

As part of the *Register's* Election 2000 campaign coverage, correspondent Mary Claire Kendall has been traveling around the country to speak to the candidates. With other reporters, she sat with U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona Feb. 18 on his "Straight Talk Express" bus ride through South Carolina and again the next day on his campaign flight to Greenville, S.C.

Kendall: You've gotten quite a boost from non-Republican voters: Democrats and independents. How are you reaching out to Democrats, particularly those who were part of the crossover vote that boosted Ronald Reagan to the White House?

McCain: I'm not "reaching out." What I'm doing is sending a message of inclusion, making them proud of their government again, connecting young people again, making them feel represented. So, what it is, is the message, not so much the outreach.

Do you believe in the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death? Will this be reflected in your choice of Supreme Court justices?

My 17-year pro-life record clearly indicates that and I am committed to the Judeo-Christian principles upon which this nation was founded and we have sometimes strayed from.

What would you do in a McCain administration to encourage strong families and the values that undergird strong families?

[On the policy front] we need to make sure that



Republican presidential hopeful Arizona Sen. John McCain waves to supporters at a rally in Nashua, N.H., Feb. 1. McCain won the New Hampshire Republican primary, the first of the election year. (CNS photo)

we do everything we can to encourage equal opportunity in education, training. But, also we need an equal tax situation for stay-at-home moms as well as working moms and encouragement of day-care facilities for those that are working. We need to ensure that Social Security is there for women who live longer than men do — giving that importance. And, primarily, we need to encourage the family values and the idea of families working and playing together and to give these young people an image of the presidency they can look up to and respect.