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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 07, 2008 | 74 DAYS UNTIL INAUGURATION

AGENDA

RECONCILING FAITH AND POLITICS

“(Obama's speech on faith) may be the most important pronouncement by a Democrat on faith and politics since John F. Kennedy's Houston speech in 1960 declaring his independence from the Vatican...Obama offers the first faith testimony I have heard from any politician that speaks honestly about the uncertainties of belief.”

— *E.J. Dionne, Op-Ed., Washington Post, June 30, 2006*

Of the People, By the People

There is no more important resource for changing the direction of this country and defining the ideas that will transform America than the American people.

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In June of 2006, Senator Obama delivered what was called the most important speech on religion and politics in 40 years. Speaking before an evangelical audience, Senator Obama candidly discussed his own religious conversion and doubts, and the need for a deeper, more substantive discussion about the role of faith in American life.

Senator Obama also laid down principles for how to discuss faith in a pluralistic society, including the need for religious people to translate their concerns into universal, rather than religion-specific, values during public debate. In December, 2006, Senator Obama discussed the importance of faith in the global battle against AIDS.

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