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CSEA INTERVIEW

of

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI

Thursday, November 12, 2009

New York City, New York

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1 THE INTERVIEWER: Okay. For the
2 record, we're sitting here in New York City on
3 Thursday, the 12th of November in 2009 and we're
4 very grateful to Governor George Pataki for taking
5 some time to talk with us for the CSEA 100 Project.

6 So, Governor, thank you very much.

7 GOVERNOR PATAKI: well, thank you.
8 I'm looking forward to the opportunity.

9 THE INTERVIEWER: Great. You know,

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI
10 my typical first question, and you've already kind
11 of jumped into it in our conversation, is to ask
12 people about when they first became aware of an
13 organization called CSEA, so I wonder if you
14 would --

15 GOVERNOR PATAKI: You know --

16 THE INTERVIEWER: -- tell us that.

17 GOVERNOR PATAKI: -- I remember very
18 well when I first became aware of the CSEA and it
19 was when I first started as a staffer with Senator
20 Bernie Gordon from my home town of Peekskill, and I
21 was very close to him. We had grown up in a small
22 town together. He was chairman of the Judiciary
23 Committee and I was one of his counsel, and he was
24 running for re-election and he was going down to

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1 meet the CSEA to ask for their endorsement for
2 re-election and he said, "Pataki, why don't you
3 come along. You know, you might wanna do something
4 politically some day and it wouldn't hurt."

5 And I had known State workers and
6 had tremendous respect for State workers since I
7 was a little kid, and I grew up in a very rural
8 background on a farm, and that farm was alongside a
9 State highway that the State had actually taken
10 from my grandparents for -- by eminent domain and
11 we used to have our cows go out on the side of the
12 highway and I know this sounds strange, but -- and
13 the State worker, and I'll never forget. I was
14 like seven or eight years old. His name was
15 Charlie -- and he said, "why don't you let the cows
16 stay off for a while and when I come by to do my
17 job I'll use this sickle thing and I'll cut it and
18 you can have the hay.

19 And so for the next couple of years,
20 you know, we'd always -- my grandfather and
21 father'd have me out there with a rake after
22 Charlie from the State had cut the grass, getting

23 the hay for the cows, and I just remember. I had
24 so much respect for him because he worked very

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1 hard, he was doing my family a favor that was not
2 at all in any way inconsistent with his job with
3 the State, and the only thing he ever wanted was a
4 glass of water on a hot day, and since I was a
5 little kid that memory has stayed with me.

6 And then when I went down for the
7 endorsement meeting with Senator Gordon, you know,
8 I didn't know what to expect. I had not been
9 involved in politics, certainly not at that level,
10 and I just saw the people and they were my
11 neighbors, they were the parents of my friends,
12 they were just really good people who did their job
13 with a great deal of pride, and I immediately felt
14 a strong connection to those workers, having come
15 from a working-class background.

16 THE INTERVIEWER: Sure. Now when
17 you were in the Legislature, what was your
18 relationship like? You kinda continued this whole
19 set of town meetings and that kind of thing with
20 CSEA folks?

21 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Oh, yeah. I
22 continued to work with -- not so much State people,
23 but my local people. I was a very active local, in
24 my district, and I would work with the local

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1 officials and I'd work with the different union
2 groups, and I always had a good relationship with
3 them and always tried to be respectful and see
4 where we could find common ground. Sometimes I
5 could support the issues, sometimes I couldn't, but
6 that's the nature of the democratic system.

7 THE INTERVIEWER: Sure. When you

8 first ran for Governor in 1994 --
9 GOVERNOR PATAKI: M-m h-m-m.
10 THE INTERVIEWER: -- what do you
11 remember about CSEA's role in that campaign?
12 GOVERNOR PATAKI: You know, I'm a
13 Republican, so everybody had told me, oh, you gotta
14 be very suspicious of --
15 THE INTERVIEWER: M-m h-m-m.
16 GOVERNOR PATAKI: -- the State
17 unions and everything, but I also had my own family
18 background. I was a life member of the
19 International Brotherhood of Firemen & Oilers and
20 my grandfather was a strong union man, so when I
21 went in I honestly didn't know what to expect, but
22 what I found was a very fair and open-minded group
23 of people who wanted to hear me out and wanted to
24 give me a chance, and wanted to hear the criticism

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1 I had of the prior administration and what I
2 thought.
3 And at the end the CSEA decided to
4 stay neutral which, for me, was a tremendous
5 victory, and I just was very pleased with the
6 reception; that people were open-minded, they were
7 fair, they listened and they gave me a chance, and
8 that's something that will always stay with me.
9 THE INTERVIEWER: There was a very
10 interesting situation when you first became
11 Governor because you had run on a platform of
12 downsizing the State work force and --
13 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Uh-huh, uh-huh.
14 THE INTERVIEWER: -- trying to cut
15 government, and so there was sort of a contentious
16 relationship publicly with CSEA, in particular over
17 some public policy decisions, yet there was also a
18 contract that was coming up for renewal and on a
19 very pragmatic level you were working with the
20 union trying to come to some conclusion.

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI

21 Could you talk a little bit about
22 the --

23 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yeah. You know, I
24 think there's always inherent tension between the

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1 executive who has an obligation to all of the
2 people of the State and the leaders who represent
3 the workers of the State because their obligation
4 is to try to get the best possible contract for
5 their workers and, of course, there's tension and,
6 of course, there's gonna be battles.

7 But so long as you keep talking, so
8 long as you respect and listen to each other, I'm a
9 great believer that you can always find common
10 ground and, in fact, the State was broke. In fact
11 we needed dramatically to lower the tax burden or
12 we weren't going to have any private sector jobs,
13 and without private sector jobs you didn't have the
14 revenue to pay the public employees, and I made
15 that case as strongly as I could. We had our
16 battles, but at the end were able to find common
17 ground and achieve a decent contract.

18 And over the time I was Governor we
19 reduced the State work force significantly, but we
20 had almost no layoffs, because we -- I would just
21 explain, you know: Look, we cannot sustain this
22 level of work force. We're gonna have to reduce
23 it. How can we do it? And we'd work together,
24 things like early retirement incentives or a hard

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1 hiring freeze where we didn't replace people as
2 opposed to mass layoffs, and throughout my entire
3 time it wasn't easy but we were able to reduce the
4 size of the State work force in a way that resulted
5 in virtually no layoffs, and that's a tribute to

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI
6 the flexibility that the union leadership showed
7 and my team's willingness to listen and to work
8 together.

9 THE INTERVIEWER: Even apart from
10 the role of the union in that relationship, I
11 wonder if you would just talk a little bit about
12 the challenge for a Governor where you're trying to
13 lead the State --

14 GOVERNOR PATAKI: M-m h-m-m.

15 THE INTERVIEWER: -- you have public
16 policy objectives --

17 GOVERNOR PATAKI: M-m h-m-m.

18 THE INTERVIEWER: -- but to that
19 state work force you're the boss.

20 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Right.

21 THE INTERVIEWER: So it's a very
22 different --

23 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Right.

24 THE INTERVIEWER: -- relationship.

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1 GOVERNOR PATAKI: That's right, and
2 you are the Executive, you're the one who proposes
3 the budget and negotiates the contracts that they
4 have to live under, and it inherently does create
5 tension. It's the same as -- maybe not exactly the
6 same, but it's analogous to when the Governor has
7 to deal with local governments. You know, you want
8 to accomplish the same thing. They want more from
9 the State and the State oftentimes is not in a
10 position where you can give them more, so it can be
11 very challenging and it was lots of times, but so
12 long as you stay open-minded and talk, I always
13 believe you can find common ground and most of the
14 time we were able to do that.

15 THE INTERVIEWER: It seemed during
16 your first term that there was an evolving
17 relationship with CSEA to the point where in your
18 second term CSEA actually endorsed you --

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI

19 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Right.

20 THE INTERVIEWER: -- for
21 re-election. I wonder if you would talk about how
22 that change occurred and what your memories of
23 it --

24 GOVERNOR PATAKI: You know, when I

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1 first got elected people understandably didn't know
2 me, and I ran as a strong fiscal conservative as I
3 believed that we had to lower the tax burden and
4 reduce the size of the government, so there was a
5 great deal of skepticism among the public employees
6 and the public work force, and those first couple
7 of years were very difficult.

8 You know, everyone knows I'm very
9 committed to the environment and to open space. I
10 cut those programs. I wanted to do more to help
11 education. I cut education programs. But what I
12 said the whole way through is we have got to get a
13 strong private economy so we can generate the
14 revenues so we can do these programs, and as the
15 revenues do come back, as the private sector jobs
16 do come back, we will look to work with you to see
17 how we can work cooperatively and build from where
18 we are.

19 And, you know, as I said, there was
20 a lot of skepticism at first and I understand that
21 skepticism, but the whole way through I tried to
22 keep my word, and when the opportunity existed to
23 do something positive and cooperative with the
24 public employees, more often than not we were able

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1 to do that, so we went through our difficult
2 periods but it was always with the understanding
3 that I believed it was necessary to go through

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI
4 those difficult periods so we could work together
5 going forward.

6 THE INTERVIEWER: Sure. Now in 1999
7 there was sort of an unprecedented thing that
8 happened and that was that CSEA State employees
9 rejected a tentative agreement --

10 GOVERNOR PATAKI: M-m h-m-m,
11 m-m h-m-m.

12 THE INTERVIEWER: -- with the State
13 and it set off about a year-long very contentious,
14 public fight with your administration. I wonder if
15 you would talk about what you remember from that
16 time.

17 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Oh, that was a
18 tremendous battle. You know, it was very
19 disappointing when the workers voted down the
20 contract we had negotiated, and that just put us
21 all in a tough position. You know, I didn't want
22 to be in a position where the State would reach a
23 final deal and then have to go beyond that final
24 deal, particularly as it appeared to me that the

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1 economy was going to be slowing down.

2 And, of course, the union leadership
3 understood that the workers had rejected the deal
4 and had to get something better, so it made it
5 extraordinarily difficult and we had a very tough
6 year and we both stuck to our guns and held true to
7 our principles and it was -- it was very
8 challenging for all of us, but I think one of the
9 reasons for all the difficulties we were able to
10 get through it is I always respected the State
11 workers and their leadership and whenever there
12 would be -- the press would ask me, well, you know,
13 you had this battle going on, I would always start
14 right out by saying our State workers are the best
15 in the country. I have enormous respect for them
16 and I hope we can reach an agreement, but it has to

17 be within the fiscal realities that the State can
18 afford.

19 And I think the whole way through
20 the union leadership and the workers understood
21 that it wasn't that I was trying to do something
22 against their interests. I was just looking at the
23 bigger picture, so as hard as the State workers and
24 the union leaders fought, I think they respected

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1 the fact that this was nothing other than a
2 difference -- a legitimate and honest difference as
3 to what was necessary to move the State forward.

4 THE INTERVIEWER: well, I want to
5 talk a little bit about the public confrontation
6 over that, but I know that when we had Linda Angelo
7 in to do the interview, who was your --

8 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yes, my labor --

9 THE INTERVIEWER: -- the Governor's
10 office of Employee Relations --

11 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Right.

12 THE INTERVIEWER: At the time, she
13 said that there was always very good back channel
14 communications --

15 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Absolutely.

16 THE INTERVIEWER: -- going on
17 between the Administration and CSEA throughout that
18 whole time.

19 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Absolutely. we
20 always talked and we always, I think, respected the
21 concerns that the other side had and, you know, you
22 can have difficult times and real challenges, and
23 we sure did for over a year there, but it doesn't
24 mean that you should treat the other side as being

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1 horribly wrong or doing something wrong. Both

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI
2 parties had to act in what they saw as the
3 interest -- in my case, for the entire State and
4 the taxpayers, and the CSEA leaders view in the
5 interest of their workers and ultimately we got it
6 done.

7 THE INTERVIEWER: well, what CSEA
8 ended up doing in that fight was dogging you all
9 across the state.

10 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yes.

11 THE INTERVIEWER: We would show up
12 sometimes a little more vocally, sometimes just a
13 little more visibly.

14 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Oh, I had pickets
15 everywhere. I had pickets everywhere I went.

16 THE INTERVIEWER: We even -- I think
17 we even had an AFSCME contingent when you went out
18 to Montana --

19 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yes.

20 THE INTERVIEWER: -- show up.

21 GOVERNOR PATAKI: I remember when I
22 went out to Montana meeting with the workers out
23 there and going over to shake their hands and
24 thinking, these are the most polite picketers I've

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1 ever been with -- (laughter) -- in my life.

2 THE INTERVIEWER: That's it. And we
3 also had a mascot for that campaign called "Peanut
4 Man." I wonder if you --

5 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Right.

6 THE INTERVIEWER: I wonder if you
7 would remember --

8 GOVERNOR PATAKI: I did. I do.
9 And, you know, to be perfectly honest, it didn't
10 bother me. It really didn't bother me because the
11 CSEA and the union leadership were doing what they
12 thought they had to do, and it was never where, you
13 know, members were tryin' to disrupt a public
14 meeting or prevent me from speaking. They were

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI

15 very vocal, they were very present everywhere, but
16 that's fine. You know, that's part of the
17 give-and-take of democracy and that's part of the
18 natural difference of opinions that people with
19 different views are going to have.

20 And so long as you can respect each
21 others differences, there's nothing wrong with it
22 and, you know, I'd almost every chance where I
23 would land somewhere or drive somewhere and the
24 pickets would be there, I'd go over and shake hands

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1 and say hello, and the people were respectful.
2 They weren't supportive, but they were respectful,
3 and they understood that I respected them and
4 somehow for all the difference we would ultimately
5 get through it.

6 THE INTERVIEWER: Now, this all sort
7 of came to a head with your State of the State
8 address in 2000 where there were about 20,000 State
9 employees out surrounding the Capitol and you had
10 all kinds of troopers out there --

11 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Oh, I remember
12 that very well.

13 THE INTERVIEWER: -- the grounds,
14 and kind of a real media circus --

15 GOVERNOR PATAKI: It sure was.

16 THE INTERVIEWER: What do you
17 remember about that day.

18 GOVERNOR PATAKI: I remember --
19 obviously I remember that day and I do remember the
20 thousands, the tens of thousands of protesters and,
21 again, it didn't bother me. It's the nature of
22 democracy that, you know, you had the State workers
23 who hadn't had a contract, you had me speaking who
24 was holding firm against their contract demands,

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GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI

1 and that's part of democracy. And, you know, my
2 security guys were all worried, you know. My
3 goodness, we had all this going on. I was never
4 worried 'cause I knew that this -- these were
5 people expressing their viewpoint, expressing their
6 displeasure with my stance in the negotiation, but
7 they had their right and it truly didn't bother me
8 because, you know, I was the Governor.

9 But I've been in the minority. I've
10 been in a position where I disagree with people who
11 are in power and have a position different from
12 mine, and I never had qualms about standing up and
13 expressing my disagreement with those in power, so
14 I didn't have any problems with the CSEA and the
15 State workers standing up and expressing their
16 disagreement with my principles, and it was
17 actually pretty good training because a few years
18 later I think we had 37-, 38,000 protesters at the
19 Capitol one day from the SEIU, and I had been
20 through some similar things, so that was another
21 experience that I actually thought was a testament
22 to the strength of our democracy as opposed to any
23 real crisis.

24 THE INTERVIEWER: Well, this is sort

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1 of an aside, but I've always thought that part of
2 the reason there was such a police presence for
3 that demonstration was that the Amadeau Deal
4 (phonetic) trial was going to be taking place --

5 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yeah.

6 THE INTERVIEWER: -- in Albany the
7 following week, and that this was almost like a dry
8 run for the security forces.

9 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yeah, and I -- you
10 know, the one thing that did upset me was such
11 omnipresent security because I know the State
12 workers. I don't know 'em all, obviously, and I

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI

13 knew they were going to be vocal and expressive,
14 that they disagreed with me, but I also knew that
15 they weren't going to be violent and they weren't
16 going to try and be disruptive, and they weren't.
17 And that's -- it's a test of our freedom and our
18 democracy, and I think that both sides came through
19 that test very well, and as I expected.

20 THE INTERVIEWER: That
21 demonstration was --

22 GOVERNOR PATAKI: You know,
23 actually, I think back on this and I think it was
24 just tremendous. I really did. You know, that

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1 both sides had sufficient confidence in their
2 position to be vocal and outspoken and yet, as you
3 said earlier, the whole way through we were able to
4 talk, we were able to seek common ground. We
5 didn't find it for a long, long time and had
6 respect for each other's positions.

7 And, you know, sometimes people
8 shout at each other but they don't listen.
9 Sometimes people have differences of opinion and
10 they end up hating each other. You look at the
11 politics in Washington today and it's just so
12 divisive. For all the demonstrations and
13 differences it never got that way. You know, there
14 never was a time when we couldn't talk. There
15 never was a time when we couldn't understand the
16 other side's position, and I think it's a tribute
17 to our State workers, to the CSEA leadership and to
18 New York.

19 THE INTERVIEWER: Well, that
20 demonstration really was sort of a head to this
21 whole confrontation because shortly thereafter an
22 agreement was reached that was ratified by the
23 membership, and it also led to some very meaningful
24 reforms for State employees of the Pension System

1 and was tied at least in some way to establishing a
2 COLA for the --

3 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yeah.

4 THE INTERVIEWER: -- Pension System.

5 GOVERNOR PATAKI: You know, I always
6 believed in that, from the time I was a legislator,
7 and I can remember, not CSEA, but I remember my
8 junior high school teacher who I just loved coming
9 up when I was in the State Assembly and showing me
10 his retirement check, and it was less than \$100 a
11 week, and here's a guy who had spent 40 years
12 helping the young people of our state to get
13 educated, and at the time he retired he had a
14 respectable pension, but with inflation over the
15 years it had -- it meant that his pension was
16 essentially meaningless.

17 And my father worked in the post
18 office and retired from the post office and they
19 had that inflation adjustment, so I always thought
20 it was the right thing and a fair thing to do so
21 long as it was consistent with the finances in the
22 Pension System, and the Pension System was in fact
23 not just fully funded, but more than fully funded,
24 so that I thought it was the right thing to do for

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1 those who spend their lives working in a capacity
2 to help the people of our state, and it was also
3 fiscally appropriate to do given the finances of
4 the State.

5 THE INTERVIEWER: Well, again, to
6 give some credit where credit is due, this was
7 something that the public employee unions had been
8 working on for about --

9 GOVERNOR PATAKI: For a long time.

10 THE INTERVIEWER: It was achieved
Page 14

11 while --

12 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yes.

13 THE INTERVIEWER: -- you were

14 Governor, and I just wonder if you remember how
15 that came together because it's always difficult to
16 bring many disparate parties together in something
17 as complex --

18 GOVERNOR PATAKI: You know, I
19 don't --

20 THE INTERVIEWER: -- as the pension
21 plan.

22 GOVERNOR PATAKI: -- remember the
23 details as to how that happened, but I do know
24 something from my time in the Legislature. I

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1 thought it was the right thing to do so long as the
2 State could afford it. And, you know, back at that
3 point we had many years where the State workers got
4 zero increases in the contract and, you know, the
5 State workers had given up a lot to help us get
6 through very difficult financial times and the
7 State was doing well at that point.

8 And I thought it was both
9 financially prudent and the right thing and I know
10 I met with a number of the different leaders of the
11 public employee unions who -- with whom I always
12 had a respectful dialogue, and we were able in the
13 context of a good State budget and a good contract
14 with the public employes and other reforms that
15 were made to be able to do this and I'm proud of
16 that.

17 THE INTERVIEWER: Let me just shift
18 gears quickly because I don't want to monopolize
19 your time, but obviously one of the most
20 significant events in all of our lifetimes was
21 September 11, 2001.

22 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Right.

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI
23 THE INTERVIEWER: And in addition to
24 all of those who lost their lives, there were 44

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1 State employees --
2 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yes.
3 THE INTERVIEWER: -- working in
4 offices there and I wonder if you would talk a
5 little bit about that experience.
6 GOVERNOR PATAKI: You know,
7 September 11th, obviously, was a horrendous day
8 (phone ringing) for all of us and will always --
9 (Off the record discussion as phone
10 was answered.)

11 THE INTERVIEWER: We're just gonna
12 talk a little bit about September 11th.

13 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yeah. Obviously
14 none of us will ever forget that tragic day and the
15 police officers, the firefighters, the EMTs, were
16 just unbelievably courageous, but so were all New
17 Yorkers and so were all the people who were there.
18 And we lost people from the Banking Department, we
19 lost people from Tax & Finance and we had very
20 emotional memorial services over the course of the
21 next few weeks for them.

22 But what was really inspiring to me
23 every single day from September 11th on was how
24 people, for all their pain and all the sense of

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1 loss, just kept understanding the need to keep
2 doing what they had to do to bring us together and
3 bring us through. A lot of people don't realize,
4 but the Banking Department not only lost people,
5 but was -- lost its offices and lost everything,
6 and the stock markets were down, the Mercantile
7 Exchange was down and we were facing a potential
8 financial risk to the banking system.

9 And that day the State Banking
10 Department workers pulled themselves together and
11 were working out of temporary offices and dealing
12 with true emergencies where you needed to move
13 billions of dollars to keep the financial system
14 going and they just understood, for all the loss,
15 the magnitude of the importance of their job and
16 they did it and that was true of all the State
17 workers.

18 And it wasn't just doing their job.
19 If it took to midnight, they were there. And not
20 just the Banking Department, but all the State
21 workers, and I just -- to this day, you know, I
22 have tremendous sadness and I always will about
23 September 11th, but I also have tremendous pride in
24 how we responded.

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1 You know, you've seen in other
2 catastrophes where people and governments have
3 fallen apart. We didn't. We came together, and we
4 came together in a way that was critical for not
5 just our state, but our country.

6 THE INTERVIEWER: And I know it
7 didn't really get a lot of attention but you were
8 very much in personal contact with a lot of State
9 employees and literally went to --

10 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Absolutely.

11 THE INTERVIEWER: -- went to talk
12 with them and, you know, understand what challenges
13 they were facing.

14 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yeah.

15 VOICE: I hear somebody knocking.

16 THE INTERVIEWER: Your interaction
17 with State employees --

18 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yeah.

19 THE INTERVIEWER: -- in the
20 aftermath.

21 GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI
GOVERNOR PATAKI: You know, it was
22 very important to show to the State workers, not
23 just to those -- to the family members who had lost
24 loved ones, but to the workers who had lost their

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1 friends and their colleagues, that I understood and
2 the State understood what they were going through
3 and the sacrifices they were making, so we didn't
4 just have the memorial services. I visited the
5 offices, I went and saw people and I just thought
6 it was an important part of helping us to get
7 through that, and the Banking Department, the Tax
8 Department, the Health Department.

9 I mean New York City's lab went down
10 contaminated with anthrax when we had the anthrax
11 thing, so everything had to be done out of the
12 State Health Department and, you know, the State
13 Police, the National Guard, it was just incredible
14 how whatever people were called on to do, however
15 extraordinary it was, they did it and I thought it
16 was important that I be there with them to let them
17 know that I appreciated it and the people of the
18 state appreciated how hard they were working and
19 the sacrifices they were making.

20 THE INTERVIEWER: What do you think
21 people ought to know about CSEA? Anything that
22 surprised you over the years?

23 GOVERNOR PATAKI: You know, I think
24 the important thing is that the CSEA represents not

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1 a different group of people. They are our friends,
2 our neighbors, they're the Little League coaches,
3 they're the people who volunteer at the local fire
4 department, and they take great pride in their work
5 and they take great pride in our state, and that's
6 one of the reasons that I just, for all the

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI

7 challenges we face today, have so much confidence
8 in New York because I have met so many of the CSEA
9 members, not just the leadership but our workers,
10 and they're good people. They care and they want
11 to do what is right for our future.

12 THE INTERVIEWER: Well, Governor
13 Pataki, we appreciate you taking the time. I
14 wonder if you would just indulge us for a moment.
15 I wanted to show you two or three photos --

16 (Sound of knocking on the door.)

17 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Sure, sure.

18 THE INTERVIEWER: -- and if you
19 could comment on them?

20 VOICE: Let me grab that microphone
21 out of the way, sir.

22 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Let me just --
23 I'll be right out.

24 VOICE: Want me to open the door?

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28

1 GOVERNOR PATAKI: No, it's okay.

2 VOICE: For picture-taking purposes?

3 THE INTERVIEWER: Yeah.

4 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yeah. I'll be
5 right out. Two minutes.

6 (Laughter.)

7 THE INTERVIEWER: Start with this
8 one. Attitude.

9 GOVERNOR PATAKI: And I think that
10 was important.

11 THE INTERVIEWER: Right. Super. I
12 wonder if you would just -- just for a moment, let
13 me get a photo of you while --

14 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Sure.

15 THE INTERVIEWER: -- you're looking
16 at that.

17 GOVERNOR PATAKI: It makes me laugh.
18 Brings back the memories. We had some real

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI

19 battles.

20 THE INTERVIEWER: Look this way.

21 Now I'll try some -- maybe a little

22 wider shot here. If you just want to lean in a

23 little bit? That's good. A few more like that.

24 Lean in a little more. Great. And then do you

29

1 just want to shoot -- one of me.

2 GOVERNOR PATAKI: That really does

3 make me laugh. I can't help it.

4 THE INTERVIEWER: I was gonna say

5 (inaudible).

6 VOICE: Can we do one more?

7 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Yeah, battles

8 never bothered me, and it's just part of the

9 process and if you believe strongly in what you

10 believe in, you're gonna have those types of

11 fights.

12 THE INTERVIEWER: Absolutely.

13 Actually --

14 GOVERNOR PATAKI: It's easy to roll

15 over for either side.

16 THE INTERVIEWER: That's me.

17 (Laughter.)

18 GOVERNOR PATAKI: And it just -- I

19 think shows that we both were very principled, you

20 know, which is why it took so long and we had such

21 a battle.

22 Is Rich here? Okay. I gotta run.

23 THE INTERVIEWER: Let me grab my

24 microphone there --

30

1 VOICE: Thank you.

2 THE INTERVIEWER: -- Governor, and I

3 just quickly ask you to sign these particular

4 photos?

GOVERNOR GEORGE PATAKI

5 GOVERNOR PATAKI: Sure.
6 (Discussion off the record.)
7 (Interview of Governor George Pataki
8 was concluded.)

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