



Kerry keeps heat on in Granite State

By Sam Youngman 10/21/03

DURHAM, NH - Sen. John Kerry continued his campaign barrage in New Hampshire Monday, speaking before a children's advocacy group and sharing his environmental plan with students and supporters at the University of New Hampshire.

Kerry first took questions from the Every Child Matters Educational Fund dealing with children's issues ranging from abuse, to healthcare to drug use before standing in a crisp autumn day to share his environmental plan with UNH students.

Kerry included most of his standard stump replies in his responses to early questions and in his pledges to protect the environment.

Among the Senator's pledges and answers were his consistent and increasingly biting attacks on President Bush.

"George W. Bush is taking our country in a radically wrong direction," Kerry told the 200 students on the UNH campus. "George Bush is the kind of politician who would cut down a tree and then stand up on the stump that remains to give a speech about conservation."

State GOP spokeswoman, Julie Teer, responded to Kerry's attacks in a release pointing out the Senator's reluctance to take a stand on the controversy surrounding a proposed wind farm off Nantucket.

"John Kerry claims the environment has no better friend than himself, but on an issue of critical importance to the environmental groups

in his own home state, he refuses to take a position," Teer said. "John Kerry has been talking out both sides of his mouth on the Cape Wind issue and throws all truth out the window when attacking the President's policies. The President's Healthy Forest initiative enjoys significant bipartisan support including Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle and a bi-partisan group of western Governors. Of course Senator Kerry has left those facts out of his speech this afternoon."

Kerry, however, was unflinching in his criticism of Bush, saying that he would revisit and improve upon the abandoned Kyoto Treaty and calling the President's new cooperative plan with the United Nations "a back door way of trying to achieve what they could've achieved at the UN" in the first place.

As the race for the New Hampshire primary has heated up, Kerry appears to be riding a wave of momentum manifesting itself in bigger smiles and a higher comfort level, though it has yet to manifest itself in polls.

The Senator has remained steady in his criticisms of Bush, and at a press conference Monday again invoked Rep. Dick Gephardt's criticism of Kerry rival Gov. Howard Dean, saying that Dean had sided with Newt Gingrich in the battle over Medicare in 1995.

Kerry is scheduled to continue campaigning in New Hampshire Tuesday with a jobs talk in Salem in the morning and a downtown walk through Manchester with Mayor Bob Baines.