

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

THE RUSH LIMBAUGH SHOW 05/12/04

RUSH: You know, ladies and gentlemen, even I sometimes forget how good I am. (laughter) Hey, Brian's not playing with a tinker-toy set today. He's here watching the program. (laughter)

I mean, I predicted so many things yesterday that have come true, they weren't hard to predict, but I – it's just – just amazing. And it is a thrill and delight to be with you, my good friends. Here we are at the one and only EIB Network, your guiding light. Rush Limbaugh behind the golden EIB microphone. The dittocam is on. We welcome all of you to the program who are watching it today via rushlimbaugh.com, our 24/7 subscriber side. Telephone number, if you want to be on the program, 800-282-2882. The e-mail address is rush@eibnet.com.

I want to go back to yesterday's program, and I want to play for you some comments made by me. And this was after the news on the beheading of Nick Berg had been made available.

By the way, have you – have any of you – gone to – do you know – not even Al Jazeera is airing this. Have you – I'm – I'm a little bit reluctant, here, to even describe it. I went to look at it. Did you, Mr. Snerdley? Did you go – did you go to the – yeah. You couldn't get on the servers? Well, it's because you're not a powerful, influential member of the media like I am. I have backdoor entryways to all these servers.

I saw it. I'm loathe to even describe it. I mean, it's just – it's just – and the audio's – it's just – the audio, enough! I mean, the audio, alone, is enough.

And it's – it's just – you know, this is the – I'm sitting and I'm listening to the Democrats today do exactly what I said they would do yesterday and that's blame all this on these prison photos. I – I really – you know, I was half joking. I said, nobody's going to be this stupid, but yet they are. They are just so obsessed here with turning every event into a political advantage for them, or trying to, that they just followed through, smack-dab, right with my prediction.

Some of them tried to couch it in – in, oh, disguised ways, but you strip all that away and they were clearly trying to make the case. And I asked you to remember yesterday. Remember – before we had ever seen a prison abuse photo, the twin towers had been blown to smithereens with our own airplanes. The Pentagon had been crashed into. And another jet crashed into the field in Pennsylvania. *Wall Street Journal* reporter, Daniel Perl, had been beheaded. Long before these, folks. This is who we're dealing with.

And I'm going to tell you this – I have – you know, one of the – I have a sixth sense – instinct – and I'm telling you, the vast majority of the American people are

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

as outraged as anything since 9/11 has made them over this. And I think that the – and if I opened the phones for three hours today, and said, “OK, just tell me what you’re feeling,” because if we dealt with feelings today mixed with what people think, I think that there is a sentiment and a mood to ramp it up. Let’s just start getting serious over there. And stop fooling around in Fallujah, and let’s stop fooling around in Najaf, and let’s just take care of business. And let’s ramp up and gear up and get going.

And it is the Democrats who still do not – if – I’ve got the most incredible column here from a guy in the – I guess it’s the Philadelphia – I don’t know what newspaper it is because they combine their newspapers in one site, their Philly.com. Now, I don’t – I – yeah. It’s *Philadelphia Daily News*, I think it is, and it’s headlined, “Time to Get the Hell Out” because of what happened to Nick Berg. “Time to Get the Hell Out.” And it’s a – it’s a case study in what would happen if somebody like John Kerry, or other like-minded Liberals ended up in leadership positions of this country.

Let’s go back, just to refresh your memory in case you missed the program yesterday. This is what I said after the news of Nick Berg reached us.

RUSH (on tape): You’re going to have a bunch of Democrats go to microphones – it’s very sad, by the way. They’ll be very sad, and very despondent, and depressed, and they feel terrible because they said this is what would be the outgrowth and the outcome of these pictures – that it would endanger the lives of Americans around the world. And we knew this was going to happen and they’ll blame it on Bush. They’ll try to blame the death of Nick Berg on Bush. And then, if they can, they’ll try to go get Nick Berg’s families in Philadelphia – somebody’ll go down there and try to get their family to go public and blame Bush as well for this. That’s if liberal Democrats in Washington –

RUSH: Oh. I guess we lost the audio there. Don’t know what happen. Probably another one of our computer screw-ups yesterday. But you get the drift. All of that – all of that – did happen. Somebody fill me in on what happened so I can know if we can go to the next audio sound bite, or not? All right.

I want now to go to the John Gibson Show on FOX News Channel, *The Big Show* with John Gibson at 5:00 o’clock yesterday afternoon. He’s got Dick Durban on, and I’m already sensing talking points that have gone out from some place to liberal Democrats, both elected officials and the media.

I want you to listen to this very carefully. This is Dick Durban. Gibson says to him, all right, “We’ve seen a huge amount of outrage on the political side, and from the American people, and from our former friends around the world, in Western Europe, the Arab countries, about Abu Ghraib. Are you expecting and will you demand that some sort of outrage about this slaughter of an American in Iraq, the beheading, a five-stroke beheading of an American?”

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

DURBAN: Absolutely. It was an atrocity. There is no explanation, no rationalization for that kind of behavior. And the waves of emotion that are washing across the country when we see the inhumanity in that prison, and then this cycle of violence get even bloodier and deeper with this terrible atrocity, and the beheading of this American person who is overseas – there’s absolutely – any right-thinking person in the world should condemn –

RUSH: *Cycle of violence?* Cycle of violence? Did you catch that? What? It – they’re linked. Yes. That’s the point. Cycle of violence. We are participating in and creating a cycle of violence. This is not a neighborhood skirmish in Oshkosh. This is a war, and they’re talking about the cycle of violence. I heard it again one hour later on the same network. Ceci Connolly and the roundtable, on the Brit Hume show, said this.

CONNOLLY: Obviously, this is horrible. We’ve already heard comments from senior government officials that these individuals who perpetrated this heinous crime, hopefully, will be found and brought to justice, but we’re in such a vicious cycle over there right now. I don’t know that anyone’s really come out with the sort of smart way for how to break this cycle.

RUSH: I know. Unbelievable! It is just unbelievable! Cycle of violence? How do we break the cycle of violence?! It’s the – this doesn’t – how do you call a war a cycle of violence and indict the United States as being participatory in it? We are to blame. We’re responsible. We have to stop the cycle of violence. If we would stop the cycle of violence, the violence would stop. So goes the theory. Tell this to the Israelis.

You know, I hate to tell you this, folks, but this beheading, and all of these murders, Israel deals with this every *week*, and they have been dealing with this every week for who knows how many years, who knows how many generations. And – and so now, there’s a cycle of violence. Dick Durban talks about the cycle of violence and less than an hour later, Ceci Connolly of *The Washington Post* talks about the cycle of violence.

So now we’re going to call this war on terror a cycle of violence. And what this means, the cycle of violence, is that we are helping ramp it up. It is – and how do we stop the cycle of violence? Nobody has really come up with the sort of smart way for how to break the cycle – it’s called, win. (laughter) It’s real simple. It’s called, win!

Now, this guy that wrote the piece, I guess the *Philadelphia Daily News*, John Bayer is his name. “Time to Get the Hell Out. Prison Abuse Fuels Fanaticism and Invites More Brutality.” So, we’re back to the cycle of violence, here. It’s *amazing* how fast the talking points get circulated out there in the Left and everybody picks them up. “Didn’t take long, did it?” writes Mr. Bayer, “And can

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

there be any American, especially any parent, not sickened, saddened and angered by the public beheading of Nick Berg?" And then he actually writes, "God ___ it." in his paper.

He says, "The bastards made him say his name, his parents' name, his brother's name, his sister's name, where he lived. Then they cut off his head and they held it up to a camera. Twenty-six years old. You tell me what contractor now wants to help rebuild the nation we unilaterally saw fit to shock and awe to get its weapons of mass destruction to make America safer. You tell it to the Berg family, W. Oh, wait – while you're at it. Tell it to the families of 4,133 Americans wounded, 775 killed, including more than 600 killed since you declared mission accomplished back in May of 2003.

"A young American, a son of Pennsylvania, beheaded for the world to see. Why? For what I believe is condoned, if not ordered, humiliation of prisoners and for photos and videos taken, well, what else makes sense? Intimidation of other prisoners."

So, apparently, this is a direct result of these prison abuse photos and this is how smart Al Qaeda is. You know, we talked to – had a phone call, yesterday. Boy. How dumb can these people be? Here, they've got it going in their favor. We've got a US Senate Committee investigating the armed forces and trying to hamper their activities and trying to get them all castigated for abuses, not torture – harassment, not violence. And now, all of a sudden, that is the reason why this man was beheaded.

And so Al-Qaeda's not all that stupid. Al Qaeda knows who the U.S. media in this country is. Al-Qaeda knows how the US media can be played. Al Qaeda knows how the U.S. media can be fiddled like a violin. I mean, it's just all over the place. It's a – it's a – it's a common theme.

Anyway, Mr. Bayer's point is that it's just – it's time to get out. This is the last straw. Time to get out. This cycle of violence is just such that we can't stop it and we're only endangering ourselves and more people. It's time to get out and let them have it. Let them have what they want over there and just get out. And this – this why it's – it's just too dangerous to let people like this end up in leadership positions of this country.

We got to take a time out because our first EIB profit center break is upon us. Be back in just a second. Stay with us. Don't go away, folks.

(station break)

RUSH: Well, somebody – somebody needs to tell these fools on the left that there's been a "cycle of violence" in the Middle East for 5000 years. It didn't start with our prison guards, it's not going to stop with our prison guards.

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

And I have to tell you this, folks. I am being urged and I am in a quandary, here. I'm being urged by Mr. Snerdley, and even in my e-mails here, to describe what I saw on the Nick Berg video and I – I just – just can't pull the trigger on it. I mean, even if I, you know, go through the usual, OK, I'm going to give you five seconds if you don't want your kids to hear it, if you don't want to hear it, go somewhere else for a while, I don't know that I (sigh) – I don't know that I can do it.

Now, the – I'll tell you – one of the reasons for doing it, one of the reasons I'm being urged to do it is that for two weeks now we have been pummeled with homoerotic and perverted, pornographic prison guard photos out of Iraq, and they've been cast as something outrageous and obscene and all of the adjectives that have been attached, and yet, this video of Nick Berg, not being widely seen, and the people urging those who have seen it to describe it so as to sort of get some perspective, here.

But my problem is I know that in Philadelphia, in Westchester, Pennsylvania, where the Berg family is, there got to be people there listening to this program and friends of the family all over the place – I – it's just – I don't know, folks. It's a – thinking about it – I mean, I've watched it, listened to it. To think of describing it to you is just – I don't know. I don't know if I'll be able to pull the trigger on it. I'll have to think about it, but it – I understand the people urging me to do it simply to, as I say, put some perspective in all this.

Limbaugh echo syndrome, by the way, is alive and well. George Neumayr, the *American Spectator Online*, today, writes this, "Outrage at obscene photos would be a little easier to take from liberal Senators if they didn't have a history of financing them. Had Robert Maplethorpe snapped the photos at Abu Ghraib, the senate might have given him a government grant.

Jesse Helms would certainly be surprised at the moral horror on display these days in the Senate. In 1989, he asked his fellow senators to stop funding degrading photography coming out of the NEA and they refused. Robert Byrd and Pat Leahy worked to block Helms' amendment. Daniel Patrick Moynihan said to his colleagues, 'Do we really want it to be recorded that the Senate of the United States is so insensible to the traditions of liberty in our land, so fearful of what is different and new and intentionally disturbing, so anxious to record our timidity, that we would sanction institutions for acting precisely as they are meant to act?' Notice Moynihan's words – 'intentionally disturbing.'

"The Senate back then could handle disturbing images and even felt duty-bound to use taxpayer dollars to pick up the tab for them. Who knows? Perhaps the photos from Abu Ghraib will reappear as modern art at one of the museums the Senators have patronized over the years."

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

Limbaugh echo syndrome. This is precisely what I have been saying over the course of the past two weeks. You can see these pictures on American Web sites, where they win awards. These kinds of pictures with these kinds of acts depicted. They win awards. They are considered progressive. They are considered enlightened and that's why, you know, Hillary Clinton and all these people that are up there, denouncing these pictures are going to have a problem once some truths are learned about this because they're acting all outraged, and they're condemning this.

Well, if they're going to condemn it in a prison, if they're going to condemn this taking place in a prison – oh, I – well, wait. Wait. You know what they'll say? Well, it was – the prisoners were not cooperating in this. (laughter) In Maplethorpe's photos, there was cooperation. So they will draw a distinction.

Neumayr says, "Senators who can straight-facedly call depraved photography 'art' and debate with Jesse Helms shouldn't be surprised at the intentionally disturbing pop culture they have helped spread might seep into the military. The Abu Ghraib scandal didn't happen in a cultural vacuum. It's a reflection of the libertine pop culture the American left has long tried to impose on a military culture that it considers too rigid."

Nicholas Kristof today, in *The New York Times* – let me read to you just the last paragraph – the remarkable last paragraph – of Nicholas Kristof's op-ed today in *The New York Times*.

"There's a useful lesson here for George Bush's America as well as for the Ayatollah's Iran: when a religion is imposed on people, when a government tries too ostentatiously to put itself 'under God,' the effect is often not to prop up religious faith but to undermine it. Nothing is more lethal to religious faith than self-righteous, intolerant politicians, who wince at nose studs, and drag God into politics."

Oh. So George Bush's America is now the moral equivalent to the Ayatollah's Iran, according to Nicholas Kristof in *The New York Times*.

In a speech 18 years ago, then Secretary of Education Bill Bennett referred to this kind of reasoning as *reducto ad Khomeini*, the equation of George Bush's America with the ayatollah's Iran is quite telling, don't you think, folks? And this is where we are – we've – we have distinctions – no distinctions – being made. That's what the cycle of violence comment's all about. They're establishing a moral equivalency. We are as – just as bad.

In fact, Teddy Kennedy said it the other day. Teddy Kennedy said, "We may as well have reopened Saddam's torture and rape rooms. We may as well have reopened the prison under Saddam's management based on these photos." Pure politics, once again. The left simply attempting to score political points – some of

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

the most outrageous, perverted in itself thinking that genuine Americans could come up with in many, many years of my witness.

We'll be back in just a second.

(station break)

RUSH: A man, a legend, a way of life.

Ladies and gentlemen just so you know, the world is monitoring this program. The BBC is monitoring this program for their *Nightline* show, their version of *Nightline* tonight. We got a phone call from German media to let us know that they're monitoring. *NBC Nightly News* is monitoring the program today. They are – they're working on a story in the split, about the split, a supposed split among Conservatives on the war.

And frankly I don't – let me look into the camera in case they're taking a feed as this moment. There's no split on the war in the Conservative movement or among Conservatives. There's a split on how to win it. There's a split on how to proceed maybe, but there's not split on should we be there and doing it. And it's much ado about nothing anyway.

Of the split among Conservatives is news to somebody today? It's only news if somebody has got an agenda that they're trying to put forth, because I have – you've got a column from George Will now and then. It says this and it says that. Any time there's a break between the Conservatives and the President, man, it's like a bee line. It's like they've just got to focus on this in the mainstream press because it's happy days are here again. It's the only way they can hope to win. Their own candidate, John Kerry just can't –

You ought to see the stories in the news today. How about – the last item of the program yesterday was one of the funniest things to come down the pike and this hasn't even been accurately reported. It's on the wires, but television is not making any sort of a deal about it at all. The Senate yesterday, by a single vote, rejected an election-year effort to extend federal unemployment benefits. Now we're in the midst of a huge economic recovery and boom, and with the Democrats as an election year political issue, tried to extend unemployment benefits another 13 weeks. They had to get closure, had to get 60 votes to move on to the vote but this vote would have equated a vote to extend. The vote was 59 to 40 in the Senate. They fell just one vote shy of the 60 votes needed to overcome objections and to move on with a vote on extending the benefits.

The one Senator who didn't vote because he wasn't there was the Democratic presidential presumptive assumed nominee, John Kerry. The only Senator who missed the vote. He was campaigning in the Bush stronghold of Kentucky.

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

Now this – is this not – it’s not a metaphor, but if this just is not a little peek into the whole study of the Kerry campaign, here he’s got a commercial running saying that he cast the deciding vote that created 20 million new jobs.

Here a seminal, huge issue to the Left as part of its campaign to get rid of George Bush, extending unemployment benefits, so as to portray the country as a continual soup line with nothing but soup kitchens available. Gas prices are up, people are having to buy gas and go starving at the same time because they can’t afford both, remember that?

Now all of a sudden the one guy who seeks the votes of the American people to turn George Bush out, not even there to vote on this issue, his own campaign is beginning now to whisper “psss-psss” that something is array here in this campaign. This to me is just utterly hilarious.

Kerry’s spokesman David Wade said, “John Kerry has fought again and again to extend unemployment benefits for workers left behind in the Bush economy.” But he wasn’t there when it was time to vote on it. “The reason we haven’t succeeded,” he said, “is because George Bush opposes extending unemployment insurance and so does his allies in the Republican House of Representatives and 39 Republican Senators.” This is the statement after Kerry misses the vote. Blame it on Bush! Who didn’t have a vote. (laughter)

I’m sorry, folks, I just – I can’t help but to laugh at the utter futility – as of today. and I know things can change, but the utter futility of this campaign and we’ve got – I mean I didn’t even bother. Normally every day what I do, I’ll get in here and I go through all of the show prep that I have been feverishly working on since the night before.

And lately, I’ve assembled a Kerry stack and then a prison photo stack and then a war in Iraq stack, a war on terror stack, and then a lighthearted stack. As you know we haven’t gotten to any stack but the prison photo stack in the last week. Today I didn’t even bother assembling all the Kerry stuff in one stack, it’s just scattered throughout all the other stacks, so that I’ll be sure to get to all of it, not in one combined effort, but over the course of the program as it just pops up because I mean it just – (laughter). I’m sorry. I’m the most optimistic and the happiest figure in American media today folks and there’s nothing that’s happened here that has changed this.

Get this. Where is this from? Oh, it’s the Louisville Courier Journal. By the way Don, how do you pronounce the capitol of Kentucky? Is it Luey-ville or Louisville? What? Oh, she got it! She guessed Frankfurt. (laughter) Have you heard me tell that joke before? Yeah. (laughter) Oh, did I try it on you once before? Oh I’ve forgotten I tried it on her once before. (laughter)

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

Anyway this is a story by Al Cross, “The prison abuse scandal in Iraq stems from an arrogant attitude that President Bush displayed in going to war there,” said John Kerry in Louisville yesterday, “What has happened is not just something that a few, you know, privates and corporals or sergeants engaged in,” said Kerry. “This is something that comes out of an attitude about the rights of prisoners of war. It’s an attitude that comes out of how we went there in the first place. An attitude that comes out of America’s overall arrogance as policy.”

“America’s overall arrogance as policy.” Now do you know how the Louisville Courier Journal headlined this piece? “Bush’s Arrogance Costly,” Kerry said. No. No Mr. Cross that’s not what Kerry said. He didn’t say Bush’s arrogance, he said America’s overall arrogance. He said all of this is an attitude that comes out of America’s overall arrogance.

And so John Kerry is attempting to transfer the values and attitudes of those prison guards to all of us. They are just extensions of us. They did what they did because we are who we are, and we are all the same, and we are all Americans, and we are all arrogant.

And yet this is the guy – listen to any question that he answers. “Senator Kerry, what about that vote on the unemployment?” “Well, you don’t know how the Senate works. You’ve never been there. Don’t talk to me about that until you’ve been elected Senator like I have.

“And you haven’t been to Vietnam either. You don’t know about unemployment insurance. I’ve been to both places. I’ve never needed unemployment insurance and I hope I never do because there’s not very much because George Bush doesn’t care.” Something along those lines. But yet, at the moment of truth he’s not there.

This is Gidan in Long Island, out on New York, hello Gidan nice to have you on the program. Welcome to EIB Network.

GIBAN: Hi Rush. I spoke to you once before. You are a legend. My point is that I don’t think anybody in the west has stomach to win the war on terrorism. As a former Israeli and an Israeli soldier, especially in Lebanon in ’82, I’ll tell you first hand. Israel has been fighting these people for – for years. And every time they get to the point of OK, let’s finish the job they get stopped, either by the UN, by the Europeans, by the United States, etc. And this is can what happened here. It’s been happening – you know we kind of work up that there is a war – that there are terrorists against us in – you know, with September 11, but it didn’t start there. In Israel it didn’t start – it started way before we took land over. You know, I was growing up as a kid about seven minutes from the Jordanian border, by car, by tractor actually, and they were booby trapping toys in our little village roads and they were booby trapping the (inaudible; overlapping dialogue) –

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

RUSH: Exactly. But let's stick with the point here Gidan. You say that the West, and you're including America because after all, who else in the west matters.

GIDAN: Absolutely.

RUSH: Lacks the stomach to win it, right?

GIDAN: Absolutely. I think Bush is one of the few that, I guess, if he really tried hard enough he may be able to do it but they're not just going to let this happen. There is – there is a reason why in most, if not all Arab mosques –

RUSH: Now, let me tell you something Gidan. Let me try to offer you and everybody else a little comfort here. You're having this – and I understand the reaction, by the way. Because you're watching real-time events as they occur at this moment. And if you watch the way these Senators are conducting themselves and acting in all the mock outrage over the prison abuse scandal and right in the middle of it comes the beheading of Nick Berg and you see no backing off and no firming of resolve amongst people who are purported to be leaders, i.e. elected officials.

I think what you – you may be right about those people but there's two things I want you to consider. Number one, the American people are – are probably – well I know they're steaming about this. The American people are livid about this. The American people don't want to take this anymore. I'm talking about a majority of them.

Second thing is, this is an election year. This is predictable kind of stuff sadly. Well, actually it isn't predictable. This kind of stuff in an election year, when the nation is at war, is not predictable. This is new. This is sort of precedent setting for the out of power party to behave as almost similar enemies to the administration as the enemies we're fighting. How about that moral equivalent Senator Kennedy?

Well, you doubt – well, let me – you grab that sound bite – sound by Senator Kennedy from yesterday comparing Bush to Saddam – I don't want you people to misunderstand what I'm saying here. You tell me after you listen to this on whose side you think Senator Kennedy is.

KENNEDY: On March 19, 2004, President Bush asked, "Who would prefer that Saddam's tortures chambers still be open?" Shamefully we now learn that Saddam's torture chambers re-opened under new management, US management. President Bush has presided over America's steepest and deepest fall from grace in the history of our country, and the tragedy unfolding in Iraq is the direct result of a colossal failure of leadership.

RUSH: Well, there you have it. So we've re-opened Saddam's torture chambers. There were 300,000 to 500,000 people in mass graves. There were rape rooms and worse. And we have just, by virtue of Senator Kennedy's intellect, we've just been

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

made morally equivalent to that. George Bush has. So you tell me on what side you think Senator Kennedy is.

So – but if we could get through this election season, and if Bush prevails, there will be a different attitude from the loyal opposition. I don't know how much less intensity they will feature, but if they lose this election, there will be a demoralization of the left in this country such as we haven't seen in our lifetimes.

Now accompanying that demoralization will be an increased rage and anger and kook factor that becomes more and more mainstream, but as that happens, they will turn off more and more mainstream Americans. And that has been the pattern ever since Bush got the White House in 2000. They have been slowly cracking up. And the intensity of the crackup is increasing day by day.

Now after the election, and if Bush prevails they're still going to be there and they're still going to be doing whatever they can to sabotage Bush, this sort of thing, but they'll also be looking forward down the road to Hillary or whoever else in 2008. But that election, if Bush prevails, will be a referendum and the Left will have received a message. Whether they hear it, act on it is another thing.

But this intensity that the Left has mounted, the intensity that they are bringing to this in order to defeat Bush cannot be sustained. Human emotion, as you know, just cannot be – at a fever pitch, pro or con, love or hate. Well, hate – yeah – hate is never ending, isn't it? You don't have to work too hard at hate. Love takes some effort. But hate just seems to be natural.

But I'm sharing with you my natural optimism here on this because Gidan, the bottom line is, we have demonstrated as a country, as a people, as a society, for our total existence, with one exception and I have – that exception is Vietnam, and that's got an asterisk by it as far as I'm concerned. We have demonstrated a resolve that we do have what it takes to win. And we have done it each and every time.

And we've done it not just for ourselves, but we've done it for the Western Europeans whose respect Senator Kennedy is so concerned that we've lost. We do have what it takes. And the American people may be slow to mobilize. And they may forget and the – if you doubt what I'm saying about intensity, look at the intensity the American people felt about 9/11 and look at what the beheading of Nick Berg did yesterday to revive it. The fact that it could be and needed to be revived is proof that it subsides.

And it will intensify as necessary. And all these calls to get out and pull out, a majority of Americans will not fall prey to this. We do have what it takes as a people to prevail here. Because actually, when you get down to it, there's no other choice. Folks, these kinds of acts such as that committed against Nick Berg and Daniel Pearl and all the other atrocities, let's not forget the four Americans that

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

were charred in a convoy attack, charred bodies dragged through the streets, then hung from a bridge abutment. These kinds of things will kindle the kind of intensity necessarily to spur people on. This prison thing is going to pass at some point. And we will – we do have what it takes. The question is, can it be marshaled? And I'm confident that it can be because there's no other choice. Quick time out. We'll be back in just a second. Stay with us.

(station break)

RUSH: Production Director Johnny Donovan, one of those urging me to describe what I saw in the beheading of Nick Berg. And I was just – just telling Mr. Snedley, I just can't bring myself to do it. It's unspeakable. And that – that in a way that's the point. What they do to us is unspeakable. What we do to them we can plaster all over television and all over newspapers, and we can listen to condemnation from holier than thou, righteous, all of a sudden moralists, who want to refer to such things as – well, whatever, torture, abuse, whatever the descriptive terms they use, the Senators.

So Donovan says to me, "Oh," he says, "well why don't you do it this way. Instead of describing what you saw, describe every feeling you had as you saw it." And I don't know about you. I don't know how easy it is for some of you to get in touch with your feelings. Some of you probably think it's very tough for me because I'm always ridiculing feelings and I'm not ridiculing feelings. I'm ridiculing – I've ridiculed making momentous decisions based on feelings as opposed to thought. But I have not ridiculed, or impugned, or laughed at, or made fun of feelings, they're an intimate part of who we all are.

I just want to tell you, I had no trouble getting in touch with my feelings watching this. I had no trouble identifying them. I had no difficulty whatsoever experiencing there was – there was – the feelings were so powerful there was no possible way to suppress them. So maybe I'll try that when I have a little bit more time.

For now, I'm just – I'm sitting here thinking more and more about this Ted Kennedy bite that we just heard where he compares George W. Bush to Saddam Hussein. Compares America to Saddam's Iraq. That Saddam's torture chambers, that Saddam's prison is now open under American management.

And I'm going to tell you the truth folks, I think that it is about time that Senator Kennedy apologized to the American people and an apology should be forthcoming now. He owes it at this minute to compare the people of this country and the President of the United States, who has hosted him at the White House, who has allowed him to participate in the writing of the education bill, who's done everything possible, George Bush has, to go out of the way to extend the hand of friendship to Ted Kennedy. For Ted Kennedy to compare George W. Bush and the People of this country to Saddam Hussein is a disgrace.

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

And the media, and you at the BBC, and you in Germany, and you at NBC who are monitoring this. Get this if you get anything I say today. The media makes no issue of this comparison, of George W. Bush to Saddam Hussein. You are more concerned with the Skull and Bones comment that I made and was taken out of context than the outrageous slandering of the American people by a United States Senator. A Senator that the Left in this country thinks is their greatest, by the way. It's time for an apology. We'll be back in just a second. Stay with us.

(station break)

RUSH: In it's latest poll the *Christian Science Monitor* is reporting that Bush has gained in the polls after his tour of several swing states. More bad news for the Kerry campaign, the Democrats. Back in a moment.

(station break)

RUSH: Just watching tape of the – the President react to the execution of Nick Berg, reading the closed captioning of his comments. Greetings, my friends and welcome back to Rush Limbaugh here. This is the one and only EIB Network, a program which meets and surpasses all audience expectations on a daily basis. Our telephone number if you'd like to be on the program is 800 282-2882, the e-mail address is rush@eibnet.com.

I'm going to give this a try. It has been suggested, and I mentioned an hour ago, when the program started, that I had seen the execution of Nick Berg video. And I was being urged by people to describe it. And the reason I was being urged to describe it was because it's unspeakable. And what is done to us by our enemies we cannot see, we will not look at, we cannot discuss it because it's unspeakable. And yet a moral equivalence is attached to what is done to Americans and what some American prison guards did to some Iraqi prisoners at Abu Ghraib prison.

And it is a stark contrast, because we can look at all those pictures. In fact people are eager to see them. The word is get them all out. McCain's out there, everybody's saying, "Get them all out, let's find out the full scope of this. Fax those pictures everywhere."

At the beginning, you know, when the first two or three pictures came out, the first day or two, was when I made some comments about it, one of the things I said, this is important, that we keep all this in perspective, and not rush to judgment, jump the gun, and all this. And lo and behold, the Nick Berg execution has provided that perspective.

So I think – here's one of the reasons I'm going to do this. I want you to try to remember whatever emotion you felt when you looked at these prison photos, when

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

you first saw them. And I want you to measure if you can in your memory, the, the emotions you felt with the way they were being described with the way they were being described to you. Because if you're like me, the way those photos, the initial release, the first two days of photos, the way they were described to me, I didn't see them that way.

I mean. I heard all of these Senators and everybody talking about how repugnant and horrible and just – and just – and, you know, the words torture and the descriptive phrases as though this was just obscene – just horrible – just – oh – it almost intolerable. And it never was to me. Not until the news that there had been some rapes and other sorts of violence in later photo releases did I have those feelings. But in the first couple days, what I was hearing about these pictures from the political critics didn't match the way I felt.

What I would like for you to do as I – and this is not going to be easy – because I'm going to have – I'm going to try to describe feelings I had as I watched this, but I don't want to describe what I saw. I haven't changed my mind about that. It's going to be hard to separate the two. And if you don't want to listen to it, I'll totally understand, then you can take some time here and go somewhere else. If you don't want your kids to listen to it, if they're listening, take them somewhere else and not listen to it. There's no attempt to shock here, but I do – for those of you that do want to sit around and, and give this a go. I want you to listen to me describe the emotions I felt watching this execution, and compare those emotions with the emotions you had when you saw the prison photos from Abu Ghraib. You tell me if there's any similarity.

And see, that's what's been missing all along. The Left has been trying to demonize me for my initial observation of the first photos of Abu Ghraib: Skull and Bones, college prank, college hazing, college initiation, Limbaugh is an insensitive boob. They had to take me out of context to do it, using what I said about the early photos, and then applying my observation to what has since been released, which far more horrible. There are homicides, alleged rapes, and so forth.

And yet those pictures are not the ones I was talking about, but if you didn't know that, you would assume that I was equating homicide, rape, and murder with college pranks, which is the out of context that has been taken here with the Left and that Skull and Bones comment. And so the headlines out there. Headline: "Limbaugh Endorses Torture."

And my point all along is that perspective makes the attacks of the Left on the Abu Ghraib photos and the military ineffective. The Nick Berg execution video gives us that perspective. I think it bears me out. Because what happened to Nick Berg did not happen with US soldiers at Abu Ghraib, and it did not happen to prisoners.

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

And keep in mind, folks, I cannot, I cannot emphasize this enough. Nick Berg was Jewish, Daniel Pearl was Jewish. Those are – that is a relevant fact here, a relevant factor as well. They would do it to anybody. They would do it to any of us.

And I am – you want to talk about repulsed? You want to talk about revulsion and sheer rage and anger? When I hear Americans – and I don't care who they are or where they are – when I hear Americans actually, seriously blame these torture photos for what happened to Nick Berg, rather than blaming the five terrorists in the picture who did it, I can't describe to you the combination of anger, outrage, and utter frustration at the wanton stupidity of the people who say that.

Because this wanton stupidity is what will lead us to defeat. This wanton stupidity is what will lead us to – to paralyzation. This wanton stupidity, if it were ever dominant in leadership positions in this country, would establish a moral equivalence between the people of this country and the five terrorists in the – in the Nick Berg execution video. And the – and the fact that any American can do this. The fact that any American with a brain who's been paying any attention at all, can ignore that 9-11 happened, can ignore that Daniel Pearl's execution happened, can ignore all the terrorist acts prior to 9-11, and somehow see only the prison photos from Abu Ghraib, and then blame those for what happened to Nick Berg, the – the – the degree of rage and frustration that that kindles in me is almost indescribable.

And if there's anything that depresses me, it's that. If there's anything that will take away from whatever you know the optimism that I have, it is the realization that there's some real blockheads in this country who are so poisoned with their own hate and rage, probably self-hate as well, that they are incapable of rational thought.

And those people scare me. They scare me. If they ever become a majority, they scare me if they ever succeed in electing somebody like them to lead the country. After all the good this country has done for itself, and its own population, and for the other people of the world, how anybody can come anywhere near, including Senator Kennedy, and establish a moral equivalency between the people of this country, George Bush, and Saddam Hussein, or the five terrorists that beheaded Nick Berg is beyond me. It literally is beyond me.

I don't even want to try to understand it. Just like I don't want to try to understand why those people hate us. Because it's not relevant. Because if we are going to get into that, that mode, why do they hate us, then the next step is OK, what are we going to do to change ourselves so they won't hate us? And that's not possible. Because they hate us for who we are, and who we are is who we are. It cannot be otherwise.

They're the ones who are sick. They're the ones who are perverted. They are the ones who are dangerous. They are the ones who are subhuman. They are the ones who are human debris, not the United States of America. And not our soldiers, and

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

not our prison guards. And the attempt to make this equivalence, the attempt to make this comparison, to establish it in the eyes of as many people as possible is repugnant to me, and I think is beneath many of the high officials, elected officials of this country, who are attempting to do that.

So what I want to do, take a break here. When I come back – I’m going to – I’m going to, try to describe how I felt as I watched this thing. I just want you to compare those feelings with your own when you saw these prison photos, and you tell me if there’s any similarity. It’s just an academic exercise, because I’m here to tell you again, folks, all you need to know is, most Americans don’t want to see this execution video. Most people cannot describe it. Most people don’t want to hear about it. Most people are not capable of it. And yet all of the so-called torture and violence that we’ve committed in that prison we must see.

There are people saying you must see it – you must see the full scope of the American psyche on this, well you must see what we as the American people are capable of. Well, if we have no trouble looking at these photos out of Abu Ghraib, by comparison, we get voyeurs all over the place, and they were willing people and fighting all over themselves to find as many pictures out of that prison as possible. At the same time it’s unspeakable what happened to Nick Berg. That alone establishes the difference for those with the courage to admit it.

Be back and continue in just a second. Stay with us.

(station break)

RUSH: All right, welcome back, folks. Nice to have you. This is the EIB Network, Rush Limbaugh, and we are at 800 282-2882.

All right, I’m going to give this a go. This is – this is not going to be easy. And I’ve – if you don’t want to listen to this, then please don’t. I mean, don’t – don’t listen to it and get offended and upset and call somebody and complain because nobody’s going to listen. You have been warned.

I got on this Website and felt a, just a tremendous degree of anticipation at first because I’d seen all the still photos. And I’d seen some portions of the video that was shown on television yesterday before any of the violence began. And the anticipation was such that I had a rapid heart beat, because I thought I knew what was coming. I – I’d heard the word “beheading” and I had remembered Daniel Pearl had refused sedation, and I remembered how he had been beheaded. And I was expecting that here. It’s not what happened.

I – I’m watching Nick Berg sit with his arms around his knees describing family’s names, where he’s from, himself. These five cowards standing behind him, all hooded, afraid to be seen, afraid to be recognized, just pure cowards, and I hated them. I hated these bastards, because I knew what was coming.

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

And I brought to the witnessing of this video all of this shock and outrage over these prison photos and I knew what was coming, and I was just enraged. And then the terrorist who was said to be Zarqawi starts reading, very bravely, from a prepared statement. And at that moment, I said, it's not even in your heart. Is it? You can't even just say it. It has to be written down. Gutless wonder.

And his masked cohorts just – just standing there. And this very frail and small-looking American, who I knew was Jewish, and that enraged me as well, was just sitting there docile. I couldn't tell if he knew what was headed his way or not. I have no idea. Still don't know. I had the sound up some. I couldn't hear it, those computer speakers. I heard enough as it went on, to get the drift.

But to cut to the chase, there was a sudden lunge. One of the – one of these masked cowards made a sudden lunge for the neck of Nick Berg, and they rolled him over, and produced what looked to be a long knife. And I – because I've seen the Pearl video, too. But this is not like that, if you've seen that. This took multiple swipes, because this is not a sharp knife. And I was mesmerized. I will admit, I could not turn away from it. It was hard. I couldn't watch it, either. It was tough. It was – couldn't pull my – because I could not believe I was watching this. And remember now that the – talk about perspective, and I've – I'm not watching this in a vacuum.

I'm watching – I'm already angry as hell knowing what I'm about to see, and I'm angry as hell because of the moral equivalencies that have been going on, angry as hell at the attempt that some of my fellow citizens have made previous to this video being seen, to describe what I was watching as having also taken place by Americans. And I was just fuming. And I wanted to jump into that computer screen. I wanted to somehow grab that guy and take him out of there. I wanted to personally go in and level those guys. I just – just – there was a – so, flood of powerlessness to stop it, even though I knew it was old and there was no stopping it, but you think you can, you want to.

This was not a beheading. If – if – people are – if the news is calling it a beheading, as the media is calling it a beheading. This was not a beheading. This was – folks, cattle have it better. This was not even a slaughter. This was slow. It was – this – this instrument was purposely – saw, whatever it was, was not sharp. The – the – the screams that emanated with each stroke of this instrument were just shocking because you know that Mr. Berg felt everything happening to him. And he looked surprised.

It was a combination of numbing and heart palpitations at the same time. And then these cowards, the conclusion of it, display their work. I thought I saw a couple of smiles through the mouth holes in the mask. And I – at that – at that instance I wanted to call George Bush and say level the place. Turn it 20,000 degrees and let's start over. We're not dealing with human beings. We're dealing with human

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

debris. And there's no other way to look at them, and there's no other way to deal with them.

They don't deserve to live. They don't deserve sympathy, they don't deserve understanding compassion, they don't deserve one, they don't – they don't deserve traditional justice. That's what I was – I didn't – to hell with rights and all this stuff. And I want, I – I wanted to be in the charge leading into that room to wipe them out.

HOUR 2

RUSH: On the cutting edge of societal evolution, Rush Limbaugh, and the EIB Network. And after all of that, I then decided that were Nick Berg a part of my family, I don't know how I'd deal with it. It was bad enough, watching a fellow American undergo a purposeful execution that is – and I'm – I'm just, to tell you again, folks. No guillotine here, and there's no beheading. This – don't fall for this beheading business if you haven't seen this. If you have, you know what I'm talking about, because it's not. And I – I just – I couldn't even begin to comprehend what it would be like for a family member to have to live for the rest of their lives with this.

And in the context of that, whatever anybody in that family thinks, says, or feels, they get a total pass from me. Whatever they think, say, or feel is totally understandable – I don't care what it is. It is – it's just unbelievable, and especially having seen it, to continue to hear Americans try to establish – some Americans try to establish – some degree of similarity between the kind of people we are and the literal human debris that make this their life, it just beyond my comprehension. I don't even want to try to persuade them, or talk to them. It's not possible. They're not rational, themselves – people who are able to make this kind of equivalent.

Anyway, Rachel in Roanoke, Virginia, as we go to the phones – welcome to the Rush Limbaugh program. Nice to have you with us.

RACHEL: Thanks, Rush. Thanks for taking my call.

RUSH: Yeah.

RACHEL: I'm a first-time caller. I just wanted to thank you for telling us about the video. I, myself, went on the computer and found picture images of it. And I just think that, and I just challenge other viewers, or other listeners, to look at the pictures themselves. I think the American people need to be a witness to his death, just as we needed to be a witness to the Holocaust and to other atrocities that happen to humankind. I think that to say, oh, I can't look at those images is just denying the truth, and I don't think it's the right thing to do in the memory of Nick Berg.

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

RUSH: It – you know, that’s – that’s – that – you can go both ways on that. I mean, I – I understand people who don’t want to – I didn’t. I mean, I did and didn’t. That was the thing that I – once I started, I couldn’t pull myself away, but I didn’t want to watch at the same time. It was a really a curious range of –

RACHEL: Well, Rush – don’t get me wrong. I mean, I’m a (laughter) (multiple conversations; inaudible) here –

RUSH: No – I know you’re not being voyeuristic, but the problem is, these are unspeakable images, and that, I cannot emphasize this enough, because this happened on the tail end of the release of these prison photos. And I maintained throughout the release of these prison photos that perspective is what was needed and we got it. We got it with the Nick Berg video and the Nick Berg murder and execution.

And the – but the fact that people don’t want to look at it, and the fact that people can’t look at it, and that they don’t want to hear it described, and yet, they have no real problem looking at the prison photos, to me, says it all. It just says it all. And it – it – it sort of also puts into perspective the caterwauling that’s going on about the prison photos. Yeah – they’re bad. Some of them are bad. Not all of them. Some of them are. But they’re not *this*. And yet, there are people trying to say that what we did in the prison photos caused this. That is just so insulting and offensive, it’s beyond my ability to describe it. I gave it a shot earlier, but I don’t know if I’m going to go through it again.

But I appreciate your call, Rachel. This is Cliff in Washington, Missouri. You’re next. Hello, sir. The South Side of St. Louis. Nice to have you with us.

CLIFF: Thanks, Rush. Thanks for putting me on. Rush, I’m just as outraged at the video as you are, but Rush, wonder if you’ve seen a video – pick any city in Iraq – and we bombed, trying to hit insurgents, and we hit a house and there’s three kids in a bedroom, and their body parts on the floor. Would you be just as repulsed?

RUSH: Ah, nice try, Cliff. This – why do you want to do this? Why –

CLIFF: Rush, the (multiple conversations; inaudible) –

RUSH: Would you give me one – just – no. Cliff, hang on. And just a question. Give me one shred of similarity between the example you just gave and the Nick Berg video.

CLIFF: Rush, it’s all atrocities. OK? I mean, the end result is still the same, Rush. We don’t see video of that. We don’t see video of kids with their body parts laying apart, but it’s happening, Rush.

RUSH: Cliff, let me try.

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

CLIFF: And you know it, Rush. Now –

RUSH: No. No, don't put words in my mouth because I'm not going to accept your premise and this is one of the problems that I have. You sound like an otherwise reasonable guy. You sound like you've got a modicum of intelligence out there. Yet you wish, you search, you actively seek out a way to equivocate, or make equivalent, our actions with these terrorists and the Nick Berg video. I don't understand that. What is the compulsion so many Americans have to want to draw these lines of equivalence between us and this human debris? Let me address your specific example.

We're in a war. We have insurgents like this al-Sadr fellow and his terrorist cohorts, and they've taken over a town, and they've taken prisoner the kids your talking about, and they're hiding behind them. They are cowards. We are not *there* to murder. We are not *there* to maim and kill children. We are not *there* to bring down their homes, or their schools and we are not. We are rebuilding their schools. We're rebuilding their hospitals. Their schools are open and their hospitals are functioning. The electricity is back – with more wattage and power and functionality than it ever had under Saddam. The US military does not target civilians. The U.S. military does not target children. The US military does not seek them out for wanton murder and call it war.

So when I see those images – yeah. And I haven't, but when I – I know they exist. I don't sit around and beat my chest over it and say, ho-ho, hee-hee. Look what the mighty of the United States of America did. I blame the people who are responsible for it and that is the cowards who are using those children as shield, and using their women as shields.

And it frustrates me to no end that you don't also see this. You *know* who these people are. It is not a mystery. They are not good. There's nothing good about them. They are perverted. They are demented. They are pure trash human debris. *They* have declared war on us. They treat their own kids far worse than anything that might happen to them as a result of the United States riding to the rescue.

These are the people that strap bombs on their own kids and send them out to be blown up. And they lie to them and they say, do this and you'll get to heaven. You'll meet Allah, or whatever it is they tell them. They are willing to kill their own kids to save their own lives. They are *nothing*. They have no *value*. They are not to be respected. They are not to be protected. They are not to be understood. They are to be eliminated. They do not bring anything decent to their own country, to their own people, to their own families, to their population. They bring destruction. They bring death. They bring misery. They bring poverty.

We – the United States of America – and the people of this country, banding together via our elected officials and our money, are attempting to save these

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

people from their own so-called leaders. In the process, unfortunate things happen, but it is not our aim. It is not our purpose. It is not our desire. We do not put these kids on television and do to them what was done to Nick Berg and then ask CBS to broadcast it to the Arab world. And the idea that you could call here and try to establish some degree of similarity offends the living *hell* out of me, Cliff.

Go ahead and vote for John Kerry. Go ahead and vote for your favorite Democrats and go ahead and open the borders to the people that murdered Nick Berg, and let them come on in because we're not going to have the guts to stand up to them because we're too filly – too busy feeling guilty that we're just like them.

And *you*, Cliff, are going to be among the first to go because you're going to think, they're going to understand you and they're going to look at you as an absolute dupe, and an idiot, useful or otherwise, and you're gone. You need to be thanking God there are people who have the vision and the courage to see this for what it is and are willing to put their lives on the line to protect ignorant people and people who are otherwise doing other things and don't care what's going on and protect them so they can go ahead and live their lives as blissfully as they choose.

We do not need to be stringing people up who are trying to bring decency and freedom to other peoples in the world and make examples of them and say, they're no different than al-Sadr, Al-Qaeda, Zarqawi – whoever it is that was in these pictures that murdered Nick Berg. I'll never understand the way you think, Cliff, but what I've realized is, there's no talking you out of it. I don't even know there's any shame in you.

How you can even call here, after having known what's on that video, and dare say that there is some similarity to what we, the people of the United States believe and do, to what was done to Nick Berg in that video, makes me as repulsed and angry and fearful as I was when I watched the video. Back in a moment.

(station break)

RUSH: I mentioned a moment ago, I was watching videotape of the President react to the death of Nick Berg. Here is what he said.

BUSH: I want to express my condolences to the family and friends of Nicholas Berg. Nicholas Berg was a innocent civilian who was in Iraq, but to help build a free Iraq. There is no justification for the brutal execution of Nicholas Berg. No justification whatsoever. The actions of the terrorists who executed this man remind us of the nature of the few people who want to stop the advance of freedom in Iraq. Their intention is to shake our will. Their intention is to shake our confidence. Yet, by their actions, they remind us of how desperately parts of the world need free societies and peaceful societies. And we will complete our mission. We will complete our task.

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

RUSH: And this. Just got this from NewsMax, our buddies at NewsMax.com.

Democrats on Capitol Hill are saying privately that the Abu Ghraib prison abuse scandal is the silver bullet they need to bring out President Bush's political demise this November. This is according to Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma. He said, "I heard someone, and I'm not be in a position to say who it was, but a Democrat staffer saying, ah-ha – this is the silver bullet we've been waiting for."

Inhofe made these comments to Sean Hannity yesterday on his program. He noted that the comment dovetails with recent fund-raising efforts by John Kerry. Said, "We have so many people out there so concerned about the human rights of a bunch of people who are murderers and terrorists. I find it offensive."

So, silver bullet. Yeah. And – and – and this is no surprise because we shared with you and regaled you yesterday with this *Village Voice* column, where this guy was – this media critic – was all excited. The Left doesn't need a radio network. The left doesn't need a Web site. The Left doesn't need – you know, all the left needs is these pictures out of this prison. The Left has never – the media has never – been as powerful as it was in Watergate. This is an event that gives them Watergate type power to drive a President from office is what that means. These photos.

And don't think, folks, don't think that the video of Nick Berg's execution is going to stop them. They're going to do their best to get that out of your mind as quickly as possible.

Here's Pete in Los Angeles. I'm glad you waited, Pete. Welcome to the program.

PETE: Rush, I'm probably going to discredit myself by saying I was at a dinner last night at the Reagan museum to honor Eagle Scouts, but every one of the people there understood that this is the reason – this beheading is the reason that we're fighting these people. They are terrorists. The terrorists are in Iraq. The terrorists are what we're fighting. Everybody misses that point. I know you don't miss it, but I read *The Los Angeles Times*. It doesn't tell me that. It's buried in there. They don't (multiple conversations; inaudible) –

RUSH: Well, they don't think it. They don't think it. Pete, they don't think there's any similarity, or any comparison between Iraq and the war on terror. That's part of the Left's political equation. They have to convince as many people as possible that Iraq is not the war on terror – that we are ignoring the war on terror because we're in Iraq. It's all part of their effort to make Bush appear to be incompetent and obsessed with something has nothing to do with the war on terror.

PETE: Well, my brother-in-law said, "I can't support Bush because of this war. It's not a right war." And I said, "It's a war against terror. That's what's happening."

On my way out, my youngest son, he says, Dad, you know, I think I'd like to be in the marines. And this is a kid that's 15-years old. My 19 year-old – or, 18-year

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

old, who's got his Eagle Scout – understands why, now, we're fighting this war. These are kids that are now, finally, getting it. I wish the rest of them, who act like kids, would get it.

RUSH: Well, you know, I don't think – you know, I don't think you're that alone and I don't think that – I frankly don't think most Americans are buying the left's attempt, here. I think this Berg incident is to you is what it is to everybody else. It's – I think it's the most emotionally amplifying event since 9/11.

I think it's got people livid. I think there're more people out there that are losing patience and want quick action and just – let's project the power we're capable of. Let's just do it! I think this is an attitude that is evolving out there. It's more than evolving. It's effervescing, and it's – don't think that a majority of Americans are not noticing this and don't see it the way you do. That's a common occurrence among us and it's not the case. You just don't see it represented because what still remain the primary sources of news in this country don't show it, so you think it's not happening. Trust me – it is.

Get this. I have in my formerly nicotine-stained fingers a column today from *The Boston Globe* by noted radicalist Derrick Z. Jackson. You (laughter) – this is hilarious. You can't do anything but laugh at this. Here's the headline – “US abuse of black men a prelude to prison scandal.” Let me just share with you brief excerpts.

“Defense Secretary Rumsfeld said the abuse of Iraqi soldiers by American soldiers was ‘inconsistent with the values of our nation. It is inconsistent with the teachings of the military, to the men and women of the armed forces and it was certainly fundamentally un-American.’

“In his Rose Garden press appearance with King Abdullah II of Jordan, Bush said he told the king: ‘I was sorry for the humiliation suffered by the Iraqi prisoners and the humiliation suffered by their families. I told him I was equally sorry that people have been seeing those pictures didn't understand the true nature and heart of America.

I assured him that Americans, like me, didn't appreciate what we saw, that it made us sick to our stomachs. I also made it clear to His Majesty the troops we have in Iraq were there for security and peace and freedom, are the finest of the fine, fantastic United States citizens, who represent the very best qualities of America: courage, love of freedom, compassion and decency.’” End quote of Bush. Now Mr. Jackson resumes his writing.

“Of course, all of the apologizing over un-American behavior comes only after the global equivalent of the Rodney King tape. “What happened in Iraq,” writes Derrick Z. Jackson, “is a natural extension of the humiliation that has gone on for two decades in this country. Whether Americans' behavior in Iraq is due to racial,

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

religious, or other cultural feelings of superiority – or a numbed acceptance of government-sponsored violence – the abusing soldiers and the commanders who let it happen assumed that they were dealing with people who had no voice. So thought the Los Angeles police, who clubbed Rodney King in 1991.”

So we conditioned these troops to do this, these prison guards, because of our prior abuse of black men, according to Derrick Z. Jackson of *The Boston Globe*.
(laughter)

I’m telling – it – pure idiocy, but they’re really reaching now. I mean, this is – I mean, they’re taking – they, they are taking – yeah. Yeah. Well, anyway. I’ll fill that comment in, in just a second because I don’t have time.

Back in just a second.

(station break)

RUSH: A brief time out here at the top of the hour, my friends. We’ll be back. Our final hour of broadcast excellence is coming up.

RUSH: Ladies and gentlemen, my instincts tell me to lighten this up a little bit here. So we’re going to talk about John Kerry. Greetings and welcome back. It’s the (laughter) – it’s the all-knowing, all-seeing, all-feeling, all-concerned, all-everything Maha Rushie. Your guiding light, the happiest and most optimistic figure in American media today, hosting the nation’s most listened to radio talk show, a program which exceeds audience expectations on a daily basis. Our telephone number, if you’d like to join us, is (800) 282-2882. The e-mail address rush@eibnet.com.

This is unbelievable. No, it’s believable. It’s just – it’s unbelievable and believable at the same time. Presumptive, assumed Democrat Presidential candidate nominee John Kerry thinks he has a gravitas problem. He thinks he has too much of it and he thinks that’s a problem, says a former campaign staffer.

“To counteract his perceived perception that he’s too serious and weighted down by the vagaries of intellectual and physical prowess and nuance, Kerry’s staff has had him using humor in his stump speeches. For example, over the weekend, while talking about health care reform, Kerry cracked that he would not delve into too much detail. No one in the audience seemed to get the humor. As well, Kerry told a reporter he enjoyed going out for beers with the guys, knocking back a few and whooping it up. A former Kerry staffer said, ‘It’s not easy humanizing a guy like Kerry. You have Vietnam, you have friends who can speak to his private life, but Kerry himself’s not a great advocate for himself in that regard. He’s just too stiff and patrician.’” He’s a dry ball.

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

But it's – it goes back. Remember when I was in New York, I guess it was last week. What was it? Karen Tumulty. "He's just too smart. He's just too smart to know what to say. He's got to try to go out there and just be a real guy." And what is this? You have Vietnam. Have we done this enough, Kerry people? Do you think we've made the point that he was in Vietnam? Everybody, I think, knows this now. And then they say well, "He has friends who can speak to his private life, but Kerry himself's not a great advocate." I warned you people about this. I told you from the earliest days of the primaries that one of the problems that the Kerry people themselves knew was that he needs surrogates to go out and speak for him because he doesn't represent himself well.

"Just how serious a problem this is and how desperate the Kerry campaign is to try to shatter the stiff myth was again apparent during Kerry's swing through Jacksonville, Florida and Orlando on Tuesday. Both are areas that are thought to be Bush strongholds, though in 2000 Gore made a race of both places in the general election."

So Kerry's staff decided that their man needed to spend some time down and dirty with the everyday folk. They asked – this reminds me, by the way of when he went and got a cheese steak. Remember how he looked holding that cheese steak sandwich in Philadelphia? Looked like it was the plague, and then he asked for it with provolone cheese on it and he was afraid – Swiss I – could somebody get provolone but he asked for Swiss. And then everybody was just stunned, but I mean he was just holding that thing like he had no desire to get anywhere near it, while he's out there trying to be a real guy.

It's hard to take an elitist snob and make him a real guy, folks. I mean, this is the basic problem. This – I used my own words here. The Kerry campaign will now call this a stiff – he – "he's just not a great advocate for himself in that regard. He's just too patrician." It means he's an elitist snob. That's what patrician means. He's a blue-blooder, or thinks he is.

So anyway, they decided to get him into Jacksonville with the real folk, and that meant they had to ask Congressperson Corinne Brown, the Democrat who represents the Jacksonville congressional district to do some research and find a local hole in the wall that Kerry could visit. They said it had to be a place where Senator Kerry can appear to just make an impromptu stop, nothing planned. But it was all planned. It was all choreographed. They had to find some hole in the wall that Kerry would never otherwise, on his own, venture into. But they had to make it look like he was just stopping in because he really wanted to go to this hole in the wall.

And can you imagine Corinne Brown's phone rings. "Hello?" "Hey, Corinne, how are you, this is such-and-such from the Kerry campaign." "Oh, nice to hear from you. How are you?" "Good, we're coming to your town and we want – this Kerry's got this gravitas problem and – and we – we need him to really meet some

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

down home – your kind of people, Corinne. Can – can you find some dank hole in the wall kind of place we can take Kerry to so he can meet real people, kind of like the lowlifes that live in your neighborhood.” Imagine Corinne Brown getting this phone call.

Now, she might not know what gravitas is, so they didn’t say that. But – now we love Corinne Brown here. We – Corinne – you can’t try to dislike Corinne Brown. She’s – she’s – she – that’s why we like her, Mr. Snerdley. He called her a name here I’m not going to repeat, but she’s fun. I mean, Corrinne’s comic relief. You know, when Corinne and Carrie Meeks get up there on the floor of the Senate, start making speeches, I mean it’s – it’s – it’s fun. It’s like – it’s – it’s like when what’s-his-face, Fortney Pete Stark gets going. You never know what’s going to be said. Or Major Owens. Yeah, I mean it’s – they’re all in the same crowd.

But any – here’s Corinne Brown down in Jacksonville and she – of course, obviously respects her district and the people in it. And the Kerry people call and say, “Hey, we need to go down and meet some real folks, you know. We need to find this dank hole-in-the-wall place that he would never go. The kind of place your constituents go, Corinne. Can you set something up for – ” Can you imagine that phone call? Is that – is that not – is that not brilliant? Is this not the smartest candidate the Democrats have ever nominated?

And they said it had to be – it had to be set up so it looked impromptu, even though it was – it was – it was choreographed down to every step Kerry took. “They said it had to be a place where Kerry could appear to just make an impromptu stop, nothing planned,’ says a Democratic National Committee staffer doing work in Florida. The campaign had a bunch of people scrambling for the right spot. Well, the right spot turned out to be Jenkins Quality Barbecue franchise.”

So they took Kerry to Corinne Brown’s district and they found a barbecue joint, Jenkins Quality Barbecue. “Kerry arrived at the restaurant with Corinne Brown in tow, made a point of ordering some ribs – on the house, as it turned out – and after he ordered the ribs, while he’s waiting for the ribs to be delivered, he asked to look at the kitchen. Then he announced to all that none of the workers at – at – at Jenkins Quality Barbecue franchise had health insurance. And with that, he and his contingent of staff and reporters left.” They didn’t eat the ribs, they walked out in protest at this barbecue place because the staff didn’t have health insurance and Corinne Brown had gone to the trouble of setting it all up. Kerry the every day guy barely touched his ribs, perhaps because there wasn’t a knife and fork and a silk napkin around.

The story is in *The American Prowler – The Prowler* today in the *American Spectator* Website. “A Democrat media consultant in Washington said, ‘They have to stage these things and then he can’t even perform. It’s not a good sign. You’d think they’d have learned from that cheese steak fiasco in Philadelphia, where

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

Kerry didn't even know what the sandwich was. Just give up and let him be who he is, but nobody has confidence in that."

Can you imagine? They go all the trouble of setting up this place. They find the ideal hole-in-the-wall, and that's their term, and it ends up to be this barbecue joint. Kerry goes in there, finds out that the staff doesn't have health insurance. He walks out in – in – in protest, trying to make a point against Bush. And all he's there to do is just meet the real folk.

I don't know – it doesn't say what happened to Corinne. I don't know if she was stranded there or if she left with Kerry as well. And you don't know what happened to Corinne for finding a place that Kerry couldn't go to because the workers didn't have health insurance. But if this just doesn't say it all about this campaign, there's nothing better.

But you know some – well, I'll get to that in just a second, but before I get to that, the thing that's amazing here to me is that *The American Spectator's* Conservative publication. All these unnamed Democrat DNC staffers are talking. They are the source. How else would anybody know about this? It has to be Democrats that are letting the cat out of the bag as to what a fiasco this is.

Now, Corinne Brown – Mr. Snerdley wants me to mention this, because he thinks it's relevant. Corinne Brown is black and represents a black district in Jacksonville and – and he's asking, does nobody think there's a bit of a stereotype here when they choose a barbecue joint. Is that your point? Yeah. I know Gore – Gore would go to the fried chicken joints. I know – I wasn't going mention it, Mr. Snerdley, until you jogged my sensitivity on this and I thought all right, well, if it's on people's minds, it's worth mentioning.

But that's the – the fact that – you know – that's one thing. But I mean, to go in there, order some ribs and then ask to see the kitchen – now obviously when you go the kitchen to talk to the staff, and the first – first – maybe he wanted to see whether it was clean. I – maybe he – but the point is how do you go into this place the first question is (as Kerry) "You guys – I'm John Kerry and I was in Vietnam. Tell me about your health insurance." What – what – what kind of guy does this?

You know, this is – this is like – this is like Gore going to an air traffic control center and asking them what they think of the global warming movie. And when they say, "Oh, we thought it was pretty good," they walk out – he walks out. This is just – the way these people thinks, folks, is just laughable. We – we'll take a – a brief timeout. Don't go away.

(station break)

RUSH: Hi, welcome back. Rush Limbaugh and the Excellence in Broadcasting Network. I, as always, utilizing talent on loan from God.

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

We were just sitting here chatting amongst ourselves, ladies and gentlemen, speculating what it must be like when Kerry goes home every night to talk to Teresa. He walks in the door, trudges in after a tough day campaigning with the rabble. He goes in and he starts complaining to Teresa. (as Kerry) "You wouldn't believe where they took me today." (as Teresa) "Where was it, honey?" (as Kerry) "Well, it was in some low rent place and I went in there. You wouldn't believe these things they tried to get me to eat." (as Teresa) "Well, what was it?" (As Kerry) "Well, it was – they – they said it came from pigs, Teresa. That's all I know. It came from pigs. You had to pick them up with your hands and – it's – it's just – it – it – it – it – I couldn't believe they took me there. I told them I'd go but I had no idea what was – ribs or something like that."

He probably asked them if they had healthcare when he went back to the kitchen because when they told him they were taking him to a rib joint, he thought it was a medical facility. He wanted to find out how qualified they were. He's probably going to be so happy when this is over so he can go back to the bone china and the crystal Somalia glasses up at Beacon Hill with the white-gloved butler, knowing that he'll never be asked to touch a hoagie, a cheese steak or a rib, ever again.
(laughter)

Pam in Louisville, Kentucky, welcome to the EIB Network. Nice to have you with us.

PAM: Thank you Rush. Nice to hear from you. The first time I called – I called you today and I'm a nervous wreck.

RUSH: Well, don't be nervous, you sound glad – you sound great.

PAM: Well, thank you. You sound great, too. I'm so happy that you busted that guy a while ago that just called you about the – the children that get bombed in Iraq.

RUSH: Our old buddy Cliff in – in Washington, Missouri.

PAM: Wherever he was from, I just – it just – I just can't believe that he is trying to let the American people get sapped into this type of media that –

RUSH: Well, you better believe it because, I mean, he's not alone out there. There are a lot of Cliffs out there that have this – they run around, Pam, with this collective guilt like you cannot believe. They have guilt over our prosperity. They have guilt at our power. They feel guilty that we're just usurping all the resources and all the goodness in the world and that we're in – we're the reason there's poverty in the world. They – they – they just – they run around with collective guilt and so what they try to do is make themselves feel better and –

PAM: I agree.

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

RUSH: – and so they – they come up with these – what they think are very impassioned and moderate and reasoned statements and emotions that are above the fray of partisans and so forth and it just – it's all designed to make themselves feel better. It's really – it's really not much more than that. I think with some of them it goes beyond that. They hate Bush and they'll do anything to get him out of office. Like this – this – this – this –

PAM: That's exactly what they're doing.

RUSH: Prison photos supposed to be the silver bullet. Silver – it's going to be a silver boomerang before it's all over with, coming back to the people throwing it.

PAM: It's an honor to talk to you, Rush.

RUSH: Thank you Pam, appreciate the call. Arlington, Texas, outside Dallas. Eric, welcome to the program. Nice to have you with us.

ERIC: Dittos, Rush. First time I've ever spoken to you and I really appreciate getting through. I'm calling about this guy Cliff who made the unbelievable comparison that so enraged you. I was equally enraged. Saying that these children who are being used as shields and Nick Berg's death and murder are equivalent is just – it's a fallacious argument. It would mean anybody's death is a atrocity when he says it's the end that determines that they're atrocities.

The fact of the matter is it's the means of which someone dies that's exactly what makes a terrorist the refuse that they are. Cliff's reasoning, like Edward Kennedy's, are the real atrocities.

RUSH: Well, you know, part and parcel of it is – and I'm not accusing Cliff of this, because he didn't say it, but I know that these people are out there. They – their – you – if you don't – if you haven't encountered these people, be thankful you haven't, because I have. There are people out there who think that atrocities according to Americans are what we deserve for what we are doing to people around the world.

You know, we have spread homophobia. We've spread environmental destruction. We've spread AIDS. All this sort of stuff. And we deserve all that. This is the world telling us what they think of us and we'd better – we'd better wake up and see what they really think of us and – and – I'll say any time you run into somebody who is obsessed with what other people think of them, turn around and run the other way. Don't get involved with them because they are – they're mental emotional midgets and you'll never get to know who they really are. They're so obsessed with what other people think of them that they will do anything to be liked. It – it – it just – it's – it's not even – it's not even worth the trouble and

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

that's what a lot of these people are. So obsessed with what other people think of them. It's – it's deadly. It's just – it's – it dooms you.

Glad you called, Eric. This is Kathy in Traverse City, Michigan – outside Traverse City, Michigan. Welcome.

KATHY: Hi, Rush. I was just wondering. I would be curious – it would be curious to know if John Kerry's domestic help is offered healthcare.

RUSH: (laughter) I guess – I cannot imagine that he's in charge of it, because if he were in charge of it, they might not. It would be something he would overlook. It's beneath him. But I cannot imagine that that's – that – that – if we learned that, that would be – mean he's not paying Social Security on his staff – his domestic staff has to be insured. I mean that – that – he'd – he'd insure them before he would ensure himself.

KATHY: I would hope so.

RUSH: You know, it's – it's – it's an interesting thought but I – I – I know what you're thinking. I know what you're saying. He's so concerned with it. If they don't have health insurance, instead of walking out, why didn't he do something about it? Why walk out of the place? Why walk out of there? If they don't have health insurance, why not stop and talk to them?

In fact, let me as I am wont to do, offer some assistance to this fledgling campaign. I say call Carrie Meeks and say, "Hey, Kerry, babe, set us up with some hole-in-the-wall place in your neighborhood." So she goes and finds a barbecue joint and goes in there, order some ribs. Supposed to be a big photo op, sitting there getting all greasy and dirty with his hands eating ribs with the real people. Goes back to the kitchen for some odd reason, finds out they don't have health insurance and walks out. Just passed up a huge opportunity.

What John Kerry should have done after he discovered they had no health insurance was to come out in outrage. And somehow find a way to blame the Bush administration or Congress or whatever for – for the – for not caring about the real people of this country, and then vowing, as President he will do something about it.

But no. His reaction is, "Oh, my gosh. I'm dead. If I get caught in a place where they're not unionized and don't have health insurance, and I'm patronizing it, I'm dead." He is worried about what other constituent groups that make up the Democratic party are going to think, so he's in a total defensive posture, rather than seizing an opportunity here and turning it into what might be a campaign plus.

I mean, Liberals run around all the time – love to run around complaining that nobody has any health insurance and here he just found proof. All these millions of

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

Americans no insurance and he happens to end up at a place where they don't have it. Made to order, and he walks out. It's just – this is political tone deafism.

(station break)

RUSH: And here we are, back and having more fun than a human being should be allowed to have. John Kerry said to be focused on five possible running mates who – you know, the latest big name is Tom Vilsack and also John “the Pretty Boy” Edwards is in there. Edwards has a campaign staffer following Kerry around so they're talking about veep, and all these Libs are worried that he's – he's going to slow here in naming a veep, but he also listed some possible names today of Defense Secretaries. I can remember two of them. One's William – don't tell me the – Carl Levin. The other one's McCain. Who's the third? Oh, yeah. John Warner. John Warner, John McCain or Carl Levin as – as Secretary of Defense.

In *The New York Times* today, a story, an op-ed by Andrew Kohut. Andrew Kohut is director of the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, and the – the purpose of his op-ed here is to explain to people why the polls don't add up. That's the headline. “Why the Polls Don't Add Up” It's the latest excuse for Kerry's stalling out in the polls. And the reason, basically, is that voters are just too focused on Bush right now.

“The real reason that Mr. Kerry is making so little progress is that voters are now focused almost exclusively on the President. And this is typical,” writes Mr. Kohut. “As an election approaches, voters first decide whether the incumbent deserves re-election. Only later do they think about whether it's worth taking a chance on the challenger.” How long's it take, Andrew? Guy's been trying to get himself noticed here for quite a while and he can't get noticed because of Bush. Last paragraph, “Should the voters disillusionment with the current President Bush continue, they will evaluate John Kerry and decide whether he's worth a chance, but as in the past the –”

So, really, what we're to conclude here is Kerry's standing in the polls doesn't reflect him at all. People haven't begun to look at him yet. There's still hope, they hope. (laughter) That's the spin here. (laughter) Don't you love this? They're making excuses. You can also look at this as an excuse for why he'd lose, which they're also doing. I mean, there are already columns out there – there have been for a while. We've been telling you about them, explaining – giving reasons why Kerry will lose or did lose because he didn't do this, didn't do that.

Now, summertime's approaching and for those of you who are still going to be able to afford to take vacations because of the rising gasoline price. Some of you won't be able to, let's be honest. Some of you are going to be stuck at home with the family rather than being stuck somewhere else with the family and – and it's just the reality of rising prices, but *The Chicago Tribune* today reports on a new crisis

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

about vacations. Vacations stress us out because there's too much hope riding on them.

“As summer approaches –” Benedict Kerry, by way, wrote this. Actually it – it from *The Los Angeles Times*, I'm sorry. It's been reprinted here in *The Chicago Tribune*. “As summer approaches, millions of people around the country deciding about how best to spend their time off. In doing so, experts say, at a time when work and family demands are escalating, squeezing the amount of vacation time that people take and intensifying their expectations of it. Many see vacations as a chance not only to relax but also to learn about themselves, meditate on the direction of their lives and address personal problems, say surveys. And as often as not, they return disappointed, feeling as much in need of time off as before they left.” (laughter)

I read this and I – now I know people who go on vacation. I'm a real American and some of my friends take vacations. And I asked them where they're going to go, what they're going to do, and I have to be honest – I have to be honest. I've never yet heard somebody say they were going to go on a vacation to learn about themselves or meditate on the direction of their lives. They – they – they go to the bar to do that. They go to the golf course to do that, but I've never – I mean – I'm not saying it doesn't happen. I'm not saying it doesn't happen, but I just don't know people who do this.

Now, I do know people who can't go on vacation – even when they leave. They take their work with them, they take all their communications gear with them. They stay in contact with the office or whatever. Is it really uncommon that most people who go on vacation come back and say it wasn't what I thought it was going to be? It's not bad, but I mean, all these dreams and – and expectations.

I mean, this is not all that uncommon, and so, it says here, “the psychological needs of vacationers can go unsatisfied whether during a bicycle trip through England –” OK, do you know anybody who, on their vacation, has ever taken a bicycle trip through New England? I know real people. I know people who go to barbecue joints. I go to them. And I don't know anybody whose vacation is a bicycle trip through New England. I know people who ride the bike every day in New England, but –

And I know people – I know people who go to the Northeast during the fall to – for a week to watch the changing of the colors and the trees out there. What? What? You – oh – Dawn – I have met somebody here who – you take bike trips through – New – New – oh, well of course he does. The stenographer in New York. Of course, he's a bicyclist. He rides his bicycle to work. This proves my point. So if he goes bike – if he takes his bike on vacation he's not leaving his work because he rides his bike to work. So he's not really vacationing.

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

OK, where – now. I lost my place. Where were – where was I here? “Several smaller workplace studies confirm the short term benefits of vacations. People tend to sleep better after more than a week off, have fewer physical complaints than they did before the break, and report being more optimistic or energetic than they were before. These effects may last five days or five weeks, it depends on how satisfying the break was.

Vacation satisfaction is a hard thing to measure or describe.” There’s a crisis out there, folks. I guess that’s what we can conclude here. A crisis – a vacation crisis. They’re not all we expect them to be. They leave us tired and bedraggled and disappointed. They don’t meet our expectations and we often go off to find ourselves and meditate on the future. We don’t get time to do it because of whatever reason.

I – I have known people – I have known people that go on vacation and the first three or four days, feel guilty they’re on vacation – don’t start enjoying it until they get back. You know, that’s why some people need to take two weeks straight because it takes the first week to get over the fact of your guilt that you took time off. I can relate to that.

Well, I mean, that’s not me. But I mean, I know – I know – well, not true because when I – I – every time I leave, I panic that something huge is going to happen, because it did. You know, for the first 10 or 12 years every time I left something major happened. Supreme Court decision on abortion or something. I’m going to be gone Monday, and I’m sitting here already fretting over, given what’s going on, what’s going to happen on Monday while I’m not here. It’s not a vacation day, though, however folks. I’m going to be – I’m going to be working, in a sense. I’ll be – I’ll be in the neighborhood of St. Louis, Killbuck’s annual golf tournament for charity. The children’s hospital in St. Louis, and I was only recently able to arrange a schedule to get there so just – that’s the only fear I have when I leave. But to each his own.

Here’s Bob in Miami, outside Miami. Welcome to the program.

BOB: Ah, good afternoon, Rush. I am a little upset. As a matter of fact, quite a bit upset.

RUSH: Yes?

BOB: I am so sick and tired of hearing that this murder was an execution. An execution leaves some sort of legalistic reference to his murder. This was not done by any court. It was not done by any – anybody but a bunch of – I don’t want to insult an animal, because personally I think these people have given up their right to the human race. And I think the only solution – I hate to say this, but I – I am really getting to the point where I think we’re going to have to annihilate them, as a

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

people, just annihilate them. I think that's the only way this world is going to have any peace. I am so furious you have idea.

RUSH: Yes I do.

BOB: But I want to say something else here, just getting off the subject. Thank God for you and people like you, because I think you and people like you, who are on the airwaves giving the people the straight scoop, the straight news without being embellished in any way or slanted in any way, you are one of this country's greatest assets, and I thank God for you.

RUSH: Well, Bob, that's – you've made my day. That's awfully nice of you to say and I appreciated it.

BOB: I mean it.

RUSH: Well, I know and I just wanted – I'm trying to sincerely thank you and I also understand your emotion. I feel the same way. I – I watch this video and I told people this – this – this murder, like – and you – it's a good point about this not being an execution. Execution implies that there's some punishment being carried out for the commission of some crime and there's no crime here. This is a man who's the essence of innocence, by the way. Not even a member of the US military, but – but the – I felt the same – I just – I just wanted to turn the place 2000 degrees. I wanted to call George Bush and say stop pussy-footing, time to project our power and let's be done with this.

BOB: I agree. As far as I'm concerned – and they better get down on their knees and pray to their Satan as God, because that's what it is. It's – you know, I don't know if you –

RUSH: Well, you know, another thing about these guys, when they're committing this murder, one of the things I think is – I didn't describe the detail that I saw – just trying to describe my feelings, but they're shouting "God is great." Shouting "God is great" and I – the one – the thing I was asking myself, "How the hell is God going to see you cowards? You're wearing masks. How's God going to know which one of you great cowards is doing this in his name, you punks?" That's how I felt about – I just – I just was – I was –

BOB: You know – I – am I – can you still hear me?

RUSH: Yeah, yeah. So can the audience.

BOB: OK. We – and it's another thing that I think the people of this country had better learn. This is not a war about ideology. This is a religious war. It's their religion against the world, and if you let these fanatics ever get a toehold, which has already happened, unfortunately. But if you let these fanatics get a toehold and start to run

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

the Middle East, do you think they're going to stop there? No. They're going to try to get this throughout the entire world.

RUSH: I hate to – Bob, if I – I think they're much closer to running the Middle East than what you have implied.

BOB: Well, they are –

RUSH: I don't – by that – by that I mean this – this fanatical Islam is – is much more – I mean, you go to Egypt this is what's taught in schools. You go to – you go to Saudi Arabia, it's what's taught in schools. It's –

BOB: How do you eliminate this? How do you eliminate the instruction that they're giving a generation who think this is the way it should be? How do you eliminate that ideal – that idea, rather, from their minds? Unfortunately, an ideal –

RUSH: Well, OK, wait a second. Wait – wait a second. Now there's answer to this question and it doesn't matter – you – you can sort of – well, you can say that World War II was a war of ideology, but what – we still – it was in ideology we weren't willing to accept, so what did we do? There's – I mean, there's a – there's a way to do this. There is a way to do it, it's just – it's going to – it's – it's eventually going to have to happen.

Let me ask you a question here, Bob, before you go, because you've been very powerful in what you've said. There – there's a column in *The New York Times* today by Nicholas Kristoff and he, like Ted Kennedy, draws a moral equivalence –

BOB: You mean Comrade Kennedy?

RUSH: Yes. But Nicholas – I just want to get your thoughts on this in case you missed me saying this earlier. Kristoff refers to George Bush's America in a religious sense, just as he does the Ayatollah's Iran.

BOB: Well, whose religion would you rather have? A religion that preaches peace and love –

RUSH: But his point – his point is – Mr. – well, I agree, but Mr. Kristoff's point is all religions have this potential if they become championed by a nation's leader. And this is another thing that we better wake up and realize, folks, that the Left in this country, the secularist Left, is doing everything it can to wipe religion out of our mainstream culture to the point of disqualifying religious people from serving in high office. And if they manage to get there than they must be discredited as fanatics. So this Kristoff guy draws a moral equivalence between the Ayatollahs in Iran and George W. Bush. That's who we are dealing with in this country as we attempt to unify our people to fight and struggle against we are all facing. It – it just – it boggles the mind the way these people think. It just totally does. Anyway,

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

Bob, I'm a little long here so I've got to run, but I appreciate your comments. I thank you again very much for them. We will be right back.

(station break)

RUSH: Interesting story here from the Associated Press. Oh, Nedra – Nedra Pickler back with another dispatch from the Kerry campaign. “With ghastly images of abuse and decapitation out of Iraq, President Bush and John Kerry welcome any opportunity to focus on –” I resent that. I resent the hell out of this. What do you mean, “with ghastly images of abuse and decapitation out of Iraq?” There’s moral equivalence right there. Who did the decapitation, Nedra? “Ghastly images of abuse and decapitation.” “Bush wants to forget it?” How do you know that? This is a – this is a news story. Nedra does not write op-ed pieces. Well, I mean, she does, but they’re not presented that way.

“Bush and Kerry welcome any opportunity to focus on bread and butter issues on the home front?” Nedra, that’s the diff – a President can’t afford to walk away from stuff. You know, a candidate like Kerry can, and that’s what this story is about. This story is basically about Kerry shying away from Iraq criticism. It has to – but the lead has to portray Bush as seeking any opportunity to get away from it himself, too. Has Bush shown any inclination to do that? Quite the contrary.

“The opponents in the Presidential race barely mentioned Iraq during campaign stops Tuesday in the South. Bush stuck to education with a passing reference to troops spreading freedom and peace in the war-torn –” Passing reference. For crying out loud, Nedra.

You know, I know what’s happened here. We have given this woman too much praise on this program and she has got to get back in the good graces of her editors at the AP. There’s no question. Kerry is quoted, he say – he – “Kerry preferred to discuss rising health care costs –” no doubt at a barbecue joint, “and avoided answering directly when asked what he would do about abuse of Iraqi prisoners if he were commander in chief.” What would he do about Nick Berg? Is anybody asking him that? (as Kerry)

“The important thing is for the country now is to get its path in the right correct. We need to come together. I’m hopeful we will.” And there you have it. Da da dit, da da dit, da da da. Was the John Kerry statement. So the bottom line here is Kerry is shying away from Iraq criticism.

What that makes me wonder is what are his pollsters seeing out there, because if Kerry is shying away from criticizing Bush on Iraq, it’s only because they got polling data which says it ain’t going over. You got to know how to read these stories, folks. You have to know how to do it. I, as a highly trained broadcast specialist, bring that talent and ability to this broadcast each and every day.

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/12/04

We'll be back. Dawn's in there rolling her eyes. You just ought to see this.

(station break)

RUSH: For those of you wondering, the transcript of the second hour of this program, as well as a lot of it, will be posted on the Website tonight, as it always is. Bob in Newington, Connecticut, 40 seconds. Welcome to the program, sir.

BOB: I have my 40 seconds of fame, Rush. I never liked you until recently, but kudos. You are right to the point in everything. I am very angry over what went on about this beheading and that – and I'll tell you. My feelings, you brought it up earlier, that's why I've been on the phone consistently. Of course, I don't think people realize in the United States how bad this stuff is. I'm a serviceman, I'm a disabled veteran and I've seen this stuff and I think there's – we need more people like you.

RUSH: Well, Bob, thank you very much. I appreciate it. I have always maintained when people said we need more people like me, no, I can handle it, but I appreciate what you're saying. I really do. Thank you so much. We – you and I need to go get ribs sometime. In the meantime, my friends, have a – have a great day. We'll be back on Thursday, which is tomorrow. See you then.

END OF SHOW