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*Last year the Supreme Court considered the inflation argument and the majority rejected that argument - Chief Justice Rehnquist.*  
Thank you.

When the contribution limit was set years ago at \$1,000, that was the exceptional contribution. That was the sky-high limit, beyond which it could be assumed that someone might have a corrupt purpose.

Well, the fundraising machinery of Washington has made that donation not the exception, but the norm. It has kept pace with inflation by inventing powerful ways to attract \$1,000 donations from more and more people, offering more and more public policy changes in exchange. That machine does not need a cost of living increase. It needs dismantling. It needs dismantling in favor of free or affordable air time, and the public financing of public election campaigns.

*clean money*

We shall achieve those reforms, and we are well-started in four states.


In the meantime, we must take some encouragement from the fact that, this week, the scourge of those \$100,000 soft money contributions--the scourge I walked across America to protest and that many of you have worked so hard to eliminate--will come to an end. We will put that corruption back in the box that Teddy Roosevelt fashioned nearly a hundred years ago, and from which the snakes of corruption recently escaped through the soft money loophole. We shall nail it shut again.

Will the victory come at a higher price than we can stomach? We will know soon..

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This week is a week when all of us ~~and all~~ Americans should call and call ~~again~~ their senators and encourage them to fight for a total ban on soft money, without raising the hard money limits. Raising the hard money limits will tilt the field in favor of the party of the wealthy. Raising the limits will put the playing field, tilted or not, up beyond the moon where only the rich and the superrich will be represented on the field, and where ordinary Americans cannot afford to play or even afford a ticket to watch.

I will not abandon those on the Senate floor who are fighting hard for the American people's interests this week. ~~We~~ <sup>we</sup> who pray for ~~their~~ success.

*we are* walking around the capitol building representing the thousands ~~who~~ say ~~Granny speaks for me, we~~ and thousands of people across the nation who cannot be here to speak for themselves