

# 1. Rochester Town Talk/Walk – 10 min speech

## **Doris Granny D Haddock**

Thank you. Let's talk about the difference between real security from terrorism, and fake security.

Real security is what we want for our cities, our friends, our children. We need short term solutions, because there are actually people out there right now who would love to kill us, and we need long term solutions so that the conditions that give rise to that hatred are reduced.

There are two great sources of anger, and we can deal with both of them.

The first is our drive for oil in the Mideast. If we can break our dependence on foreign oil, we don't need the military bases in

Saudi Arabia or other Mideastern nations, where we so clearly are not welcome by many of the people. This drive for oil has prompted us to prop up dictators, from the Shah of Iran to Saddam Hussein, and to thereby be a partner in repression—a repression that inevitably causes revolution and hatred.

Our U.S. Senators and Congressmen, if they are statesmen, owe us some leadership in this area: in bringing America to a new age of energy independence and the resulting unselfish, moral sway in the world.

The second great source of anger is, of course, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We came very close to brokering a peace in that region a few presidents ago. A return to Camp David, either actually or figuratively, is necessary. In order to be a broker of peace, our approach must be evenhanded - fair to both parties, and perceived as such

by both parties. President Bush has gone as far from that evenhandedness as is possible. It is right for him to oppose terrorism and most especially the kind of terrorism that rips through buses and cafes of teenagers and other civilians. But it is also right to try to end this historic conflict, and that requires doing not only the right thing, but the successful thing.

Can we find an evenhanded position? I think we can. It comes from understanding that, after the history of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the civilized world does owe the Jewish people a safe place in the world. We must provide that safe place in a way that does not create new injustices in the world. That is a difficult task, but talking and good faith nearly worked before, and must be tried again by a more visionary U.S. president and Congress.

A new U.S. President will have a honeymoon opportunity to approach the

parties anew, just as he will have the opportunity to make a fresh start with our European allies so that we may end the Iraqi conflict with their assistance. But Mr. Bush, supported in his every mistake by Senator Gregg, is not on the real path to security.

I have a picture in my head of a fellow preparing to swing a baseball bat into a hornet's nest, and he is saying, "I'll get these out of here for you." That's not how you do it George, and please don't encourage him, Judd. In fact, they had the entirely wrong hive in their sites.

Now, while they have refused to provide the real security that comes from energy independence and the honest-brokering of peace, Mr. Bush and Mr. Gregg have, quite amazingly, not protected us from the hornets they have stirred up by letting bad situations deteriorate and by attacking the wrong country.

Mr. Gregg has regularly voted against increasing funding for first responders, for port and aviation security, where 90% or more of cargo containers coming into our ports and cities from all over the world, are not inspected. He has voted against increased protection of our chemical plants.

In 2003, he voted against increasing funding for bio-terrorism training for first responders. This continued a trend, for, in 2001, he voted against the \$35 billion anti-terrorism package in response to the terrorist attacks of September 11.

He voted against increasing funding to improve explosive detection devices and port security technologies, and he voted against increased funding for emergency management grants for state and local governments.

Mr. Gregg voted to provide \$15 billion in relief for airlines after the terrorist attacks, but he voted against extending unemployment benefits to aviation workers put on the street by the attacks.

He voted against development of protections against shoulder-mounted missiles that might be used against our commercial aircraft.

Mr. Gregg, in 1998, inserted a line into an appropriations bill to repeal a new provision that our Immigration Service establish very strict entry and exit controls at all U.S. borders. That was long before 9-11, but it is worth asking him about.

In fact, in 2000, he killed a program to track foreign students and those who enter the United States claiming to be students. This computerized system was therefore not in place on September 11, 2001.

He is not to be blamed for not predicting 9-11, but neither is he in a position to be running on the issue of security.

He was one of eight senators who voted against creating an independent commission to conduct a broad investigation into intelligence failures and other government missteps before the September 11, 2001, attacks, and recommend how to prevent future terrorist attacks. Maybe he didn't want people to look at his actions regarding the safety of our borders, or maybe he was protecting the vast incompetency of his childhood friend, Mr. Bush. Either way, it was a disservice to the future safety of our children.

Friends, you know that we have been led down the garden path by this President and this Congress on the issues surrounding energy, foreign policy, military policy and real homeland protection. They spin the fear one way, and the dollars toward their

friends. They say that real security is too expensive, and then they create historic deficits by sending all our money to billionaires who do not need it. That pattern, though it is happily interrupted from time to time by rare moments of light, is what brings us to our campaign today, which is our standing up to fear, and to lies, and to failures of leadership in the most important areas of our times.

Can we build a world where peace and widespread prosperity and true justice are the normal conditions in every far corner of every nation? We can move the world in that good direction, and it is not done with wars and lies.

The immaturity of the Bush Administration is our problem. Or is it a kind of sociopathy? How shall the grownups come back into the room and reassert the rules of mature conduct? How can we bring love back as our guiding value? We do it one election at



a time. We give the people the great choice, where they thought they had no meaningful choice. I have tried to be the meaningful choice, and I appreciate the fact that you have chosen to walk with me.

Thank you.