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SPEAKERS

Michael Crawford, Scott Lewis



00:02

He's been pretty clear about that. I think. Now, he got a lot of criticism for, for that. From the other side.



00:11

There's rumors about ill health in the Supreme Court too.



00:16

There's another issue, and I think it's probably an issue, which is going to have a much quicker impact on is, is health care. And we've just left an administration that obviously didn't have a plan to provide basic health care for every American and Clinton at least, has a plan that is going to attempt at least to move us into into the area of everyone being able to afford adequate health. So it's, it's one thing to have a ruling to allow a woman to have a choice, but it's another thing to ensure that she has the availability of having the medical assistants to make that that choice reality. Same thing with AIDS the same thing with pregnancy.



01:02

Same thing with women who are struggling to raise children on a salary that's below the poverty level. And for those children to have adequate health care.



01:16

It's interesting that this this country and South Africa are the only two industrialized worlds that have a healthcare system like we do.

M**Michael Crawford 01:26**

But even with that with the plan that Bill Clinton is offering, not everyone will be covered. How do we convince Bill Clinton that it's necessary to put forth a single payer system of national health care where people can everyone can have access to health care, regardless of ability to pay? How do we get Clinton and the Congress and the American people to realize that this is what's necessary for everyone in America?

U**01:56**

My response would be, you know, one step at a time the the universal payer plan, which is Ted Kennedy's plan, he has not been able to take to get through the Senate for the last 10 years. So I don't think that that is I don't think that that is a plan that is going to pass to pass Congress this year. So I think it is an issue which we have to press on, but I I think the realities are, that if we get any plan that is going to pass Congress, it's going to be Clinton's Clinton's plan. He's not going to abandon it, too. So I mean, I think that we have to realize we're living in a practical world, and there are some good goals we can we can achieve immediately, and some gonna take a longer period of time. We press Clinton's plan out, it's not a perfect plan, but it is the plan that is going to pass it and he does, and then we can continue to push for, for a federal plan.

M**Michael Crawford 03:03**

During the first 100 days, what would you like to see from Bill Clinton in terms of AIDS? We know, for example, that under the Bush administration, the Ryan White CARE Act was not fully funded, despite the fact that, you know, the cities are crumbling and are dying under the weight of the number of people who are dying of AIDS. The federal government has failed to put together a prevention and education campaign aimed at all segments of America. What do we want from Bill Clinton in the first 100 days, in terms of trying to end the AIDS crisis?

U**03:39**

I would hope that we would have a a mechanism whether it's an AIDS czar or whatever, where the recommendations of the past two administrations are put into it policy. We have the recommendations of the the AIDS commission, and we have the recommendations of the AIDS Taskforce, neither of which have been implemented thematic. So if he could at least get President Reagan's recommendations, and President Bush's recommendations, and a form to be implemented in the first 100 days. I would be happy. If you could find a cure. I'd be happy.

U**04:24**

I would like to see him say the word condom. And let everybody know that it's okay to say condom on television. Instead of in dental dams. And in schools instead of having somebody sitting on the side of it but bed putting a sock on and you're supposed to get that that means wear a condom, you know, when you have sex? I



04:41

mean, that would be nice.



Michael Crawford 04:46

What about I mean, this question is addressed to the women from wag. What about women's health issues? Because, to be perfectly honest, women are just totally forgotten about insurance. have healthcare in terms of funding for research into, for example, breast cancer or AIDS and women? What do women need Bill Clinton to do in order to make the healthcare, healthcare situation better for women?



05:17

There's so many of us here, we don't know who's going to speak first. Healthcare is of vital importance to women, because women are the biggest poor group in this country right now, you know, and what is it 27% of female headed households are in the lowest fifth of income levels. So when women realize the vital link between good health, health care for their children, and health care for themselves, they'll also realize that they can make a better living that way when they're healthy. I don't know how we're gonna get the message out or what we're going to do to Bill Clinton to make him understand it. I hope that Hillary is a big help in that area. And I think he's aware of women's health issues and men's I mean, if is, the speech he made when he won is any indicate any indication because he mentioned aids first. I don't think you mentioned women's health issues. But I know that's on his mind.



06:17

We want an I want a piece of the pie. There seems to be a small piece of pie, it seems at least the traditional form of government is that everyone's fighting for the same pie. I want a statement from Clinton and his people to acknowledge that women in fact are one in eight are getting breast cancer in this country. When I was around and aware of it, it was one in 10. And in the two years that I've been conscious, it's down to one in eight, I want to understand why I want monies appropriated to understand the differences between men's health studies and Women's Health Studies. I want money directed toward that, so that we can begin to understand how, how we work. If you look at the traditional funding of the past, most of it is directed toward men. And it is assumed that if this is going to go in to solve a man problem, then we don't, then the studies haven't been done to look at women's health issues. It's always been predicated and based on then we want, I want a fair piece of the pie. I want to begin to put aside all these differences and work toward the common good of people, man or woman. I want bill to acknowledge that. And I know that he has acknowledged that we have a problem in this country. But I want more than just the rhetoric and tied to the rhetoric and the special studies and the unique studies and everything else that doesn't seem to add up. I want the translated into education and people understanding how their bodies basically work starting with very young boys and girls.



08:00

And it seems like studies for women's health need to be bolstered to catch up to the the findings they have on men's issues. But I don't know if that's going to happen. I mean, can you all realistically see, and the first 100 days, I'm coming up with a piece of legislation that would say that? I don't think so.



08:18

But there is one area of clinical drug trials, which by an executive order he could he could make that change, as it now stands the vast majority of clinical drug trials, as example, the trials for for aids have almost been exclusively white men. Okay. One, it means that the majority of our population don't even have access to these drugs, because they're all experimental. So even if you had a million dollars, you could not get into one of these drug trials. And to it means that the results are skewed, the majority of the population are not white men, and therefore the results from these drug trials are questionable. That



09:05

is that if what they say is going to happen, there's going to be an explosion of AIDS in the heterosexual community, then we're going to hear a lot of voices that have been silent because they haven't had to say anything. And they're going to be the ones crying to Bill Clinton, to help them you know, we have to find a cure for this. We have to have medication for this. We have to have programs that will help us financially. And hopefully, at that point in time, the gay community would have a bigger voice in saying this is you know, we have been saying this all along and you're not hearing anything new. So let's do something about this.



09:51

The issue goes beyond aids, heart disease, hypertension, everything, all of these these



09:57

issues. We have to do Excuse me, we have to look at our u 486. And its value. We think about it strictly in terms of the morning after pill. There are far more many uses than what we're bringing to the table here. I want to see Bill and his people acknowledge that there are other countries who are relatively progressive and can bring added dimensions and added change to the table.



10:26

I just want to make a quick comment we've been discussing here breast cancer, AIDS, various health issues of concern to various different groups. Generally speaking, women are the gay and lesbian community or people with AIDS, progressive groups such as wack and act up, and

others need to make sure that that the powers that be don't push us into tearing at each other's throats to fight over some paltry meager amount of funding that the government is throwing at us. We can get into fights over whether or not funding to be taken away from AIDS research to breast cancer research. I think, as a strategy for avoiding that, we really have to look at the long term or one of the long term solutions to the problem here the problem of funding when you're talking about, as Dean said, breast cancer or hypertension or AIDS, one of the key problems in getting enough money to fight those diseases to do research, to treat people to get them drugs, is that our medical care system is based on profit. And hospitals, doctors, drug companies are all have over the past decade since Reagan came into office, been hiking up their profits, they're making more money from medical care. And if the government is going to effectively fund fighting aids, or breast cancer and so forth, they cannot dump money into a system that will simply raise their prices and gain more profit out of it there, there is going to have to be in some future national health care plan, a cost control measure where the government goes in, sets the prices of certain procedures for medical care, and leaves the prices at that so that you don't have these doctors and drug companies trying to siphon off money from people or the government.

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Scott Lewis 12:18

I have to say that you're listening to after hours on KPFT Houston 90.1. This is a continuing tradition that brings you things like this right here. You brought up an interesting point that I want to delve into a little bit and that's are you 486 You have a drug here that the religious right has threatened any company to carry this drug will be boycotted. And these people, these drug companies are terrified. And I've heard several that have said, I don't care if it's approved, we wouldn't we would not manufacture this drug because it could potentially put us under How do you fight that and get this drug that has so many other uses besides just a morning after pill and to this country?



13:04

You try to take the emotionalism out of it a little bit, you try to diffuse it any drive to talk about the other side effects in terms of being a potential cure for Alzheimer's in terms of being potential cure for whatever ill is out there. And and I guess I can't really say how I feel about the religious right and their views on things because the finger there's the failure. We have to diffuse and we have to appeal to a people's intellectual side, perhaps I'm not certain how to do it. But I know that we have to

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Scott Lewis 13:46

do it. But will that work? Because we've seen I've seen years and years and AIDS and fighting for AIDS money and AIDS education, telling people, this is not a moral issue. This is a health issue, you know, and that it doesn't get through. I still as recently as this election, you hear from Pat Buchanan that AIDS is God's retribution against homosexuality. My God, I thought I heard that one for the last time five years ago, I thought we had educated people beyond that point. And this man goes across the country and gets 30% of the Republican vote in every state. So is that is that going to work? Is that enough? Because it doesn't seem to be working in the aid struggle.



14:29

I don't know if for each one, each one teach one or whatever the expression is. My personal view of the world talks to moving as a wave. It talks to connecting the different points of light if you will. All coming together articulating the same message act up in Queer Nation is extraordinarily visible in his community. It has done a tremendous amount of work. Wak is a current contemporary We are a group doing a whole lot of work, I believe, and I I, in my heart, I believe that we have to align ourselves, we have to work through our differences, we have to transcend our differences. And as a group of people, as a group of people with certain interests, certain common goals have to move together. And, and, and clearly clearly talk about what it is we want and need in order to continue to survive. Short of that, we won't make it.



15:33

I think that it's estimated that by the year 2000, we'll have an entire generation of AIDS orphans existing in this country. I think that that will bring home the point that this is not a moral issue, this is a health issue, especially when we can see that a large majority, that percentage of people who may potentially get AIDS and die by the year 2000, could have been well prevented by you know, proper education. And I think that, the more we realize that it's that education is the most important thing. And then, of course, you know, the research is the second most important thing as well. But education is the first and foremost three, cause it's preventative, it's preventing what will and can happen. I think that once people see that, that whole generation of people created, you know, orphans created by the AIDS epidemic, people are bound to see this, this is not a moral issue.



Scott Lewis 16:43

I've seen to two statistics this week. And Paula Jean would probably be best to to confirm or, or tell if these are correct, or or know what the accurate numbers are. The first one is I saw Magic Johnson on Larry King, saying that 75% of current aids transmission is heterosexual deaths worldwide,



17:07

worldwide. A worldwide figure Yes, yes.



17:10

So I mean, you take Africa, so 99% in Africa.



Scott Lewis 17:17

So what is it in this country?



17:20

Probably, in I'd say about 1/3 of the AIDS cases in this in this in this country, are hetero socially transmitted. And as that's not to say that it's sexually heterosexual at transmit that type also IV drug users.



17:37

So About 33% later, it's also the fastest growing percentage, right?



Scott Lewis 17:43

And I also saw another statistic this week, that 31% of heterosexuals are considered high risk for HIV, because they don't believe it can happen to them. Is it happening to them at an incredible alarming rate, what it's going to take to wake them up?



18:03

I think everyone obviously should take precautions, but to say that a heterosexual couple who doesn't quote not use precautions that don't use a condom have moved into a high risk category? I think it was very alarmist. I think if you're talking about teenagers, sexually promiscuous, single people, they they certainly are in a they're taking risky behavior. But high risk groups normally have been either drug users, partners of IV drug users, people who engage in male to male sex. And I think one of the problems is if you try to use alarmist statistics, to get your point across, you're going to be discounted. And I think that's one of the problems that we have to be to be careful that attempting to alarm people with statistics, which they don't believe and they don't believe for valid reasons. I mean, someone in a relationship that doesn't use a condom is not going to be convinced that they're that they're a high risk. And that's what the statistics were that they used.



19:22

There's also a danger of creating a backlash against the gay community when you use those alarmist tactics.



Scott Lewis 19:29

How much has the gay community's HIV transmission decreased through the amount of education that the community has given itself? Through the organizations that the dozens and dozens and hundreds across the country of organizations that this community has built itself with? No with no help from anywhere else? How much has our transmission rate dropped?



19:57



19:57

Statistics have attempted to show that it has leveled off in the gay community, although some believe that those statistics are not accurate. And a lot of it has to do with educating ourselves. As far as reducing the risk, a lot of it has to do with the very sad fact that there just are a lot less people who are not who are not already infected. So obviously, when that pool gets smaller and smaller, the the, the rate of increase is going to level off. I mean, our community is dying, and dying because we're HIV positive. And the, the greater percentage of us being HIV positive, obviously leaves a smaller number who are not infected, who could be infected. So there's a certain poignancy and in that statistic



Michael Crawford 20:56

What about on a local level? AIDS, AIDS care in Houston, to put it mildly sucks. We know that suck, okay, if you really can broaden it that way. We know for example, that the way things work out the city is responsible for education prevention and for testing, and that the county is responsible for health care for people with AIDS basically, after you infect that you're dealing with the county before you are infected. The city health department should be dealing with you. Okay, we know that not one red set of local tax dollars has been spent on AIDS education. We know that the health department is a shambles. We know that the Harris County Hospital District is a shambles. What can we do to change these situations?



21:44

I think the system which they work in has to be changed. Going to change the county's response to age you're going to change the county's response to health care. The seventh floor in Jeff Davis hospital was a shambles that was the eighth floor. But the third floor was a shambles too. And that that was the the birthing block. And you can't change. One issue without changing the more a county those unresponsive to AIDS is going to be unresponsive to teenage pregnancies is going to be on responsive to to lung cancer. And as long as the county believes that indigent people do not have a right to adequate health care, the issue of AIDS is never going to be changed. So when we fight with Lindsey on AIDS, we really have to realize you you're fighting with a system that not only doesn't care about AIDS, it doesn't care about that any indigent health care problem.



Michael Crawford 22:48

How do we change the system? How do we fight Wednesday? I mean, how do we get together people from ACT UP from coordination from whack from every group around the city and go and say, the healthcare situation is bad, we need more money for, for example, prenatal care, we need more money for AIDS care, we need more money for you know, it's it's came out a couple of days ago, that one out of 10 children in the state of Texas has doesn't have access to health care. Now, how do we go and say these situations need to be changed? What do we need to do to change the situation,



23:23

the progressive people in society have to learn from what the right wing has done. And that is

the progressive people in society have to learn from what the right wing has done. And that is the organized and effective. I don't think there are more of them than they are of us. But they certainly are organized. And I think that has to be our major agenda in the next year, to getting the progressive communities in the city, in the state and in the nation to be organized. Because until we do that, you're never going to make change. We all can sit in our living rooms and say, you know, really, we have to do something about teenage pregnancy or AIDS. But until those those closeted progressives come out of the closet and join in a movement, we're not going to make change.



24:13

I think that that part of that organizational effort of progressives here in Houston has to focus to some degree on militant direct action. We have to utilize utilize the the proven effective tactics of group like act up of the women's groups today and from the 60s, hit the streets and give them our demands and force them to do it. Historically, I think those tactics have been shown to be pretty effective. And that needs to be part of our strategy down here.



24:40

We have to also clearly identify who the who the enemies are. And in the actions have to be directed. I mean, something that act up is doing right now and in doing pretty effectively. We've been we've been, you know, hitting John Lindsay for about, what, two months now. And it's been really It was, and in identifying those kinds of people who hinder the causes that were that were concerned with. And then direct action at those people, I think is the most effective way. And let's



25:12

remember that we can use our where dollars to fight. I mean, it seems like money is the biggest weapon to fight with. That's how the fundamentalists are frightening. The pharmaceutical companies are using their dollars, they're frightening Warner cable with their dollars, and we can frighten people with our dollars too, if we just, you know, hold them in our tightwad fist, and don't don't let that money out to people who aren't going to work on our agenda.



25:36

Go ahead. My question is, how do you get all these people, you know, we're organized or here we're doing all this stuff? How did you get just the person off the street, to join up and join in all of these actions? You know, I mean, we find out and



25:52

we have to make it relevant to them. A lot of people are not interested in gait issues. But a lot of other people have teenage daughters who may get pregnant. And so you have to work with them on that level, and things that are going to affect their life. And studies show now that we

have made absolutely no strides in lessening the amount of teenage pregnancies, absolutely, none. And so the programs that have been in place, the programs that have been enacted, and have been followed through with are not working, we have to do something else. These are an entire group of women, who by the time they're 20, may have up to three children who have no high school education, much less a college education, who have no hope, of advancing themselves financially, in regards to health care, insurance, anything like that, that is going to provide their children with a positive life or lifestyle. And so you hit people who have children who are 15, who already have children, and you talk to them, and you get them involved, because it's relevant to them, and then maybe something will change.



27:17

It's disturbing to, you know, go into the bars on Saturday night and see 500 times more people, you know, enjoying themselves on a barstool, then you would ever get out to any kind of a demo or, or an informational meeting or anything like that. And activist, the activists in the community have to have to somehow figure out how to communicate with, with our community at large,



27:43

without direct action at the bar. So I mean, if they're not going to come to us, why don't we bring it to them? And then we piss them off.



27:49

I mean, please make sure it's against Queer Nation. I mean, we end up pissing all these people off, there's got to be a way to motivate these people. I mean, I think that I completely agree that you have to make it personal for these people. But how do you do it unless it directly affects them? How do you make it affect them? You know, how do you feel okay, you reach them,



28:18

especially when they're when they're in a constant state of denial,



28:21

right? I think that the right wing has had the advantage of being able to network into the conservative church with the fear of God, right? They have, they have a structure that they can go in and get their message out. And I think that we have to learn that lesson. We don't wait through progressive churches, we can work through the Unitarian Church, but they're also progressive organizations. And I think there really has to be leadership in bringing together the progressive organizations in the city. And using their membership and their issues, to attempt to, in some way organize. I think the problem is we're not organized and we're not going to reach the woman that you mentioned, until we have the structure to reach them.

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Scott Lewis 29:06

What is that going to take though? You see Donald Wildman who is so incredibly effective. He, Toyota does a gay positive ad in Australia. And their phone's ringing off the hook in this country. Because of something that happened on the other side of the world. Levi Strauss pulls funding from the Boy Scouts of America and Donald Waldman puts it in his newsletter with the phone numbers, and Levi Strauss his comments line is going berserk and they're, you know, they're getting hundreds of phone calls a day. Is there some way to organize maybe even through that type of a newsletter with these, get these progressive organizations, membership lists and do this is that what it's going to take?

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Michael Crawford 29:48

Well, I think one thing that the conservative groups have over us is that they have the Bible. They have this one book that according to you know people who enter represent that this is the word of God, this is what it means. And everyone goes by that book, although there are varying varying interpretations of that book, we don't necessarily have that the groups on the progressive side all tend to stay focused on our, our little issues. For example, a lot of the a lot of the some of the people at Planned Parenthood during the clinic defects, were not thrilled with the idea of having Queer Nation and act up there as Queer Nation and act up in front of the clinic defending the clinics, because they were afraid that that would give the opinion that all the pro choices were a bunch of, you know, meltable, dikes and facts who were just, you know, just totally anti family and everything. I think it has to be necessary. I mean, just looking, looking around the table and seeing people from active from Queer Nation from WAK, etc, that we have issues in common that, as a gay man, I can see how the right wing's attack against women affected me. And that it's all about how we use our bodies, who has control of our bodies, how do we take it further? How do we take it further than that? And, you know, spread that out over a broader section? Or even is that necessary? Is it necessary to bring for example, definitely, you were talking about some of the people who were at some of the gay people who were anti Queer Nation, is it necessary to have every single gay and lesbian person involved in groups like Queer Nation, I would hope



31:38

that they put all the time and energy into doing a lesson when they could have been doing, you know, they don't have to agree with Queer Nation. That's not what bothered me what bothered me was that was they took all the time, ultimately, and all of the energy to do that. And I think that we end up falling right into what the right wing wants to do. I mean, we become divided, it becomes the age issue, it becomes the women's issues, it becomes, you know, the the queer issues instead of its human issues. I mean, we all need to be working together instead of being split up, which I think is exactly what the right wing wants to happen is for all of us to split up, instead of United we stand. I mean, if we don't stand up together, and, you know, do some coalition efforts, and none of us are going to be able to do anything, I mean, because it's all basically the same thing. I mean, in different factions, or whatever. I mean, it's all the same thing. You know,



32:35

we will only ever have a more open opportunity to do that we have AIDS, and we have the women's issues, which are at the forefront, obviously, two issues come together, we have the Hispanic community that has just seen that congressional seat go to another Anglo male, we've had the black community that has just seen their top two local black judges voted out of office, do a large measure to the, to the right way. If we don't take the initiative, and I say we I mean, maybe just us around this table, to start right now bringing together two people who are, this set is satisfied with the outcomes of the right way, we have lost the opportunity. And I think we can speak of the right wing as being successful, but their success successes, has, I think, shown various communities, that we are all in this boat together. Maybe we're not in the boat together, but you don't worry about Rocking the Boat unless you're in the boat, and we're trying to get back into the boat. A lot of



33:45

the people around this table have done two or three or four different things. You know, you're members of act of coordination aids equity League, Women's Action Coalition, we did Houston defending choice. I mean, more than one



33:58

organization. So



34:00

well, and also, I think a lot of the what the right wing has done is they have contributed to the downfall of a lot of the programs we set into motion. For instance, if you want to talk about teenage pregnancy and things like that, they have kept a lot of that information out of schools. They have kept a lot of programs out of school that would have allowed girls that became pregnant, to stay in high school, because we all know that the boys who are the fathers of these children have absolutely no problem finishing high school. They're not restricted from any kind of class because they're pregnant, or because they already have a child. And they need daycare facilities while they are still finishing high school. And so we have to fight against those things. And that's where I say we have to try and make sure that this information is getting from the people who know what they're talking about to the people who are directly affected. And that's a big step because the people in between mean Are parents and parents have a right to be involved in their children's lives, and they have a right to be involved in decisions that their children are making. But I'm not sure that they have a right to keep their children from knowing things that are going to directly involve the rest of your life.



Michael Crawford 35:20

We've talked about the necessity of building coalitions. Let's try to put that in practical terms. Let's say that as as the gay community, we know that we are not protected by by the the non discrimination policies that protect, for example, me as a black man, or you as a woman. How

do we get together the necessary coalition to go for a gay rights ordinance to convince the you know, the black community, the Hispanic community, the women's communities, that or having a gay rights ordinance will be a benefit for them? Question,



36:01

I think, again, you start with, you need a structure you need you need the progressive communities to be in some type of structured discussion. I think now is the time for some type of progressive city community to come together just to at least initiate what our common concerns are. I don't know whether the first item on the agenda would be a gay rights ordinance, because I think that does take a little bit of education. But I think represent a fair representation on the judiciary is something that people can understand adequate health care.



36:47

Also, there might be a way to get a gay advocate in city council or somehow in, in in the mayor's office, maybe not under bobland air, but there's new elections coming up, you know, sometime soon. Remember Nikki van Hightower women's advocate, and she was to work in City Hall. And I don't know where the women's advocate is. Now, I don't think there is one.



37:08

Woman's now your decision away with a position.



37:12

Irony,



37:14

I think we should also recognize that if we want, say, the African American community or the Latino Latino communities, to help us in say, just for instance, passing a gay and lesbian rights ordinance here in Houston, we in the gay and lesbian community have to be willing to reciprocate the favor, we are going to have to begin on a political level, you know, city council, the county or whatever, began addressing issues of racism, women's issues, other issues that that generally speaking, the gay and lesbian political leadership in this country don't like to address they don't think it's a gay and lesbian issue. Well, I think that's, that's objectively false. But we do have to begin to address their issues and make them recognize that, you know, we'll do them a favor, if they do us a favor, we have to engage in that political process there.



Scott Lewis 38:10

What we're coming down to where we need to kind of wrap this up, and how I want to do that, is I want each of us to take a minute and talk about what we think is realistic for us to hope for

in the next four years, what we want to see and what we think that we will see, four years from now be nationally and locally.



38:37

Now, nationally, we're gonna see the era be introduced. Again, it might not, it might not pass within the four years, but if the Democrats can get another term, it will finally pass.



38:50

Next I think the national level, I think the attitude will have changed, that. The issues which I think all of us around this table, find to be just just will no longer be issues that the average person thinks is too expensive, or is too preposterous, I think that we're going to see an attitude on the part of the average person realizing that trickle down, whether it's economics, or whether it's even right or whether it's health care, doesn't benefit anybody I never had locally, on not social, we're gonna see a change in attitude. I think it's either really difficult moving this city and his county into the 20th century.



Scott Lewis 39:46

Where do you see AIDS funding next year and the year after and the year after that? Because we've seen the first time in 11 years Houston has spent a dime on this disease, and they've only put \$100,000 in the budget.



40:02

I don't think we're gonna see much more local funding for AIDS. We're dealing with a city and county that has never spent, never spent on health care. And certainly if they decide they're going to, I don't think AIDS is going to be the first item on the agenda. So I think that anything we get, as far as AIDS funding on the county or the city, we're going to have to pour our way into the budget. I would say that probably is true for for other issues that work with I don't see too much support for, for teenage pregnancy education, for pregnancy care, and the things that things like that. I think that's a much more difficult issue. But that's all the more reason why we begin today.



41:01

I like the attitude that you bring forth and talk about. And I'm hoping that the attitude of the men and women who have given up hope to walk the streets with their head down instead of their head up, I'm hoping, under the bill. timeframe that we're going to see a priority pay placed on people as opposed to profits, I feel like I'm still in the 60s talking. first opportunity to come back where you people are important, where we are going to see healthcare availability, I believe we will see that in four years where it will be more affordable to more people. Where we will be able to drink the water that comes out of a tap perhaps someday that we will place the environment there because this is Mother Earth. And if we don't treat her with the utmost of

respect, then this whole discussion will be moved, and so will the people living on this planet. So I am hopeful as we go into 92 with Bill. I like his attitude. I want to maintain that attitude and work toward common good for common people like all of us.



42:19

I agree in a lot of respects with what I just said, we need to make sure that when people are walking that their heads are forward, and that that's the direction that we're moving in, we don't want to put our nose in the air, because then we miss the pitfalls. And they become just that. And we don't want to look down because all of us are worthy. And we each have our place. No one should be able to take that away from us.



42:53

I think we'll definitely see. one if not two Supreme Court justices being appointed during this time span of four years. And and that's a big positive step right there, especially if it's the right ones, is that



Scott Lewis 43:10

enough is the error to enough to keep your rights.



43:13

If it's the right ones it might be but I don't want to see us lose sight of what's happening right here on the local level, especially in light of this right in campaign that the far right, succeeded and pulling off. It's fairly obvious that they do have great power, they can use it, they can call on it. And we shouldn't lose sight of that end, we need to concentrate on not only being extremely jubilant about you know, going or getting into into office and the possibilities on the national level. But we need to focus in on what's happening here at home and not lose sight of that because we could very easily lose our rights on a local level. If if the if the justices are packed with the far right.



44:10

On a national level, I think that Bill Clinton certainly got something less than a full mandate in the election only got something like 43% of the vote. And he is the most right wing Democratic candidate we've had probably since 19, probably since Jimmy Carter, more right wing to Jimmy Carter. And I don't think he's going to move very rapidly. I don't think he's going to move very radically. And I think that he is because of his lack of a mandate. He is going to come under increasing attack from the conservative elements of the Republican Party in the right wing, who being out of power are going to be able to regroup and rebuild the forces as they did in the late 1960s and 1970s After the defeat of Barry Goldwater and they're going to come back and put pressure on on him and on a national level and slow down reforms nationally on a local level. Again, as I've said, we've we have to be very careful the right way. They are increasing their

their grassroots base is becoming stronger, and they seem to have found a winning issue. After having attempted to organize around the repeal of abortion rights. And having that failed, they found that the issue of gay and lesbian rights is their winning issue who gets the money, and it gets them votes. They won in Colorado, and the repeal of gay and lesbian rights ordinances there. They got 43% of the vote in Oregon. 43% of people in Oregon wanted to take away the rights of gays and lesbians. And I think we're gonna have to be very careful next couple of years. And I guess overall, my picture is not as positive as some of the other people. Number I'm rather skeptical. less hopeful, was helpful.