

Kids Voting

Thank you.

Do you want to change the world, to make it more fun, more fair, more full of love and prosperity? We all have dreams, but some of us do something about them. I want to, as an older member of your country, to take this moment to invite you to take an important role in reshaping the world. There is a way for you to do it, and voting is the first step, but only the first step.

I travel this nation from time to time. I walk through its housing projects and dark places, and I meet every year with tens of thousands of its dear, sweet people, who are filled with justice and love and great ideas for a better society. I have seen that they have ^{THE} ~~to~~ power to reshape life around them simply by stepping forward and expressing their beliefs. They find they are not alone, and great things begin to move.

We Americans sometimes have great leaders, but more often we are summoned to lead ourselves, from where we are, from who we are, and that is not a bad thing to be so challenged and to find ourselves creating deep meaning for our lives.

Democracy is our little boat to the future, and we all must row. We all must run for office, help candidates, make speeches to express our hearts

If you have the soul of an artist, let the world be your canvas, and make the world better for your brief presence here. If you have the soul of an engineer, don't be satisfied to be a tooth on the gears of the great social machine. Take time to stand apart from the machinery to see if it might be improved. And then give some leadership to that improvement.

I challenge you to step up to do what you know ~~what~~ must be done in our world. If I, at my age and infirmity, can express myself and move things along an inch or two, imagine what a

roomful like this can do in the world. And will do in the world.

Don't let anyone stop you. Don't let the gray routines of the world hypnotize you away from the truth of the matter **THAT IT IS YOUR WORLD**, that this is a great adventure we are on, and that we have heroic parts to play in this theater of the soul.

My young campaign volunteer, Blue, has had her eyes opened to the power of democracy to bring meaning to her life and the lives around her. Last week, she spoke at a large school gathering and this shy girl electrified the audience, just talking about the power we have if we will only take it. Blue says that she wants to feel democracy under her like a motorcycle. It is that exciting and personal and dangerous. It is a tool that can give your life great meaning.

As you approach the adult years of your life, you have the choice of lurking back and being half-

alive, or of stepping forward as a great participant in the show of the century.

As Americans, we are blessed with the tools of action that our democracy provides.

I know you want to have a meaningful life. I know you feel the hero inside of your heart. I am here to tell you that all of it is real, and that you can and should open your heart to the world and take action in it, letting no one steal your life from you, letting no one deprive you of a life of great meaning and great action.

Never be discouraged because people tell you that you might not succeed at an important project that you have your heart set upon. You have already succeeded if you're out there representing truth or justice or compassion or fairness or love. You already have your victory because you have changed the world; you have changed the world by the very fact that there is now a person like you in the world--you have changed the chemistry of things, and changes will spread from you, will be easier to happen

Because of You

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