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(marker scratching) (keyboard keys clicking)

- I wasn't surprised when he said it. It had been a cause celebre on the left for a long time. Obama is a man of the left. And so it was certainly no surprise that he would be playing to that constituency by stating that objective. I was very impressed, and at least mildly surprised, when his review of the situation early in his first year concluded that, in fact, he really couldn't successfully close Guantanamo without bringing some of these terrorists onto U.S. soil. To me, that was a sign that he was taking the weighty national security concerns here seriously, because I knew from my work that there were people among those detainees, maybe not everyone, but plenty of people who were hardcore terrorists, very dangerous, that you could not release, and that you could not try, certainly in a U.S. civilian court for a variety of technical legal reasons having to do with the type of evidence that's available in a normal court versus in a military commission. And so when his review agreed with that sentiment and said, well, what we're gonna have to do if we close Guantanamo is bring a bunch of these guys into the U.S. and hold them here indefinitely without trial, I was encouraged because I took it as a sign that he and his team were not just playing politics with these really life and death issues, but were in fact serious about trying to protect the country, even where it risked some political damage to him and forced him to, in effect, agree with something President Bush had been doing.