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CGC ND 2021 FULL EVENT

INTERVIEW WITH GOVERNOR JOHN KASICH AND SECRETARY

JULIAN CASTRO

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BRUCE BOND:

00:00:00;24 So my first question is, how would you describe the value of a Common Ground Committee event, and events like this?

SECRETARY JULIAN CASTRO:

00:00:10;24 Well, I-- I think it reminds-- the audience, and particularly students, a lot of whom are thinking about going into public service, perhaps, or-- into policy making, that there are--

00:00:30;08 (OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

BRUCE BOND:

00:00:54;24 Again, thank you guys for a wonderful event. I'd like to ask you, how would you describe the value of a Common Ground Committee event and events like this?

SECRETARY JULIAN CASTRO:

00:01:03;24

I think it's-- it's fantastic, because it reminds-- especially students who may be thinking about going into public service, or for some form of policy making, that there is common ground to be found. That in a very politically polarized time-- we actually can come together and agree on some ideas and work toward achieving these things. Hopefully that's what we offered tonight.

GOVERNOR JOHN KASICH:

00:01:26;22

Well, I think at the same time, not only-- would I hope that they like the fact that we have areas of agreement, but that we can have a civil-- disagreement, you know? I mean, you can be-- you can disagree without having to be disagreeable.

00:01:43;07

And what they-- these young people see is everybody name-calling and all this other ridiculous stuff that you see with politicians today. And-- I think what they saw are, you know, I hope what they saw are two guys that are, you

know, trying to strive for what we think is best for our country. And-- we can agree on some things. We can disagree on others. That's fine, it's just that you don't dislike somebody just because they have a different point of view.

BRUCE BOND:

00:02:08;18

Indeed. And-- just following up on that, what-- what do you think is the-- is most important about aiming this kind of conversation at students? (LAUGH)

GOVERNOR JOHN KASICH:

00:02:18;15

Well, they're the fue-- they're the leaders. They're the future. They're the ones that can create the new environment. And we study in history where is it that we made great progress in terms of-- of unity? And what we find is that the progress that was made was fundamentally led by young people.

00:02:36;05

Younger people were the ones that could-- that could really bring us to-- a better place. You know, and the generation today is so great

because they're not really driven that much by money. They're driven by experience and values, and-- and I think it's fantastic. My hope is in this younger generation.

SECRETARY JULIAN CASTRO:

00:02:54;15

Yeah, and I would just echo that, that, like, if we're gonna-- if we're gonna get out of the logjam that we've been in, and-- this polarization, a lot of that is gonna be from this next generation of folks. And so-- having the opportunity to speak directly to them is important.

BRUCE BOND:

00:03:14;19

And-- my f-- my last question for you-- for the two of you, you obviously engaged in-- in a wonderful dialogue. For you, what was the most important thing that came out of the event tonight?

GOVERNOR JOHN KASICH:

00:03:26;09

Well, like, for me-- it's-- it's a pleasure to be able to-- to be able to work with-- with Julian and to get to know him. You know, I've never met

him before. And I consider this to be really good. I mean, it's like, breaks the ice. And I-- I wanna know him more.

00:03:43;18

And, you know, and that's great. I mean, it's-- and-- and to hear his ideas. A very articulate and intelligent man. And-- so hopefully somewhere down the line, we're gonna see each other and say, "Hey, do you remember that time we did that with-- with Bruce?" I mean, it-- and I think that's a good thing. So he gets to know me a little bit and tells his pals, and I can tell people that I'm with that hey, he's a good guy. I think it's-- it's contagious.

SECRETARY JULIAN CASTRO:

00:04:09;24

Yeah, well certainly the feeling is mutual there. And-- and I-- I also-- was really pleased with the questions that the students themselves asked, because it's always great to see students engaged. The knock on young people today is that they're not engaged enough. But really, as part of this, we see there's so many of them that

truly are. And-- that gives me hope about the years to come in our country.

BRUCE BOND:

00:04:37;24

Awesome. Well, that-- those are great answers. Thank you very much. Again-- on behalf of all of us at Common Ground Committee, thank you for being willing to participate in this, and to share your wisdom. I have no doubt that we're gonna get the great reviews from people about this.

00:04:53;07

It was really strong. And-- I think you're-- you're contributions were phenomenal and you really, to your point, governor, you know, you really showed what good looks like when it comes to engaging in civil disagr-- civil discussion, even when you disagree with someone. And--

GOVERNOR JOHN KASICH:

00:05:10;01

Well, thank you Bruce, for-- for-- for masterminding all this, and for putting this together. We can't have enough of it. And I-- I think there will be a synergy that's gonna come

together with groups like you that can-- we gotta-- gotta help work-- work this-- work it for our country, right? That's what it's all about. So thank you, and all other people who support you and contribute and allow this to happen-- god bless you.

BRUCE BOND:

00:05:33;24

Thank you very much. Well, Governor-- you guys have served as models (NOISE) tonight, and you can bet it's gonna be up there on our social media, and we're gonna be valuing your-- contributions. So thank you so much. Really appreciate it.

SECRETARY JULIAN CASTRO:

00:05:46;23

Thank you.

00:05:48;05

(OFF-MIC CONVERSATION)

* * *END OF TRANSCRIPT* * *