

Granny D

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WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR OUR DEAR NATION OR FOR THE WORLD. CERTAINLY THE CHALLENGES ARE LIKE NO OTHER TIME. IF YOU THINK OF THE PHYSICAL CHALLENGES BEFORE US : THE EARTH'S CLIMATE, ITS FOOD SUPPLY, ITS FRESH WATER RESOURCES, ITS ENERGY RESOURCES, WE MIGHT AS WELL BE IN SOME SCIENCE FICTION DISASTER MOVIE. bUT SO BE IT. wE WILL MOVE AHEAD AND DO WHAT WE CAN DO TO SURVIVE.

WE AMERICANS WILL BE COMING AT THE FUTURE WITH A NEW PRESIDENT AND PERHAPS A NEW KIND OF POLITICS. THIS MAY GIVE US SOME ENTHUSIASM AND HOPE, REGARDLESS OF WHICH CANDIDATE WE ARE SUPPORTING. THEY ARE BOTH DECENT MEN AND STRONG

LEADERS. I AM AN OLD DEMOCRAT, SO I INDEED WILL BE VOTING FOR MR. OBAMA WITH GREAT JOY, BUT MR. MCCAIN IS SOMEONE I HAVE HAD SOME DEALINGS WITH, AND I WILL NOT DISPARAGE MY FRIENDS WHO CHOOSE TO VOTE FOR HIM. I WALKED SOME 3,200 MILES FOR HIS BILL AND HE GAVE ME A PAIR OF SNEAKERS.

WHOEVER OUR NEXT PRESIDENT MAY BE, THAT PERSON WILL FACE A FACT MORE DIFFICULT THAN ALL THE OTHER DIFFICULT FACTS, AND HERE IT IS: CONGRESS IS SO DEADLOCKED BY SPECIAL INTERESTS THAT REAL REFORM ON ANY FRONT--ENVIRONMENTAL, HEALTH, EDUCATION OR THE GENERAL WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE - WILL BE DIFFICULT TO IMPOSSIBLE.

THE NEXT PRESIDENT WILL HAVE TO GO DIRECTLY TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND MAKE THE CASE FOR NEEDED ACTION, AND THIS MUST BE DONE WITH SUCH MORAL FORCE THAT THE PEOPLE

WILL NEARLY RISE UP TO DEMAND ACTION BY THEIR ELECTED LEADERS IN CONGRESS AND LOCALLY. MR. OBAMA SEEMS PARTICULARLY SUITED TO THIS HIGH TASK, AND THAT IS THE REASON MANY PEOPLE THINK HE IS A MAN OF HISTORY. BUT MR. MCCAIN MAY RISE TO THAT MOMENT ALSO, IF HE IS GIVEN THE CHANCE AND IF HE WILL DISENTANGLE HIMSELF FROM THE SPECIAL INTERESTS THAT HE RAILS AGAINST YET EMBRACES.

THIS ELECTION WILL BE CRUCIAL TO OUR FUTURE, A FACT WE DO NOT ARGUE - ANY OF US. THOSE OF US WHO KEEP AN EYE OVER OUR SHOULDER FOR THE DARKER INTRIGUES OF POLITICS MUST KEEP WORKING TO ASSURE THAT VOTING SYSTEMS ARE OPEN AND NOT CORRUPTED AND THAT THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO ELECT PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT THEIR DREAMS IS NOT OVERTHROWN--THIS RIGHT IS OUR PRIMARY FREEDOM. WHEN THERE ARE BIG SHAKEUPS AT THE PENTAGON, AS THERE HAVE BEEN RECENTLY, WE WHO

**SEE SHADOWS LOOK CAREFULLY
INDEED. WE HAVE LOST TOO MANY OF
OUR GREATEST LEADERS ALREADY.**

**BESIDES OUR VIGILANCE. WHAT CAN WE
DO TO HELP OUR NEXT PRESIDENT HELP
US TO MOVE FORWARD?**

**THE STRANGLEHOLD THAT THE K
STREET LOBBYING CULTURE HAS ON
OUR GOVERNMENT, WHICH IS A CANCER
ON OUR DEMOCRACY, MUST BE ENDED. I
WOULD URGE THE NEW PRESIDENT TO
LEAD THE CHARGE TO OUTLAW
LOBBYING BY DEFENSE CONTRACTORS,
AND BY INDUSTRIES THAT RELY HEAVILY
ON PUBLIC MONEY, SUCH AS THE
PHARMACEUTICAL AND HEALTH
INSURANCE INDUSTRIES. LET THEIR
EXECUTIVES BE HEARD IN CONGRESS,
BUT LET THEM DO SO IN OPEN
HEARINGS. LET THEM SPEAK WHEN
THEY ARE SPOKEN TO. LET THEM
ANSWER QUESTIONS WHEN THEY ARE
ASKED FOR THEIR ANSWERS. BUT MOST
OF US WILL AGREE THAT THEIR POWER**

HAS GROWN TOO GREAT. EISENHOWER, ONLY THREE YEARS BEFORE JOHN KENNEDY'S DEATH, WARNED US AGAINST THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX. ~~IT~~^{IS} IS TIME TO MARGINALIZE THIS DANGEROUS AND UNDEMOCRATIC FORCE IN OUR LIVES.

CLEARLY, WE MUST TREAD ~~C~~^AREFULLY WHEN WE DARE LIMIT ANY PERSON'S FREE SPEECH. BUT THERE IS A VITAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DEFENSE EXECUTIVE MAKING A PRESENTATION AT THE PENTAGON OR BEFORE A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE AND THAT SAME EXECUTIVE HOSTING PARTIES AND PROVIDING JETS AND COMPANIONS TO THOSE SAME GENERALS AND ELECTED LEADERS. WE NEED TO DRAW A VERY CAREFUL LINE, BUT DRAW A LINE WE ~~M~~^TUST.

WHO WOULD NOT STAND BEHIND ANY CANDIDATE OR NEWLY-ELECTED PRESIDENT WHO PROPOSED SUCH A

NEW LAW? WE WOULD CAMP IN EVERY STREET OF WASHINGTON UNTIL IT PASSED!

FURTHER, WE MUST DRAW ANOTHER LINE. WHEN AN ELECTED LEADER ACCEPTS MONEY FROM SOME SPECIAL INTEREST WHOSE ISSUES ARE SUBJECT TO THAT OFFICIAL'S ACTIONS AND VOTES, THERE IS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST. THE PRESENT LAWS, LOCAL AND FEDERAL, LIMIT CONFLICT OF INTEREST TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF PRIVATE BENEFITS, BUT A CAMPAIGN DONATIONS OR CAMPAIGN ASSISTANCE IS LESS THAN A HALF STEP FROM A PRIVATE GAIN FOR SUCH OFFICIALS. WE MUST EXPAND OUR CONFLICT OF INTEREST LAWS SO THAT NO PUBLIC OFFICIAL MAY VOTE ON AN ISSUE THAT AFFECTS HIS OR HER MAJOR FINANCIAL DONORS. IF THIS LAW WOULD ENCOURAGE THE OTHERWISE SLOW ADVANCE OF THE NEW REFORMS THAT PUBLICLY FINANCE ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, ALL THE BETTER.

UNTIL WE FREE OUR ELECTED LEADERS OF THE CANCER OF K STRET AND WIDESPREAD CONFLICT OF INTERESTS AMONG OUR ELECTD LEADERS, NO SERIOUS REFORMS WILL BE POSSIBLE.

AS WE MOVE INTO THE GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, LET US PUSH THESE IDEAS WITH OUR CANDIDATES. THE FUTURE OF NATURE IS AT STAKE. THE FUTURE OF WEATHER IS AT STAKE. THE FUTURES OF OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN ARE AT STAKE. LET US NOT SIIMPLY HOPE THAT A NEW LEADER, A BETTER LEADER, WILL SOLVE ALL OUR PROBLEMS. AMERICA'S CLOSET IS VERY OLD NOW AND NEEDS A BIG CLEANING. LET'S DO IT.

*This needs
the nation
to see
the most
urgent
issue
facing
humanity*

WE HAVE BEEN RUNNING AMERICA FOR MANY DECADES WITH NEGATIVE VISUALIZATIONS. WHAT WE THINK, AND WHAT WE DREAM, AND WHAT WE SAY CAN HAVE AN EFFECT IN THE WORLD. WE HAVE TO MAKE ROOM IN THE WORLD FOR WHAT WE DREAM BY ACTUALLY

**DREAMING IT, BY MAKING SPACE FOR IT,
BY MAKING IT IMAGINABLE TO OTHERS
THROUGH OUR OWN CREATIVE
LEADERSHIP IN OUR OWN FAMILIES AND
NEIGHBORHOODS**

**LET'S NOT BE TIRED. LET'S NOT BE OLD.
LET'S MAKE A NEW BEGINNING BY
GETTING TOGETHER WITH OUR
NEIGHBORS MORE OFTEN. HOW ABOUT
NEXT WEEK? LET'S PLANT SOME MORE
VEGETABLE GARDENS, LET'S MAKE
SOME FUNITURE OR ART. LET'S FIX UP
SOME BICYCLES. LET'S GET THE WHOLE
NEIGHBORRHOOD TO GO DOWN TO VISIT
THE LOCAL OFFICE OF OUR ELECTED
PEOPLE AND GET THEM ON BOARD OR
SCARE THE HELL OUT OF THEM.**

**THIS IS OUR DEMOCRACY IF WE CAN
KEEP IT. THIS IS A GRAND PANET IF WE
CAN SAVE IT. IT REALLY IS UP TO US,
EACH PERSON IS THE HERO OF THE
WORLD AND IN SAYING THAT, I DO NOT
JOKE OR EXAGGERATE. EVERY ONE OF
YOU HAS THE POWER TO DO THIS, TO**

**START SOMETHING BIG AND NECESSARY
AND BEAUTIFUL.**

PAUSE

**PLEASE LOOK AT THE CENTER FOR
GOVERNMENT STUDIES MAP WHICH I
PUT UP ON THE WALL. THE EIGHT DEEP
BLUE COLORED STATES, HAD SIGNIFICANT
NEW ACTION IN THE PAST YEAR.. I HAVE
TRAVELLED THESE LAST FOUR YEARS TO
STATES WHERE WORK IS BEING DONE ON
PUBLIC FUNDING OF ELECTIONS.**

**I HAVE BEEN ASKED: "WHEN IS NEW
HAMPSHIRE GOING TO GO FOR PUBLIC
FUNDING OF ELECTIONS, GRANNYD?" AS
YOU KNOW WE NOW HAVE THREE
STATES WITH CITIZEN OWNED
ELECTIONS : MAINE, ARIZONA BY
CITIZEN'S INITIATIVE AND CONNECTICUT¹
BY LEGISLATION. I AM PROUD TO
ANNOUNCE THAT THIS PAST MONTH OUR
GOVERNOR ,JOHN LYNCH, HAS SIGNED
AN AMENDMENT TO OUR BILL HB794. A
SEVEN PERSON COMMISSION IS NOW
BEING CHOSEN TO FIND A MEANS OF
FUNDING THIS BILL..THE COMMISSION**

WILL REPORT TO THE HOUSE AND SENATE ON DECEMBER 1, 2008.

DURING THOSE INTERVENING SIX MONTHS OUR INTENTION IS TO EDUCATE OUR CONSTITUENTS THE HOW AND WHY OF PUBLIC FUNDING. OUR GOAL IS TO ACQUAINT THE PEOPLE SO THAT THEY WILL BECOME A FORCE TO CONVINCE OUR LEGISLATURE TO FOLLOW CONNECTICUTS EXAMPLE AND BECOME THE #4 STATE TO HAVE CITIZEN-OWNED ELECTIONS. WE WILL HELP OUR COMMISSION TO FIND A WAY TO FUND PUBLIC FUNDING, WITHOUT ASKING FOR MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND.

n. h. COULD BECOME A MODEL FOR OTHER STATES WHO ARE EAGER TO HAVE THE SYSTEM BUT HAVE NOT FOUND A WAY TO FUND IT. WHEN SUFFICIENT STATES HAVE ACCEPTED THE SYSTEM A CRITICAL MASS WILL FORM AND IT WILL GO FEDERAL.

WE ARE MAKING HISTORY LADIES AND GENTLEMEN PLEASE HELP US BY

CHANGING YOUR STATE TO PUBLIC
FUNDING OF ELECTIONS . YOU WILL BE
HELPNG TO CHANGE YOUR STATE, YOUR *← not only*
COUNTRY AND THE WORLD. DO NOT
THINK I EXAGGERATE. IT CAN BE DONE.
WE CAN BECOME A REAL DEMOCRA CY
AND WHEN YOU ARE MY AGE YU WILL SIT
BACK WITH A PEASANT SMILE, KNOWING
YOU DID THE RIGHT THING.