

3. Jefferson Jackson Democratic Dinner

Well, I debated Judd Gregg last night.

You may know that he is the fellow who prepared George Bush for the presidential debate.

My best hope was that George might have returned the favor.

Before a debate, campaigns are always trying to lower expectations regarding their candidate, in case they don't do too well. Our staff had a hard time with that, as we didn't have much downward room for movement. "Oh, and remember, she's 94. Yes. More like 94 and a half, really. And she has emphysema and arthritis and a bad back that sometimes is a problem in a stand-up debate. And she has never

debated. And she's almost deaf and probably won't hear the questions anyway."

So we got things ready for the certain shellacking that I was in for, and were as surprised as some members of the press by the fact that I kicked his ass.

I am joking, of course. But he did say some wrong things about 9-11 being connected to the Iraq War, and seemed to be misinformed about the Patriot Act. Now we know where George Bush gets these crazy ideas.

And I, as self-predicted, had a hard time finding half my words. I was talking about energy conservation and I couldn't think of the word for how the lights stay on all night in the tall, you know, the big things where people work that are, you know, so many whatever they are tall. Oh, my! They will put me in charge of filibusters if I ever get elected to the Senate!

Despite all that, the viewers of WMUR, in an online poll, picked me as the winner. Not by a narrow margin, but by 79%

Why? Because, despite my handicaps of age, I was the sensible one on that stage and I can represent our people better than he can, and I can do it for six years if I keep to my normal exercise routine of walking across the United States each morning.

You can help me, if you will go to my website, GrannyD.com, and sign up to help put some ads on television and radio next week. If we don't have enough money to do it right, we will give the money instead to the New Hampshire Veterans Home, where they are planning to build an Alzheimer's Wing. But if we raise enough to make a difference, to approach winning, we will go for it. But now it is up to you. I have shown my mettle as a candidate and it is time for some check writing around here.

Thank you.