?

MR. CHRISTIE: A lot of questions in there. Okay. Let's break 'em (sic) down.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Um, first of all, what do I expect to hear? I expect to hear everything that Adam Schiff's already been leaking. I mean, I assume that

they're going to testify consistent with the excerpts that he's leaked, um, and we may get a little more color. But he; you can guarantee that he's leaked the best parts. Um, in terms of what we're going to see in there be,, not having been in a lot of these, I don't know what to expect from this because it's being run differently than it's ever been run before. You know, the two in recent times, I can't claim to be, um, an expert on the Andrew Johnson impeachment –

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – but, um, in Nixon and Clinton a formal vote was taken by the House; the Judiciary Committee ran the hearings and they were done in public. This has been very different. No vote was taken until a week or so ago. The inquiry started without any vote, without an authorization by the people's House to even begin an inquiry. It's being run by Adam Schiff and the Intelligence Committee which makes no historic sense. The only conclusion I can come to is that all of these decisions are being made politically and Nancy Pelosi has decided that Adam Schiff is a better face for this than Jerry Nadler who is a New York veteran congressman who is chairman of the Judiciary Committee. I can guarantee you, knowing Jerry Nadler, he is not happy about the fact that he's not getting an opportunity to run these hearings. And, Schiff discredited himself early by like making that whole drama up about the transcript of the phone conversation between the President and the Ukrainian President. As if it wasn't bad enough he had to make it worse and not let people know that he was dramatizing it. And, why he was doing that I really don't know. So, listen, I have a very what I call practical view of this. He will be impeached. It's just a matter of time. He will be impeached. The Democrats didn't start this to not

finish it. This is a political judgement not a factual judgement. They will impeach him and then it will go to the Senate and the Senate will not remove him because the Republicans – you're not going to get 20, which is what you need, 20 Republicans to vote to remove the President of the United States from office nine or ten months before a national election. And somebody said, well why not, you know, if he's done these horrible things and he should be removed remove him. Let me just play out a scenario for you which is, in my view, not only possible but likely. Let's say if, if they wanted to remove him. Let's say they impeach him, and they remove him in January which is probably when the vote would happen. Do you think Donald Trump's running for reelection after having been impeached and removed? You bet he is. Who's going to challenge him in the Republican primary? Is his vice president going to challenge his boss? I don't think so. Who is going to challenge Donald – it's not going to happen. So, you could have a situation where they remove the President of the United States and then he says, well, the hell with you people; you're 535 people. I'm going to let the American people decide and I'm running. And, I'm willing to bet you if that happened he'd get the Republican nomination and then you'd have a presidential race where the Republican nominee for President, one of the two major nominees, was the first person in American history who had been impeached and removed from office. Put aside the facts of this case. That's never going to happen. 20 Republican United States Senators are not going to say my judgement is more powerful, more important than the judgement of the American people. So, I will bet you, now, what you will hear from any of the Senators on the Republican side is regardless of the facts here, it would be wrong for me to remove the duly elected President ten months before the American people are

going to decide for themselves who should be the President of the United States and so we're going to leave it to the people. So, I think, like, in terms of interest, which was your last question, the people who hate him will watch it nonstop and eat it up and be like yeah, hit him again. Right?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: The people who support him will go, waste of time, what's on Fox News.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Chuckle.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And Sean Hannity will be having some other show on something else that won't even mention, you know, impeachment. So, what I would say to Nancy Pelosi, who is someone I've known for a long time and who I consider a friend, is why, why are we doing this? Like, Nancy's as practical a politician as I know. Why are we doing it if we know what the outcome is already? And so, you know, if they wanted to do a truly private quiet investigation where they might uncover more facts that might actually lead to something different and a different conclusion, I wouldn't be opposed to that. But, this process is, is flawed and everyone's got their uniform on and 20 Republicans are not taking a red jersey off and putting a blue jersey on between now and January. And, that's what it would take, and I don't think it's going to happen. So, you know, for the people who will be entertained by it they'll be entertained. But in the end, practically, I don't think you'll see anything different other than it'd take up a lot of oxygen and a lot of space in the political world between now and probably – and my guess is that the Senate will aim to have this done before the State of the Union.



DR. HOFFMAN: Um-hum.

MR. CHRISTIE: And then try to give the President a clear path to give a State of the Union and then they're not going to do any work anyway. You know, in 2020? It's like perpetual spring break –

DR. HOFFMAN: [Chuckle.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – in an election year.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: You know, they won't work; they'll just go out and campaign and posture and get ready for November of 2020.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, so, it's interesting that you, you say this because you famously or infamously, ah, have been very assertive in your talk and how you communicate with people. You famously told a heckler to sit down and shut up.

MR. CHRISTIE: I did.

DR. HOFFMAN: Ah, just a couple of months ago though you announced the launch of the Chris Christie Institute at Seton Hall, ah, where one goal is to foster civil dialogue. So, I want to talk to you a little bit about civil dialogue because that's kind of what we do at the Center for Political Communication –

MR. CHRISTIE: Yeah.

DR. HOFFMAN: – demonstrating it, modeling it, helping people to understand how to communicate, um, effectively. Um, I want you to explain what might seem dissonant to some the contrast between your kind of like straight forward assertive style of communicating and civil conversation.

MR. CHRISTIE: Well let, let's talk about sit down and shut up since you brought it up. All you mentioned was sit down and shut up because I'm the



famous guy and the famous guy they just take the worst soundbite they can and that's what they say. Let's; I wish that, I wish we would have talked about the fact that we were going to talk about sit down and shut up because I would have brought the clip for you. The whole clip.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um-hum.

MR. CHRISTIE: This was; sit down and shut up happened, um, on the second anniversary of Hurricane Sandy. On the day of the second anniversary of Hurricane Sandy. I was in Belmar, New Jersey opening up, um, a new set of downtown stores which had been destroyed in Sandy and now were finally reopening. There was a crowd of about 500 people there. I was introduced by the Democratic mayor who lauded what we had done to rebuild Belmar and then I stood up to give my speech. And a Democrat activist who was running for the state legislature stood up in the middle of the crowd, held up a sign that was large enough to block all the cameras of all the news stations that were behind him and started screaming in the middle of my speech about things that hadn't gotten done in Sandy within two years. So, the beginning of my conversation was I said, sir, listen, now is not the appropriate time but my staff is right over there; if you'll move to over there and begin talking to them as soon as I'm done with this speech I'll come over and join the conversation and we'll see if we can help you with your problem. He keeps screaming. I said, sir, we have 500 people here who are here to hear this talk and to open these stores, please sit down so that we can continue with this and I promise you I will meet with you privately afterwards to try to help you fix your problem. He continues to yell at me, and then starts to yell personally insulting things to me. And, you never cared about the people down here; you've never done anything for them, you're



selfish, you're this. So, after all of that I said to him, listen, enough now, okay? These people didn't come to listen to you, they came to listen to me and either go over there and I'll have the conversation with you or don't. Roll up your sleeves and help people to rebuild these towns or not. Whatever you want to do but until then sit down and shut up. Now, I would argue to you that that is pretty close to a model for civility in public conversation when you give some jerk three chances to meet privately with the Governor to talk to him about whatever his particular problem is and try to help him fix it and when you finally realize after three times that's not what he wants. He's a candidate for public office who's trying to get attention. And I talked to my friend Brian Williams, who was the anchor of NBC Nightly News that made that the second story on the Nightly News that night and only played sit down and shut up. And I called Brian and I said, you know, Brian, did you watch the whole clip? He goes, no, my producer just showed me that part of it. I said, thank you for your thorough, deep investigative journalism.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: So, there's nothing dissident. In fact, my entire career is about being blunt and direct towards an end. So, for eight years I have a Democratic legislature and we accomplished more in those eight years with a Republican Governor and a Democratic legislature than any governor of the last five. And I didn't do that by not being civil. In fact, quite the opposite. I worked to develop relationships, personal relationships with the important legislators in the legislature to make sure that I followed the rule that a mentor of mine told me years ago which is Chris, it's harder to hate up close and when you make friendships with people it's harder for them to say no to you and harder for them to hate you just because they disagree with you. So, what the Institute is trying

to do and did in our first, um, lecture which was a conversation between me and another shy retiring guy –

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – New York Governor Andrew Cuomo.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – was to show people that that can work. If the personal relationship works the professional relationship will come. But if you have no personal relationship then all you have are your political differences and then you have no common ground. Andrew Cuomo and I worked for seven years together as the governors of New Jersey and New York with starkly different views on many issues, but I will tell we never once had a fight, never once had a cross word. Now, he will say, as he said at the Institute, that the reason for that is that we both had Sicilian mothers.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: So, we understood each other in a very unique way.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And he's partially right. We trusted each other. We gave each other a chance to know each other and that's what the Institute's about. And I'll never apologize for sit down and shut up because I was there. And I know that I did the best I could three times with 500 people waiting to hear the speech and the owners of the stores waiting for me to cut the ribbons to their stores which they had been waiting for for two years and this guy decided he was more important than those 500 people or the people in the stores. So, context is king. Context is everything. You could take any little comment from anybody out

of context and make them look however you want to make them look and that's what happens to people in public life, okay? So, you (sic) got to live with it. But when you're out now and you get to come to forums like this, damn man, you get to explain it.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And, that's why I'm explaining it. Because in the end be careful about what you listen to and what you believe in terms of the way it's reported because soundbite politics is sometimes effective but always dangerous.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, and, and building off of that, I think it's interesting to think about how we talk about civility versus politeness and your book is subtitled *In Your Face Politics*, so, can you be civil –

MR. CHRISTIE: Yeah.

DR. HOFFMAN: – and also in your face?

MR. CHRISTIE: Sure. Listen, the style of being blunt and direct and, and outspoken is to move people. And the only way you force compromise in a political context is to move people from where they start. If we don't try to persuade and we don't try to cajole them, we don't try to force no one's ever going to move because you believe what you believe. There's a particular bill. You believe what you believe about the bill. I disagree, I believe something else. You're in the legislature. I'm the governor. If you pass it I'm vetoing it. You're not going to pass the bill that I want. How do I convince you to pass something I'll sign? Well, part of that is moving them. Moving public opinion. So; believe me, in your face politics is done in a bunch of different ways, sometimes in public, sometimes in private. The worst moment for some legislators in my



governorship was to be asked to come to the Governor's Office. I don't know what the equivalent is at a university anymore. Like, when I was here it was like if you got called to the Dean of Students it wasn't good.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um-hum.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Right? I don't know what the equivalent is but –

DR. HOFFMAN: Do we have the Dean of Students here tonight?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: It wasn't good when I was here, I can –

DR. HOFFMAN: [Indiscernible] dinner.

MR. CHRISTIE: – tell you that.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: It wasn't good.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: But like, so you get called in sometimes the in your face part happens privately. Sometimes when they come in they think you're going to get in your face, in their face; you don't. You bring them in, and you go, oh, man, I really need your help. I'm, I'm, I'm in a bad way on this one and if you help me on this one I promise you I'm going to remember you when you need something. They will be something in your district, something that's really important to you; some person who's important to you and I'm telling you right now you have a chit to cash in and if you come to cash it in as long as its reasonable I'll do it. Sometimes that's what you do. Sometimes in public you try to be sweet and kind and cuddly.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Chuckle.]



AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: When you're fighting like the teacher's union it don't (sic) work –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – because they're putting up a billboard saying Chris Christie hates kids. Well, you know, when that happens, you [chuckle] know, it's not like, tsk, please understand me. You know? No, no.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: It's like oh, really?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Here we go, let's go. But, you're not fighting. See, here's the difference right now. Sometimes I think the President fights just to fight. I fight to force compromise. I fight to move people from where they are now to a position that's closer to mine so that I can then move closer to them and get something done. So, yeah, in your face politics. But like I used to say to the press corps all the time, I don't have just one club in my bag; I don't just have a driver; I have a five iron, I have a pitching wedge and I have a putter, and I use all of them really well.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Chuckle.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And I know when to use them. I don't use the driver on the green.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: When I'm close I get the putter out. So, it's, it's, you know, the part that makes you most famous but, you know, it's not the only club in the bag and if it is you're not going to be successful.



DR. HOFFMAN: All right. Well, pardon me, I think it's time, ah, to get the audience involved a little bit.

MR. CHRISTIE: Excellent.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um, I've, have many more questions for you but we can talk about those later.

MR. CHRISTIE: Okay.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um, so we're going to get the audience involved and, ah, Charlotte should be getting the microphone. Wherever Charlotte might be? I see – yes. Okay, so, we're going to start with a few questions, ah, from my National Agenda students.

MR. CHRISTIE: Okay.

DR. HOFFMAN: You met with them earlier today.

MR. CHRISTIE: I did.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um, and then we're going to follow up with, ah, we had a basket out front and some notecards for people to submit their questions for you. Um, so we'll, ah, follow up with, um, my student questions with those questions. So, thank you, Charlotte. Um, Alyssa (phonetic spelling) is our first questioner. She's right there in the white – you can stand up. There you go.

Q: Oh.

DR. HOFFMAN: Alyssa is a political science major –

Q: Oh, okay.

DR. HOFFMAN: – and this is her question.

Q: Hi, Governor Christie.

MR. CHRISTIE: Hey.

Q: My name is Alyssa and I'm also a New Jersey native.



My question to you has to do with rhetoric. You have often been praised for having a no-nonsense approach to politics, speaking bluntly on different issues and not shying away from using some strong language. Though this has ultimately served to help you in your political career, was there ever a time you felt you went too far or came across the wrong way besides the sit down and shut up incident? [Chuckle.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Well, I, I was [indiscernible], I don't think I came across the wrong way in the sit down and shut up incident. I think I did exactly what I was supposed to but yeah, there were definitely times. Yeah. I'll tell you one time. I was doing a town hall meeting regarding, um, our, a higher education merger that I wanted to do which we ultimately accomplished which was merging our medical school into Rutgers University. It was, when it finally got down, the largest public education merger in American history. There was a lot of controversy about it and I was doing town hall meetings about it. And a guy got up one time and, and announced that he was a law student at Rutgers in Camden and one of the parts of the plan was that Rutgers Camden campus was going to be merged with Rowan University which is also down in South Jersey near here. And, um, he was opposed to that. So, he was letting out his opposition and I kept trying to then answer his question and he kept interrupting me and saying more. And, I said to him, just let me answer. And he said, I'm a law student and I know my rights.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And I said to him, well let me tell you something; if you go to court and you interrupt the judge in the same way you've been interrupting me he's going to throw your rear end in jail for contempt. Now, if I had left it just at

that –

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – it would have been perfect.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: But, what I said was –

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – if you talk to a judge like that and interrupt him he’s going to throw your rear end in jail for contempt, jerk.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: What I did not know which aggravated the situation – that’s bad enough – but then find out that the law student is actually also a Navy Seal.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: So, the headline in the paper the next day is –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – “Christie Calls Navy Seal a Jerk”.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: That’s a mistake.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Wish I could have taken that one back.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And there’s, there’s more. I mean, listen, if you’re going to be outspoken and you’re going to be, you know, in, in a media market like I’m in, you know, the New York and Philadelphia media markets, um, you’re going to



have moments. And there's definitely, there's more. We could spend more time, ah, painfully, on some of the stuff that I wish I hadn't said. But, the upside of that though is that my constituents never had to wonder what I was thinking.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I was not an international man of mystery.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Right? So, you know, there's a pluses and minuses to it but that time I just went overboard. I should, I, I could have just stopped at throw your rear end in jail for contempt. If I just could have stopped –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – I would have been fine.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: But I threw in jerk at the end and that was bad. And you are governor; you shouldn't be doing that.

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Just shouldn't. It's not excusable. And I later called the guy and apologized to him privately. I, of course, put out the perfunctory public apology but before I did that I called him personally and said listen, you know, I, I, it was wrong to call you that and I apologize.

DR. HOFFMAN: Yeah, and –

MR. CHRISTIE: And he was very good about it and he accepted the apology and, you know, then we moved on.

DR. HOFFMAN: Name calling is –

MR. CHRISTIE: But, he would get his rear end thrown in jail by the way –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – if he interrupted a judge like that in court, you know, you can get away with that once or twice but not too often.

DR. HOFFMAN: But name calling isn't, is that civil?

MR. CHRISTIE: No, I, no, it was a mistake. I mean, listen –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – civility –

DR. HOFFMAN: Just checking.

MR. CHRISTIE: But wait –

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – a second.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Civility, civility does not require perfection.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um-hum.

MR. CHRISTIE: And –

DR. HOFFMAN: That's true.

MR. CHRISTIE: – and if we, if, listen, this is one of the problems with politics.

If we require perfection, the perfect candidate whether that's perfect in their conduct or perfect that they agree with us on everything we're going to get one of two things: either a hugely disappointed electorate because nobody's perfect or a whole group of liars as public officials because if they tell you that they agree with you on everything they're lying because, the only person you agree with all of the time is you. No one else. Wait until you get married you'll definitely know that.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]



DR. HOFFMAN: That's a great point. Thank you. All right, our next question comes from Molly. I think, ah, Charlotte, she's over on this side. So, Molly is a political science major and she has a question based on one of the speakers we had earlier this semester.

MR. CHRISTIE: All right.

Q: Hi, Governor Christie.

MR. CHRISTIE: Hi, Molly.

Q: So, a few weeks ago CNN commentator Tara Setmayer was our guest speaker and [chuckle] she said she considers herself a true conservative and also a Never-Trumper. Bill Maher called you a Republican classic which insinuates you hold the same ideals as a true conservative yet clearly you are not a Never-Trumper. What do you define as a true conservative? Is it allegiance to party, allegiance to values, or do you think there's a spectrum?

MR. CHRISTIE: Allegiance to values. Right? You believe in what you believe, and I think that's the way you define a true anything. Right? Remember we were talking earlier today; ideas are more powerful than people. And, and I think that, you know, people get confused all of the time. Like I'm not a Never-Trumper. I'm not. But he wasn't my first choice for President; I was.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And, I ran against him. And I fought pretty hard against him. So, I have my problems. But remember too, and this is my problem, you know, with some people who are being, excuse me, being very doctrinaire about this, I think, is elections, whether we like it or not, we don't get to vote most of the time.

We don't get to vote for who we want to vote for. We get to vote for who's left. And so, in 2016 there was a choice left to us, all of us, between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. Forget my opinion, objectively the two most unpopular candidates for president in the last hundred years.

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]

MR. CHRISTIE: They were. Remember this: 20 percent of the people who voted in 2016 said they didn't like either one of them. 20 percent of the people who voted. Think about how many people stayed home who held that opinion. So, but like, I'm like okay, I've got to make a choice. I'm not going to not vote. I vote for him. I agree with him more than I agree with her on ideas. So, I think what conservatism is about, the same way what liberalism is about, it's about ideas. And that's why I don't think if you voted for Donald Trump it doesn't make you a real conservative or if you're a Never-Trumper it doesn't make you a real Republican. I think you be loyal and true to your ideas, as I said in the beginning, things that you believe in your heart and then, you know, you can be the most effective advocate for those positions as you can be. Um, so, again, we'll all be faced with another choice I suspect next November. And, I don't know, pick anybody that a Democrat would support in a primary, if their person doesn't win the primary they're stuck with a choice of not who they wanted but who's left. And when I voted for Trump, it wasn't who I wanted to vote for; it's who was left because I was, I was the guy I wanted to vote for.

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Molly. All right, our last question before we open it up to, ah, questions from the audience, is over on this side, Charlotte? I'm making you run back and forth. Ah, Jagger (phonetic spelling) is also a political



science major.

Q: Hi, Governor Christie.

MR. CHRISTIE: Hey.

Q: Ah, could you go a little bit more in depth about, ah, what it would take for you to run for President again?

MR. CHRISTIE: Yeah, I mean, I'd have to have Mary Pat's support. I'd have to have my children's support. I'd have to believe I could win. I'd have to think the atmosphere was conducive to my style of leadership. And, I'd have to believe that I could honestly make a difference in the country. That's it. Those five. If I check those five boxes I run. If I don't check all five, I don't run. And, and I, listen, I was getting begged to run in 2012. Begged. I had a room of 60 billionaires and Henry Kissinger.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: All standing up and saying you have to run; you must run against Mitt Romney. Mitt Romney can't beat Barack Obama; you could. I held what now seems like a quaint idea. I said I wasn't ready to be President. I had only been Governor for 17 months and I, I didn't feel ready to be President. That seems like a ridiculous thought today. Um, so, these decisions are intensely personal. I remember, Ken Langone – who was one of my national finance chairmen's, one of the founders of Home Depot – when I told him I wasn't going to run in 2012 Ken said to me, Chris you have to run. I'll be with you every step of the way. And I said, Kenny, no you won't. I said, when I'm in Iowa you're going to be at your house in Palm Beach.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: You're not going to be with me every step of the way, so



don't say you will. It's an intensely personal decision to put your life completely on hold and the life of your loved ones to try to serve your country. You've got to really believe that you can make a difference and that you can win. And so, those are the five factors and those were the five boxes that I didn't check all of them in '12; I did check all of them in '16 and as for '24, we'll see. I can't predict but, um, but it is the only job I would run for, run for again for sure.

DR. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Jagger. All right, so we also asked the audience to submit some questions on, ah, notecards before the event and my teaching assistant Olivia is backstage bringing me some of said questions. Thank you so much.

MR. CHRISTIE: Great job, Olivia.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: [Cheering.]

MR. CHRISTIE: All little applause for Olivia, please.

AUDIENCE: [Cheering] [applause.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Thank you.

DR. HOFFMAN: All right, so I'm reading these sight unseen. Um –

MR. CHRISTIE: Good.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.] Do you feel the members of the Mueller team had any obligation to report that Robert Mueller was suffering mental decline?

AUDIENCE: [Groans.] [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Why did they let him impeach himself?

AUDIENCE: [Groans.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Well, listen –



AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – I understand, I understand the question.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I understand the question. I, I have enormous respect and affection for Bob Mueller. When I was U.S. Attorney for seven years he was the director of the FBI. And I worked with him on numerous occasions on very important cases. He is an American patriot and the implication in the question is offensive to me. Really offensive. And it's part of what's going on with our politics today. Whoever wrote that question doesn't agree with Bob Mueller and doesn't think he did a great job when he gave his testimony. He didn't do a great job. It wasn't his best day. But, we're going to conclude from that that he was in mental decline? Who's the physician in this audience who diagnosed that? It's outrageous. Bob Mueller did a very thorough and fair job, in my opinion, in investigating a very complicated set of facts under very difficult circumstances and extraordinary scrutiny. And you know why he was in front of that committee? Because they forced him in front of the committee. His staff asked them not to call Bob Mueller in front of that committee. He gave a brief speech where he said my report speaks for itself; I have nothing else to say. And the Democrats for purely political reasons to try to score points against the President dragged him in front of the committee. It was unfair to him and his legacy because now you have some people like the author of the question who believes that, like, you know, Bob Mueller has some type of dementia. I have no idea whether he does, or he doesn't. Although I will tell you, I was interviewed by the Mueller team, a pleasant situation that was.

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]



MR. CHRISTIE: And I met with Bob that day for a while. And this was about seven or eight weeks before his testimony. I was one of the last witnesses to be interviewed. And I noted no decline in Bob Mueller when I sat and spoke with him. Sometimes, you know, when we're being forced to do something we don't want to do we have a bad day.

AUDIENCE: [Mumbling.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And he had a bad day. But I'll give you one anecdote about Bob Mueller to show you what kind of guy this guy is. He was the U.S. Attorney in San Francisco under George Bush 41. And when Bill Clinton came into office he fired all of the U.S. Attorneys across the country to bring in his own. And Bob Mueller went to a private firm, at that time in 1993 making a million dollars a year in San Francisco. About a year and a half or so later Bob Mueller called Eric Holder, who at that time in the Clinton Administration was the U.S. Attorney for Washington, D.C. And he said, Eric, I want a job. He said, Bob, you were the U.S. Attorney in San Francisco; you're at one of the biggest law firms in the world; you don't want a job from me. He goes, give me a job in the local side of the D.C. office prosecuting murders. I just want to get back into the justice business. Bob Mueller, who had served as a United States Attorney and Assistant Attorney General of the United States went back and served as a line prosecutor in the Washington, D.C. local office and prosecuted street crime as a local prosecutor because he wanted to be back in the business of justice.

He gave up a million-dollar salary to do it. Let me tell you something everybody, we need more Bob Mueller's in this country, not fewer. And, he is and always will be to me, an American patriot and any of this conversation that's occurred, and that's not the first time I've heard it, of people who denigrate him and what



he did and how he did it. It's shameful in my opinion. He deserves much better. And by the way, not to mention also that he's a Vietnam veteran and a decorated wounded Vietnam veteran. This man served his country and he deserves (sic) our respect and our admiration and our thanks. Not questioning his motives and his mental condition.

AUDIENCE: [Applause.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, on a different note. [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: That's direct but civil.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: A communication major asks, what's the most difficult aspect or what was the most difficult aspect of being a governor in this day and age of advanced technology and little to no privacy. You are kind of famously the YouTube Governor.

MR. CHRISTIE: Um-hum.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um, how was that adapting to tech, ah, governing in this new age of technology?

MR. CHRISTIE: Mostly great. Mostly great. I found it liberating. We got to put out our own message, unfiltered. I said it, we put it out there. I had an extraordinary communications director who later – she, she was a 28-year-old woman who I hired as my communications director in the Governor's Office. You know, she was five years out of George Washington University, and she understood this stuff long before anybody else did on a political sense. And that's how I kind of became the YouTube Governor as the first one to really aggressively use YouTube. I loved it also because it'll, in, in a, in a blue state with a generally left of center media I got to go over their heads. And you know,



you don't want to cover what I'm saying, don't worry about it.

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I'll put it out to everybody. And I don't care if you cover it or not. And then they had to cover me going over their heads which was a lot of fun.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Right? So, I loved it. Now, the fact that everybody in America now has a camera with them and a video camera with them every minute, let me tell you something, I am so thankful that I am not you, that I did not go to college when everybody in the room –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – had a camera and video camera. If they had I can assure you, and I think McGee will vouch for this, I would not have been governor –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – and not a candidate for President of the United States.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: That part of it, the invasive part of it, um, is difficult because you never ever are off the record anymore.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um-hum.

MR. CHRISTIE: Ever. And you have to understand that and be willing to live with it. And that makes it a little bit harder because everybody, the same way you can go over everybody's head, you know, some knucklehead with a camera could take a video of you and post it on his, you know, tweet it out or post it on Instagram or whatever and then you're doing lots of 'splainin' as Ricky Ricardo

used to say.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.] Well, and I will say on our, ah, trek through Newark this evening we've had – you Facetimed with a student's mother –

MR. CHRISTIE: Um-hum.

DR. HOFFMAN: Ah, we've had selfies. We've had group selfies. I don't know what those are called but [chuckle.] There's; yeah, so, um –

MR. CHRISTIE: Yeah, no, listen. If –

DR. HOFFMAN: It's been fun to engage with the students through technology.

MR. CHRISTIE: Yeah, and, and listen, that's, that's what fame is these days.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um.

MR. CHRISTIE: You know, I didn't do this to become famous but I'm famous now.

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And like, you got to live with it, the good and the bad. You know, and so, you know, but as I've, you know; Mary Pat reminded me all the time when I would have some moments where I'd complain about it, she'd say to me, you know, I was here, nobody put a gun to your head; you did this voluntarily. Like, you know, enough complaining. You know, and, and I think that's part of what life is like today and I wish people would be a little bit more responsible with it but you know, you, you adjust your, you, you try to adjust your conduct accordingly. Sometimes I'm successful, sometimes not.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, and I give you credit. You, you stood for every selfie I think that you were requested of.



MR. CHRISTIE: You know, it reminds me of (sic) Joe DiMaggio used to say. They used to say Joe DiMaggio was a little bit hurt, you know, and his teammates would say to him, Joe, take the day off; like why, why are you going out there and playing when your hurt. He said, today someone's coming, and this will be the only time they may ever get to see me play, and, I don't want to disappoint them. They, the students who were with me as we were walking around campus today and watching all these people come up to and the guy, the woman with the talk to my mother, you know, like, I have her right now on Facetime, talk to her. I'm like, what's her name?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Um, you know, let's start with that. But the way I view it all the time is that's probably the only time those people are ever going to get to me. And what impression do I want to leave them with? That I was too big and too important because that's the way they'll take it fair or unfair. That I was too big and too important to stop for a selfie. I was too big, too important to stop for an autograph or something like that. I, I, I would much rather take the extra time when someone's nice to you to return that kindness. And if they're excited about seeing me, when did I get so big, you know, that like I shouldn't be excited that someone's excited to see me. So, I think that's the way you have to do it in today's world and that's, I think that's part of the, the gig as I say to my kids, and you know, you live with it. They'd complain but, you know, there's other good advantages they get too. That when those things happen I ask them if this is the bad part of being the son or a daughter of a governor and then that usually shuts them up.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.] I won't bring up the Adam Levine incident but, ah

–

MR. CHRISTIE: Yeah, the Adam Levine incident.

DR. HOFFMAN: Yeah, they, your daughter got to meet Adam Levine because of you.

MR. CHRISTIE: Yes, because I was on Saturday Night Live –

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – and, um, Adam Levine was the musical guest. And so, we rehearsed all day together. And so, my daughter and her friend came to the show and they were in my dressing room – yes, my dressing room – and, um,

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – and I said, I was telling her, I go, you won't believe it. I said, you know, been hanging with Adam Levine today. She goes, stop. I said, no, I have been. She goes, you've seen him, you haven't been hanging with him. I go, no. We actually ate lunch together. We hung together. Come on. And she's like, rolling her eyes. And this is the time when I know, absolutely know that there's, that God exists –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – because when she got done rolling her eyes, right then, walking past my open dressing room was Adam Levine.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I said, hey Adam. He goes, Gov, what's up?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I said, come in here; I want you to meet some people. And so, I said, this is my daughter Sarah (phonetic spelling), who was 16 at the time

so you understand why Adam Levine was so important to her.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I said, this is my daughter Sarah and her friend Lorem (phonetic spelling). I just wanted to introduce you. And they were like [makes facial expression.] And Adam Levine, who totally gets the joke as well, he's a pro, he says, Sarah, can I ask you for a favor? And she said, yeah, yeah. And he said, can I have a picture with you? I'd love to have a picture with the Governor's daughter.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And he said, she said, absolutely.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: So, he takes the picture. He high five's me. He walks out. And I look at her and I go, don't roll your eyes at me again, okay?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I am besties with Adam Levine baby.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: [Indiscernible] messing around with me. So, every once in a while we get to, you know, give them some benefit that stops their complaining a little bit.

DR. HOFFMAN: All right. Well, um, if you'll forgive me, Gov –

MR. CHRISTIE: Yeah.

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Ah, I usually wrap things up with, um, I, I like to call myself or think that my students like to call me Doc Hoff, I think it's cool.



MR. CHRISTIE: Doc Hoff, okay.

DR. HOFFMAN: Like, yeah, like –

MR. CHRISTIE: I'll call you Doc Hoff.

DR. HOFFMAN: I'm a doctor but like it's –

AUDIENCE: [Random comments.]

DR. HOFFMAN: – cool, right?

MR. CHRISTIE: Doc Hoff. Yeah.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Cheering.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Thank you.

MR. CHRISTIE: Hi, Doc Hoff. What are we doing?

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.] So, what I like to do is what I call, ah, Doc Hoff's Quick Take.

MR. CHRISTIE: Kind of like a lightening round kind of thing, Doc Hoff?

DR. HOFFMAN: A little bit.

MR. CHRISTIE: All right.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.] And actually, we could have a lightening round. You know, before I do that let's do a little bit of a lightning round.

MR. CHRISTIE: All right.

DR. HOFFMAN: Um, beach or shore?

MR. CHRISTIE: Shore.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, of course.

MR. CHRISTIE: Right.

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Red or blue?

MR. CHRISTIE: Red or blue? I'm red.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Purple?

MR. CHRISTIE: Sometimes –

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – when I need to be.

DR. HOFFMAN: All right, long ties or short ties?

MR. CHRISTIE: Um –

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – long. But not as long as Trump.

DR. HOFFMAN: Okay.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: All right, well –

MR. CHRISTIE: There's a good story in the book about that by the way.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And you look, if you get the book there's a great story about why he wears his ties that long.

AUDIENCE: [Muttering.]

MR. CHRISTIE: You'll like it.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And it's totally, by the way, in character.

DR. HOFFMAN: It is. So, actually that's a great question to ask before we lead into this is, one of the questions you get asked a lot because you're friends with Trump is, is he the same in-person as he appears on television?



MR. CHRISTIE: Painfully so.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Yeah. I mean, people ask me all of the time, what's he really like? I go, that's it.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: You see it. I'm telling you, I am telling you there is 99 percent of the time there is not a widths worth of difference between the Donald Trump you see on television and the Donald Trump I had lunch with in the dining room next to the Oval Office two weeks ago. Not a widths worth of difference. None. And, and, so, you know, people are like, really? I'm like, oh no. I'm serious. Exactly that way and it's, its him.

DR. HOFFMAN: So, why be friends with him?

MR. CHRISTIE: Why not?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Listen, when, when I first became friends with Donald Trump I was the brand-new U.S. Attorney in New Jersey and he's a real estate developer in New York and a casino owner in New Jersey. The way I met him was his sister, his older sister. Maryanne Trump Barry was a 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals Judge. I was the new U.S. Attorney and so I was going around to visit all of the judges and pay courtesy calls on them. I went to make a courtesy call on her. At the end of our conversation she said to me, would you do me a favor? I said, sure, Judge, what do you want? She goes, would you have dinner with my little brother?

AUDIENCE: [Muttering.] [Chuckling.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I said, your little brother? You mean, Donald?

She said, yeah, my little brother. He wants to have dinner with you. I said, well tell him to call the office and schedule a date. She goes – now, I don't know if I even still believe this but if, if, if its true it's probably the last time he thought this way – she said, he'd rather have me arrange it. He thinks calling you directly would be inappropriate.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: By the way, that gets even funnier on the ride home. When you start to think about all the ways –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – that that's funny.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Um, so I said fine. You, you call my office and set it up.

And, I went to dinner with him in New York, just the two of us, and this is what it's like. We sit down, we're at Jean-Georges –

DR. HOFFMAN: Hum.

MR. CHRISTIE: – which at the time, and its still, is a pretty famous restaurant in New York which is connected to one of his hotels. Long story short, Jean-Georges himself comes out to take our order, of course, because you're with Donald Trump. So, he says, Jean-Georges, remember that appetizer you made me the other night, the special one? We'll take two of those. And, and then the entrée that you did with it, we'll take two of those. Okay? Yes, sir, Mr. Trump. And he walks away. I'm like, did you just order for me?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Yeah, you'll love it. Don't worry about it. You'll love it. Okay.

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And you know, it's the big deal, right? They have the big, like, silver domes over the food. They bring it out and then they present it to you, you know? And, the appetizer is scallops. I am allergic –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – to scallops. So, I kind of – he's talking the whole time anyway, so it doesn't matter – he, I'm cutting these and moving them around my plate to look polite but I ain't (sic) going to eat them, I'm going to get sick, right? I can't do that. Next comes out the main course. Lamb. I detest lamb.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I mean, like, dry heave, gagging –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – hate it. So, I cut a couple of pieces, but I don't eat anything and finally he comes up for air and he notices that I'm not eating the lamb. And he goes, you, is it not cooked correctly? I said, oh no, its cooked fine. And he said, why aren't you eating it? And I said, because I hate lamb. And he said, why'd you order it?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I said, I didn't. You ordered it for me. And he goes, oh, yeah. All right.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: So, we get done with dinner and this is typical Donald Trump, we leave, we go to leave. And we walk out of the door and there is a touristy looking couple standing right in front of us. Now I'm the brand-new U.S. Attorney so no one knows who the hell I am. And, they go, oh, Mr. Trump, we

heard you were inside. My husband, the woman says, is an enormous fan of yours. Can we please have a picture. Now remember, this 2002 so we didn't have these. We had those disposable black and yellow Kodak cameras.

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]

MR. CHRISTIE: So, can I please take a picture? And Trump hates taking pictures. Hates it. Even now he hates it. So, he says no, no, no I can't. She goes, please Mr. Trump. We've been waiting out here for 45 minutes. He goes, okay, all right, come on over. So, the guy walks over; Trump puts his arm around him and the woman's pushing the button and it's not clicking.

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Now, for old guys like me and McGee we know that that means they hadn't wound it.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: But she's so flustered she doesn't know what the hell to do. And he goes, Sweetheart, come on, let's get – come on. And, and she goes, it's not work – Mr. Trump just give me a second. It's not working. And he looks at her and he says, Sweetheart, let's do this next time we get together and he turns around and walks away and gets into his limousine and he's gone. And she goes, we're not going to get together again.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: And I said, I think that was the point.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: The next morning he calls me to review for me what a great dinner it was.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Wasn't it great? It was spectacular. It was incredible and –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – and [chuckle] then he says to me, by the way, how about that line with the woman – we'll do this the next time we get together. Was that beautiful or what?

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: I said it was quite something, Donald.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Um, so you're friends with him, there is a side to him that I've gotten to know over these years that is kind, and is generous, um, and does a lot of really wonderful things for people that he never talks about. And, during Hurricane Sandy and a bunch of other crises that happened over time he was incredibly generous in that way. Um, and he's fun. You know, and now he's President and it's a lot different. But like, when he was a real estate developer in New York, and you were going out to dinner with him? You know, I remember the first time he brought Melania to dinner. That made things a lot better, I guarantee you that. I, my wife and I came to that dinner and Melania shows up and she's wonderful; she's incredibly smart; she's very tough on him, it's great to watch.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: She's the only person who can shut him up. It's great to see. And she's a wonderful, kind, great person. And, after the first dinner that we had with her when he was dating her we get in the car and I said to Mary Pat, so what'd you think? And she goes, I, I can't do dinner with her again. And I said, why not. And she goes, he's staring at her, you're staring at her –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – for God’s sakes, I’m staring at her –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – she’s so good looking. Like I, I, I don’t think I, I don’t, I don’t want to be there and be everybody’s staring at her when we go to dinner. Um, so they got better when he brought her around. But, um, he’s fun and he’s been fun over the years to be friends with. I never thought we’d run against each other and that made it a little more difficult but, you know, it’s important to be friend, that a President has friends who’ve known him for a long time and who could tell him the truth. And that’s part of my job now.

DR. HOFFMAN: Well, I think you effectively stole my Quick Take.

MR. CHRISTIE: Oh, do it anyway, Doc.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Chuckles], no, I’m going to skip ahead actually.

MR. CHRISTIE: All right.

DR. HOFFMAN: I was going to talk about cancel culture but I’m actually going to skip ahead –

[Musical background]

DR. HOFFMAN: – to this video –

MR. CHRISTIE: Okay.

DR. HOFFMAN: – that describes the new initiative that we’re doing here at the University of Delaware.

VIDEO

SPEAKER 1: What is something you hate but wish you loved?

SPEAKER 2: Yes.

SPEAKER 1: Why?

SPEAKER 2: I'm not a big fan of math but when it's added into something that I'm passionate about, like, chemistry –

SPEAKER 1: Oh, very good.

SPEAKER 2: – then it's not something I'm interested in.

SPEAKER 1: [Laughter.]

SPEAKER 2: But I want to be able to love it because it is something that's going to be very involved in my major and my field that I'm going to be involved in later in the future.

SPEAKER 1: I'm going to tell you a secret. So, when I was, went through grad school –

SPEAKER 2: Uh-huh.

SPEAKER 1: – one of the things that I noticed was that every class that I hated the most I ended up, it ended up being the most important thing I ever took later on in my life.

SPEAKER 2: [Laughter.]

SPEAKER 1: So, so, I just remember that. But I, I know exactly what you're saying.

SPEAKER 2: [Indiscernible]

SPEAKER 1: There's some things you struggle with; it's not something you really like –

SPEAKER 2: Right.

SPEAKER 1: – but it comes back and becomes really important at some point.

SPEAKER 2: Right.

SPEAKER 1: So, so try to keep that [indiscernible] [laughter].



SPEAKER 2: [Indiscernible.]

[Musical close]

DR. HOFFMAN: So, this is a new initiative started by National Agenda students called Free Intelligent Conversations adapted from a national nonprofit movement. And, I encourage you, if you're walking around campus and you see a student holding this sign to engage them in a conversation. So, the question that, ah, that was our Dean John Pelesko. He wasn't able to be here tonight. So, I thought it would be a great opportunity to show a video of him while he wasn't here [chuckle] and embarrass him. Um, but he was talking with a student on the Green and the question that he got was what do you hate that you wish you loved. And I thought I'd ask you what do you hate that you wish you loved?

MR. CHRISTIE: Vegetables.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Vegetables.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.] [Applause.]

MR. CHRISTIE: All right. Yeah.

DR. HOFFMAN: You –

MR. CHRISTIE: Because Mary Pat's like, [indiscernible], I mean, it's been 35 years of her killing me. How couldn't you eat this, how can't you eat that? I don't like it. What, come on, try this, try that. I, I just wish I could love it just to stop the bickering.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Is there any one vegetable?

MR. CHRISTIE: Yeah, I mean, listen, I like string beans and I like carrots but like, when you get beyond, like, string beans and carrots –

AUDIENCE: [Chuckling.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – it gets very dicey.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Don't like broccoli, don't like cauliflower.

DR. HOFFMAN: No Brussel sprouts?

MR. CHRISTIE: No, God no, [indiscernible.]

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: No. No, no, no. Really bad. It's like, string beans, carrots
I'm good. –

DR. HOFFMAN: All right.

MR. CHRISTIE: – and which she tells me are fake vegetables. They're not
real vegetables. Um –

DR. HOFFMAN: I think she; I think she knows what she's talking about.

MR. CHRISTIE: And there's no doubt, like –

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: – that's why I wish I could love them. Like, I don't want to
not like them, but I don't.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

DR. HOFFMAN: Well –

MR. CHRISTIE: And I'm like 57 now. It ain't happening.

AUDIENCE: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Like, I'm not going to all of sudden really like it I don't think



but, you know.

DR. HOFFMAN: Either way, I think that the essence of the things that you've been talking to us about all day today and the essence of what, ah, this program is about is just to observe and recognize the humanity in each other and realize that not everybody likes vegetables. [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: That's right.

DR. HOFFMAN: [Laughter.]

MR. CHRISTIE: They don't.

DR. HOFFMAN: All right. I'm going to finish up here by talking about – whoops, is this working? Oop, there we go. Ah, no. Um, our, ah, audio essay contest, um, is, ah, called Speak Up. You can actually win cash awards for this contest. It's open to all students. Tell you story about your perceptions and your experiences in this democracy. Are you a new resident of this democracy? Are you an immigrant? Have you lived here a long time? Talk about your family's history. Um, and then finally, our next speaker, which is our last speaker, ah – there we go – John Della Volpe is, ah, the Director of, um, Polling at the Harvard Kennedy School of Institute of Politics. They just released their polling yesterday about millennials. He's been focusing on young people for the last 20 years. Ah, the Washington Post called him one of the world's leading authorities on global sentiment, opinion, and influence. So, I look forward to seeing you back here in two weeks on November 20th at the same time, ah, to learn about millennials' perspectives of what's going on with politics. So, I'd like to end by giving a big Blue Hen thank you to Governor Christie.

AUDIENCE: [Cheering.] [Applause.]

MR. CHRISTIE: Thank you everybody. It was great.



DR. HOFFMAN: [Indiscernible]

MR. CHRISTIE: Thank you very much.

DR. HOFFMAN: It was great.

AUDIENCE: [Applause.]

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