

FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL

VOTER VALUES SUMMIT

**REMARKS BY
GOVERNOR MIKE HUCKABEE (R-AR),
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE**

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MR. : All right. We are delighted to have with us now Governor Mike Huckabee, who will be speaking to us next. (Applause.) All right.

Will the delegates from Arkansas please sit down. Thank you. You razorbacks, I tell you. (Laughter.) At least me tell you that Mike Huckabee was elected to a full four-year term as governor in 1998 attracting the largest percentage of a vote ever received by a Republican gubernatorial nominee in Arkansas, and was reelected to another four-year term in November of 2002. "Governing" magazine named him as one its public officials of the year for 2005 and "Time" magazine honored him as one of the five best governors in America. When he left office in January of 2007, he set out on a nation wide tour to promote his fifth book, "From Hope to Higher Ground: 12 Stops to Restoring America's Greatness." I must also tell you that he enjoys playing bass guitar in his rock'n'roll band, Capital Offense, which is open for several big names by the way around the country and two presidential inauguration balls.

Coming from the razorback state of Arkansas, please welcome Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee. (Applause.)

GOV MIKE HUCKABEE (R-AR): Thank you. Thank you. God bless you. Thank you. Thank you so very much. Thank you. What a welcome. Thank you so very much. This has been a big week in the news. I don't know if you've been keeping up. Some of you have been traveling and being here, but a little over a week ago, Al Gore was given the Noble Peace Prize. (Laughter.) You may not have heard. Today there's been a glitch and in fact they now think they may have to withhold the award. It turns out there are some ballots in Florida that they're still waiting to count another time. (Laughter.)

Also this was big week because this was the first week in which one of the baby boomers applied for Social Security. You probably heard about it. It was a school teacher over in Pennsylvania. She became the first of the great wave of baby boomers that will go into the system. Some 10,000 baby boomers a day are going to be signing up for Social Security, and if you think that's bad economic news, just wait till all the old, aging hippies find out they can get free drugs from the federal government. (Laughter.)

What a great group of people to celebrate what we call values voters. I come today as one not who comes to you, but as one who comes from you. You are my roots. (Applause.) Most of you know that prior to my getting into politics and becoming lieutenant governor for three years and a governor 10 and a half years I was a pastor and a denominational president in my state of the Baptist faith. Now, that created a lot of heartburn for people not only in Arkansas, but other parts of the country. Anytime you have been a person who was identified as a pastor and you've got a seminary education and theology degree, people tend to worry about you. And when I first ran for office,

people would come up to me, I remember one lady in particular. She said, mister, is it true you're an ordained minister? And I said, yes, ma'am, that's correct. She says, Baptist? I said, yes. She asked, are you one of those narrow-minded Baptists who think only Baptists will go to heaven? I said, lady, no. Actually I'm more narrow than that. I don't think all the Baptists are going to make it myself. (Laughter, applause.)

We are gathered here to talk about the values that bring values voters together. We're defined by what we value, what's important to us, what's nonnegotiable for us, what matters more than anything else in the world when we go and vote. That is what it means when we say we are values voters. These are not some things we're merely interested in. These are things we are committed to, and there's a big difference. And I would suggest today that there are some values to which we're committed and which are nonnegotiable: the value of freedom, the value of family, the value of faith.

The value of freedom is threatened today. I fear that many Americans simply are not fully aware of the depth of threat we face from Islamofascism. And I'm afraid that if we do not wake up and understand that this threat is one that we cannot negotiate, accommodate, or placate – it is one which we must eradicate, because we they don't care whether it takes 1,000 days or 1,000 years, their goal is not simply to make sure that your grandchildren don't live as well or have as nice a home. They don't want your grandchildren to ever live at all. We are not fighting a nation-state. (Applause.) We are fighting an ideology that is rooted in theocratic notion that they would establish a theocracy on this earth; and for that to happen, all of us have to disappear.

Ladies and gentlemen, our nation, our world, our freedom has never faced the level of threat that we currently face. We can fight those countries who have a war over borders and boundaries, who fight with bullets and with bombs and who fight under the banner of flags, but we cannot completely ever fully understand the depth of fanaticism that drives Islamofascism, and that's why we must make sure that every American understands that the threat of our freedom is real. It's going to be here. And we cannot have the naïve idea that if we leave them alone, they will leave us alone. That will get us killed. (Applause.)

And ladies and gentlemen, our freedom is threatened by the broken borders of our own country. It is a national security issue, and let me be very clear: every day of my life I get on my knees and I thank God we are in a country people are trying to break into, not one they're trying to break out of. (Applause.) But I also want to make it clear that it is unacceptable in this country that it is more difficult for people like you and me to get on an airplane in our own hometown than it is for an illegal to cross the border of an international boundary, and our government has failed us and has refused to make a difference. (Applause.)

We need to make it clear that we will say no to amnesty and no to sanctuary cities and no to the idea that there can be some complete ignoring of the fact that our laws have been broken. I do not blame those who want to come here. I blame our government for

sitting on its hands for over 20 years and letting this problem get completely out of hand. (Applause.) Build a border fence. Secure the border and do it now. (Applause.)

I would also want to say that I think it's high time that we recognize the threat we have because we are so dependant upon somebody else's energies to supply our own needs. A country that cannot feed itself, that cannot fuel itself, and that cannot fight for itself with its own weapons which it manufactures itself is a nation that is not longer free. It is only as free as the countries to whom it has outsourced those three things. I don't want to see our food come from China, our oil come from Saudi Arabia, and our manufacturing come from Europe and Asia. (Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, it is time – no, it is past time that we come to the place where we tell to the Saudis that within 10 years we're going to have about as much interest in their oil as we do their sand. They can keep both of them. (Applause.) For far too long, we have financed both sides of the war on terror. Our tax dollars pay for our military to fight it, our oil dollars every time you up at the tank go straight to those who turn that money into the madrassas that teach the terrorists and into the money that funds them. Enough is enough. (Applause.)

And our freedom is threatened by our tax system that needs to be not tinkered with and toyed with, but totally overhauled. We have a tax system that is so completely out of control that, as we say in the South, not even duct tape and WD-40 can fix it. (Applause.) I suppose that our best thing is to get rid of the current tax code – and I know this sounds bold but we need big ideas for big problems and the tax code it's a big problem. If we implement the fair tax, we not only get rid of the IRS, but we stop the muzzling of ministers when they're told that they can't say things from the pulpit because the IRS is going to tell them. (Applause.)

I think – ladies and gentlemen, I think we ought to be listening to our Constitution a lot more to the IRS and with the fair tax we can do it. And our freedom is, let me also say, threatened by the idea that we've got to stop, and that is that we can turn the sovereignty of our nation over to some international tribunal of the United Nations. Let's stop the Law of Sea Treaty. Let's stop the nonsense of saying we're going to abide by the international rights of the child, which would usurp our constitutional authority. And any federal judge who uses some international law as a precedent to make a court decision ought to be impeached. (Applause.)

Our freedom is threatened, ladies and gentlemen, but so is our family. Families are threatened because there are some who want to redefine what marriage means, and I don't think there's any one of us in this place that can accept a compromise or a negotiation on the fact that marriage still means one man, one woman – life partners. That's what it's always meant. (Applause.)

In my state, we helped pass a constitutional amendment to affirm that. It's not that we're against anybody or against anything. We are for something. We're for marriage. And what we did at my state level and what many of you have done at your

state level, we need to do at the federal level. And that is to make it so that it's constitutionally clear. And let me say this: when I hear people say, oh, we don't want to change the constitution, we don't want to amend it. Well, it was made to be amended, but let me give you another thought. I'm very tired of hearing people who are unwilling to change the Constitution, but seem more than willing to change the holy word of God as it relates to the definition of marriage. (Applause.)

Our families are threatened by the destruction of innocent human life. I'd like to do at the national level what we saw done at the state level in Arkansas, and that is making it constitutionally clear that life begins at conception and it is the responsibility of all of us to protect innocent human life throughout all of its natural life, because that's what defines us as a civilization and as a culture. We care about individuals because of the intrinsic worth and value in every single human life. (Applause.)

Sometimes we talk about why are importing so many people in our work force. It might be because for the last 35 years we have aborted more than 1 million people who would have been in our workforce had we not had the holocaust of liberalized abortion under a flawed of Supreme Court ruling in 1973. (Applause.)

I took some heat earlier this week for being asked a question at a house-party up in New Hampshire. And I was asked about the whole idea of accommodating sexual irresponsibility. And my point was that it is not the responsibility of taxpayers to accommodate someone's risky behavior. And I made this clear that is you're a basketball coach and your team isn't playing very well, you don't lower the goal to meet the level of your team's play. You raise the level of your team's play to meet the goal if you want to be a champion. (Applause.) We do not have the right to move the standards of God to meet new cultural norms. We need to move the cultural norms to meet God's standards. (Applause, cheers.)

The great evangelist Billy Sunday over a century ago was preaching in one of fiery revivals and, as he was apt to do, he said some pretty bold things. When his sermon was over, a lady came up to him and said, Mr. Sunday, I didn't like your sermon. You rubbed the cat's fur the wrong way. He looked right back at her and stared deeply and he said, then, lady, turn the cat around. (Laughter, applause.)

We're values voters because of our commitment to freedom and family and also our commitment to faith. But faith is also threatened, and let me share with you how. I believe that there are many who will seek our support. But let me say that it's important that people sing from their hearts and don't merely lip-synch the lyrics to our songs. (Applause.)

I think it's important that the language of Zion is a mother tongue and not a recently acquired second language. It's important that a person doesn't have more positions on issues than Elvis had waist sizes. (Laughter.) We need to once again realize that there was a time among us when there were certain things negotiable: which federal agencies ought to stay and go, which programs ought to get more money or less money.

But some things were not negotiable: the sanctity of human life, the definition of marriage, the purpose of our freedom, and the opportunity for us to worship as we please. Let us never sacrifice our principles for anybody's politics – not now, not ever. (Applause, cheers.)

Ladies and gentlemen, the prophets of old spoke the truth boldly – often didn't even get invited back for a second engagement. (Laughter.) Most of them never got invited for the first engagement. (Laughter.) But they spoke the truth to power. All of you in this room have an incredible capacity to go back into your states and counties and precincts and be true to your faith, to your convictions. And anything less than that and we lose the important power to help shape the future of our nation and to protect our freedom, our families, and our faith.

We ought not to see things like the world does because most of you, probably like me, grew up being tutored in Sunday school. And I don't know about you, but I never outgrew some of that. I don't guess I outgrew any of it. You see, I was led to believe that it was a lot better to be with David – that little shepherd boy with five smooth stones – than it was with Goliath with all his heavy armor. I was thought that it was better to be Daniel than it was a whole den full of lions because Daniel would come out better off than those lions. It went to sleep before it was all over. I was taught that it was better to be one of the three Hebrew children than it was to be the fiery flames of the furnace, because with God's power those flames couldn't even leave the smell of smoke on the lives and the clothes of those three Hebrew children.

I was taught to believe that it was better to be Elijah with an altar that had been soaked not once, not twice, but three times with water than it was to be 850 prophets of Ba'al screaming and yelling all day long for the fire to fall on Mount Carmel. I was led to believe that we serve a God who stood in the middle of a boat in the Sea of Galilee in the midst of a storm and said for the storm to stop and it did, or a Jesus who took mud and put it in the eyes of a blind man and he could see again. And one who could take two little fish and five biscuits and feed a crowd of 5,000 people and have enough leftovers that it would make the disciples realize that there was never an end to the supply of what our God could do when our people had faith – a savior who in fact could even go to the tomb of a dead man named Lazarus, so dead that the Scripture says he already was stinking – that's pretty blunt, folks – (laughter) – and he made him live again.

I don't want ever for us to let expediency or electability replace our principles as the new value. The new value needs to be the old value. We believe in some things. We stand by those things. We live or die by those things. (Applause, cheers.)

And, ladies and gentlemen, I want to say with all my heart: this today, I understand, is not a rally for one party or another, but many of us are affiliated with a political party, as am I. But I want to make it very clear that for me, I do not spell G-O-D G-O-P. (Applause.) Our party may be important, but our principles are even more important than anybody's political party. Stand by our stuff. (Applause.)

Nearly 250 years ago, 56 very brave men took a pen and signed the document that would for ever change the history of the world and would set a course that each of us today are able to live because of. Those brave men, when they affixed their signatures to the Declaration of Independence did not say I sign here as long as everything is going well. I sign here with the hopes that King George will listen to us and maybe negotiate a little bit with us and ease up on us a little bit. I sign here so that I can have a little seat at the table and be tossed a few of the king's crumbs from time to time.

These men signed understanding full well what they were doing. And they said on this day we pledge our fortunes, our families, our lives, and our sacred honor. Ladies and gentlemen, it is time for those of us who call ourselves values voters to pledge our lives, our families, our fortunes, and our sacred honor to that which is true, which is right, and which is eternal. Let us do it.

Thank you and God bless you – an honor to be with you today. Thank you.
(Applause, cheers.)

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