

Continuing damage to the weather & to the healthy diversity of nature and to the healthy diversity of local economies I believe will create a rising demand for effective leadership and proper representation without the interference of shamelessly self-interested commercial interests

I know you are here because you are reformers. I am sure it gives your efforts some urgency when you hear that the polar ice cap is a third thinner than it was in 1980 and that the ozone in the upper atmosphere is disappearing at an alarming rate, and that plants and animals are dying at a rate that qualifies our age as the planet's sixth major extinction,

I am sure that you must be ready - if you have not already done so - to add your own voice to those demanding serious actions on these fronts. I doubt that you would waste your time on window-dressing issues while these fundamental issues of global consequence are filling the streets and the jails with young & old protesters around the world.

We do not want to repair our representative democracies for the form of it: we see urgent issues that are not otherwise being addressed properly

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A young Carpenter from Chicago, Nick, who helped me across a good many states in my walk last year across the U.S. & more recently helped me across the state of Missouri was one of the many young people who peacefully protested in Philadelphia during the Republican Convention ^{and was arrested for no reason and walked down a street} ~~He~~ ^{all the way} cares deeply about non-violence and went to India with another young friend named Tadd to study its principles from the followers of Mr. Gandhi. He & Tadd were mutual college friends who had made a pact to spend the rest of their lives ~~doing~~ saving one day a week to serve the community their country or the world.

Last month I spent a day with Tadd in Chicago. He is living under crowded conditions in Little Town and had just completed the supervision of a hunger strike by 19 women of 19 days. They are trying to make Mayor Daley make good on his promise to build ~~another~~ a high school in the area. Some of the 5000 children in this small neighborhood of the great city are bused daily out of their neighborhood, spending long hours being transported to schools situated away from their neighborhood.

Nick was jailed in Philadelphia for no good reason & held for 10 days under purposefully brutal conditions.

If you want to know why many Negro

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voters would not compromise to support Mr. Gore, it is because an entire generation is becoming radicalized against corporate-dominated politics, & it is just beginning. It grows with every change of weather, it grows as every big-box discount store destroys a main street of family businesses - and I walked through hundreds of such ruined communities. It is the human scale of the monstrous and history has shown that it always wins in the end.

College campuses, even high schools are now filled with militant reformers, intent on defending the earth, their legacy and their own freedoms against the anti-environment and anti-democratic power of the new Corporate-Government Complex.

Government got big, starting in the Progressive Era in this country, in response to over-large businesses, monopolies & trusts. It happened in my lifetime. There has been a power race between business & government and neither side can afford to unilaterally disarm. The game has gone on now to a point where half the people don't vote and the other half aren't too happy either, because they don't think it's a democracy so much as a rigged game.

special interests. That is what is sending people into the streets & straight to the ballot boxes.

Long term political giving is a losing game. A breaking of the link between Candidates & big donors would inevitably contribute to a more equitable and efficient allocation of our country's resources. Wasteful subsidies in the amount of \$50 billion dollars each year given to Corporations, Unions & certain wealthy ~~rich~~ people serve narrow economic interests rather than the national interest like the \$500 million a year subsidy that goes to the sugar lobby or the tax break for ethanol producers that has cost taxpayers more than \$7 billion since 1979 & is rebudgeted through 2007 - would wither away. The government would probably find the money to subsidize for example every child in need with ^{high-} quality daycare. Studies have shown that every \$1 spent in quality care saves \$7 in later remedial costs. This is a moral imperative.

And what will take the place of money for elections: public funding as is now enacted in Maine, Vermont, Oregon and Massachusetts.

The Alliance for Wm is in place & needs our participation for they & Public

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Campaign supported these reforms in the first state.

When you are my age you will understand that the ^{you must listen to} still small voice within you is the only voice worth listening to.

Thank you for the privilege of meeting you & speaking with you & good luck - 1-1-1

As you we depend on the legacy we leave our children - an sustainable earth with resources still available the Alaskan wilderness still intact and the ^{heart of} peaks of the mountains in West Virginia still standing tall