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Thursday, November 3, 1988

World & Nation H Bush and Dukakis on the issues: Part III

EDITOR'S NOTE: This concludes our publication of the presidential candidates' responses to a questionnaire developed by the U.S. Catholic Conference.

Health:

Would you support legislation to provide free or low-cost health insurance (Medicaid) to all people with incomes at or below poverty levels? DUKAKIS: (No answer checked.) This

spring, I signed legislation which provides basic health care for all the citizens of Massachusetts - the first law of its kind in American history. Senator Kennedy and Congressman Waxman have proposed similar legislation at the national level. Although there are some aspects of that legislation which I would seek to change to address the concerns of small business, I believe it would go a long way toward providing basic health coverage for the 37 million Americans who lack such insurance now.

BUSH: (No answer checked.) We have already made great strides in this direction in certain provisions under the Catastrophic Health Care Act. We will continue to increase government services as conditions permit.

Human rights:

Do you support making the defense of human rights a central concern of U.S. foreign policy, especially in places where human rights are most at risk (e.g., Central America, the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, southern Africa, Haiti and Korea)? DUKAKIS: Support.

BUSH: Support. Defending freedom is our first responsibility. Advancing freedom is our moral responsibility. It is a fundamental principle of American foreign policy. We live in the freest, the fairest, and the most generous nation on the face of the Earth. And if we cannot offer help, who can? As president I will stand up for and support freedom and democracy around the world.

International economic policy:

Do you support or oppose the following positions? Please comment.

 Increase in U.S. development assistance to needy Third World countries? DUKAKIS: (No answer checked.) By



helping Third World economies to grow, development assistance serves the goals of easing suffering, promoting democracy and creating markets for American exports. I will work with Congress — within the constraints of a massive federal budget deficit - to restore a federal commitment to U.S. developmental assistance to Third World nations.

BUSH: (No answer checked.) Economic development in the Third World cannot occur without the expansion of democratic liberties and free enterprise. Americans have always been very generous; the Marshall Plan and the Peace Corps are successful examples of America's leadership in promoting economic development. Budgetary constraints will of course mean that we will have to be more careful about how and where we spend our aid dollars. But I support, within the bounds that our resources permit, providing assistance to nations in need.

• Reduction of U.S. military and security-related assistance to Third-World countries?

DUKAKIS: (No answer checked.) In general, I believe that economic assistance to Third World nations serves American foreign policy goals better than military assistance. However, each nation is unique and must be judged on a case-by-case basis.

BUSH: Oppose. Strong economies foster strong democracies. As president, one of my primary concerns will be to help developing countries strengthen their economies. But military aid is also important. The purpose of our security assistance program is to reduce the chance of regional conflict, and make it less likely that U.S. forces will have to be committed to defend our interests.



Many developing nations, Pakistan for example, are confronted with external threats. Military assistance helps these nations carry the burden of their own defense.

• U.S. government efforts to relieve the debt burden of poor developing nations?

DUKAKIS: Support. The U.S. government should serve as an honest broker between governments and bankers. Any solution must: recognize that borrowers and lenders share the burden of debt reduction; provide enough capital for debtor economies to grow without having to plunder their economic base; and encourage innovative provisions such as debt-for-equity swaps.

BUSH: Support. Large international debt is a major problem for developing nations. Debt weakens their economies, preventing them from buying our products, which in turn affects our trade deficit. What is called for is a new wave of flexibility from banks, international financial institutions, and governments, including our affluent allies. The best way for a country to resolve any debt crisis it might face is to expand its economy and promote international trade. As president, I would do all I can to help these countries help themselves. The United States should build on the achievement of our free trade agreement with Canada - a \$130 billion agreement — and work with our other neighbors in the Western Hemisphere. particularly Mexico, in creating a free trade zone of unprecedented size, a new North, Central and South American compact. This is the ticket for growth and prosperity in Latin America, giving them a chance to resolve their debt.

• Increase of multilateral assistance to the poorest nations?

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YOUR \$15 MONTHLY PROVIDES A NEEDY CHILD WITH: NOURISHING FOOD, MEDICAL CARE, the chance to GO TO SCHOOL and HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. YOUR CHILD WILL DUKAKIS: Support.

BUSH: Support. As president, I would encourage our affluent allies to become more generous in their support to developing nations. The problem with channeling assistance through multilateral institutions is that much of the funds are used to pay administrative costs and never get to the people who actually need it. The more help that can go directly to people in need, the better.

Mass media:

With respect to the appropriate basis for government regulation of broadcasting, do you support the public trustee model of regulation of the airwaves, i.e., that the airwaves are owned by the American public as a whole, and that the few persons who are granted a license to use a portion of the airwaves necessarily act as trustees of their frequency for the public?

DUKAKIS: Support.

BUSH: (See combined response to media questions below.)

Is the business of broadcasting more efficiently and appropriately regulated by marketplace forces?

DUKAKIS: Oppose. Unlike print media in which infinite competition is possible, there are a limited number of broadcast airwaves - airwaves which belong to the American people and not to a few corporations. Only government regulation can ensure that licensees use the public airwaves for the public interest.

Do you support the fairness doctrine? DUKAKIS: Support.

BUSH: (See combined answer below).

Do you support the "equal time" regulations of the FCC?

DUKAKIS: Support. While I strongly support the principle of equal time for candidates for political office to express their views on the public airwayes. I recognize that accommodating the needs of a multicandidate field presents problems for broadcasters. As president, I will work with Congress and with all concerned parties to strike a sensible balance and arrive at an equitable solution.

BUSH: I support the repeal of the fairness doctrine. Our administration consistently **Continued on Page 4**





Fri. 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

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Little Marita lives in a small village in the mountains of Guatemala. She struggles to survive by selling corn tortillas which she helps to make by hand each night. Your concern can make the difference in Marita's life.

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CJ 11/3/88

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