

SPEECH FOR SAN DIEGO UNIVERSITY**January 3,4,5,2002****Thanks**

Dear young men and women, you are the ~~most~~ luckyst young people in all the world, to be born in the ~~greatest~~ country in ~~all the world~~ and to have the best opportunity for an education unequalled anywhere else in the whole world. I hope you are taking good care of yourselves. By that I mean physically as well as mentally. You are at a period in your life that you can make a determination of what kind of a life you will have from now until the time you die. You can either have a worthwhile life so that when you get to the end of it you can say I did the best that I could with what God gave me, or you can say God gave me a body, and a brain in that body, and I squandered both. I didn't take care of my body: I fed it poorly, gave it drugs to take, cigarettes to smoke and I didn't exercise. I didn't bother to learn I only played and had a good time. I produced nothing, did nothing for others than myself. I wish I had a chance to do it all over again. Well, we only have the one chance and it is yours to seize. Treat your body as if it were a

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Temple and cultivate your mind as if you were an Einstein. Remember every new day can be the beginning of a new life.

Because you live in a great country it is your duty to do everything you can to keep it great. Now it is in trouble and it needs the help of its young people. It needs your understanding. To have a country that is a Democracy means, as Abraham Lincoln described it, a country of the people by the people and for the people. It means that we, the people, are the ones who decide who are leaders should be. It means we choose to elect a president, for instance who has a fine past record, who has good ideas, who has good moral fiber, who loves people and who has vision.

Today we have allowed ourselves to accept the man who can raise the most money as the smartest and brightest and the most qualified to be our president. This is a false idea and one that must become unacceptable.

We have laws that are supposed to determine how we run our government and those laws are being broken. In 1907 when Theodore Roosevelt was the president it became obvious to him that big money

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interests were taking over the government and controlling the elections by furnishing money to candidates of their choice rather than the choice of the people. The law his legislature passed, under his urging said there was to be no corporate money in politics. A similar law was passed against Unions some years late. Those two laws are still on the books. And they are being broken by both Democratic and Republican parties. It has become the most serious societal problem we are facing In America today.

Both parties brag about how much money their candidate has been able to raise, as if instead of vision and ability to solve problems as a great leader must do, they have established a criteria that the man who raises the most money is the smartest. What a dumb idea! Do they think we are all fools? Do they think we cannot see that the candidates are being bought? Do they think we do not realize that we have lost our representatives to big money interests? To the rich? Do they think we do not realize we no longer have access to our representatives that we are shut out by their big money? That we are being taxed without representation?

It is time for we the people to rise up and say **NO MORE>** Soft money, illegal money must go. We must vote not for someone who has been bought, but for someone that appeals to your heart.

Someone that does not talk with forked tongue.

Not Someone who promises you the moon before he is elected and forgets what he has promised once h is elected.

over 48% voted

Some people say they will not vote because there is no one to vote for. And ~~50%~~ of people that could vote do not vote in this country. They say if they voted for some one they like, that person could not get elected, and they would be wasting their vote. I say the only wasted vote is one not cast. You must vote your heart and let the chips fall where they may. You must vote for the long term, not for the candidate of the day, if he does no^t speak to your heart. If you vote for the candidate of your heart and he does not win, remember, you are voting for the future, for the long term. Because you are the center of the world, and if you vote and many others vote with you, your man's ideas will become know and he will ultimately win.

Meanwhile you can work very hard to get public

40 states are working at clean Money public
funding and a critical mass could develop clean
Massachusetts will follow. Many great things we have ^{clean federal} ^{elections}
in this country today were started in the states. ^{level} If
enough of the 40 states that are working to attain
Clean Money Campaigns ^{and if} a critical mass ~~can~~ developed
^{clean elections at the} and federal elections could follow.. Think how
wonderful it would be if we, the proud state of New
Hampshire, were to be the fifth state to become a
Clean Campaign, public funding state.

It is not easy to change a government, and you have to
have fortitude and guts to stay the course. But Ghandi
changed a nation. King changed a nation, and you can
too. Don't let anyone tell you something can't be done.
You may not win the first time, but you will not have
lost if you push the idea ahead a few inches, ready for
another assault.

Remember, where you stand, is the center of the world
and you can do anything if you get your family, your
friends, you neighbors behind you. Because they love
this country, are proud of this county and its
democracy. They are proud to be the greatest country
in the world and they don't like to believe that there is
corruption in their government...that a man has to sell
his votes to run for office, that a man has to beg for
money to get re-elected. To become re-elected for the
U. S. Senate it has been estimated that an incumbent

financing for your city, your state and your country. Right now we have four states that are on public funding: Maine, mass. Vermont and Arizona. Other states are working on it for the future. Akron, Ohio hopes to pass a bill for clean elections this year, and Austin, Texas plans for next year. San Diego in its purpose will become the cynosure of all eyes of the country.

Money that could be used to help the poor, the environment, the voting rights, health insurance, and many organizations that are in place in this country, ready to work, is being used for candidates campaigns for subsidies (corporation welfare) to corporations. (When public financing has been adopted in San Diego, your tax money will be free to do many good things.)

When you go to bed at night, say to yourself one out of every five children ⁵⁰are going to bed hungry tonight. Two out of every black children are going to bed hungry tonight. Ask yourself: 'What can I do to help? How can I change what is going on in this country? This rich prosperous country that has made so many people rich, but in the process has left so many behind.

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to be a good citizen I was shocked. I have to admit
I had never thought beyond that. But when I found
there a poor man today had to sell his soul, his votes,
in order to run for the house or the senate, or he
had to be a multimillionaire I thought to myself, I
do not want my 14 great grandchildren to be
brought up in a country that is no longer a
democracy. What can I do? How can an old
woman of 90 years of age, ready to go to her maker
any minute, an old woman living on Social Security
and a wee pension, living under poverty level to
keep our democracy from slip sliding slip sliding
any further? Well, the only thing I had in my favor
was too good legs, and a body that I had taken care
of. So I thought. I can walk. That would be
dramatic if I walked.

*We are
spitting on
the graves
of those
who
fought
+ died
for us
down*

*as a Pilgrim
walking until given
shelter*

I would walk across the country trying to create a
wave of interest in Campaign Finance Reform To
get the illegal money out of politics. I would be like
Pal Revere and try to wake up the sleeping giant of
America. I remembered what Gandhi, who learned
it from Thoreau, and what Dr. King adopted: you
must take on the responsibility yourself, if you want
to make a change in a country. You must take on
the sacrifice yourself, not ask some one else to do it.

I walked with Dick Gregory, the black stand-up comic in Memphis, Tennessee, on a ceremonial walk to commemorate the march of the Sanitary Workers who made that march and which in the end was where Dr. King gave his life. I asked him if it was possible to interest his people in working for campaign finance reform. He said to me, "My dear old lady, my people are worried about the rats in the bedroom eating at their children and the cockroaches in their kitchen." I said, in horror, "Mr. Gregory you are talking about the past." And he said to me, "No, Madam, that is now. It is true that some people have become very rich in this country and because the stock market is higher than it ~~had~~ ever been, we think we are all rich, but there are many that have been left behind, ~~There is only so much money in this country. We do not make money, we only replace old torn bills.~~

And when he said that, I remembered that when I was walking in Parker, Arizona, I was told by a woman I talked with on the road, that there was a trailer behind the Main street in Parker, without running water or toilet facilities, and a widow with seven children was living there. When I met the mayor of Parker I asked her if this were true and

she was horrified and said she would look into it that very day. She said, "some people are too proud to admit they need help, but I will see that she gets it, I promise yo, grannyd." And I believed her.

So what can you do to help, besides loving yourself and making sure that you are taking care of that wonderful machine that is your body that the Almighty has given you. Besides becoming aware of what is going on around you and in the world? I charge you that it is your duty besides eating right and exercising your body, exercise your brain. Develop it. Read a daily paper and know what is going on in the world. Skip the crime, the horror and the scandal, but read the front page headlines and then go to the editorial page and see what the editor of the paper is saying, and the people that are writing letters on the same page, and the next page, called the OpEd page where people that are supposed o know how to cure things are giving their advice.

And you can do something about it collectively. When I discovered that just paying my taxes and making sure I voted was not all that I needed to do

must raise the equivalent of \$4,000 every single day, seven days a week, every one of the six years he is in office.

When you are my age you will understand that the voice you must listen to is that small one within you, telling you to save our planet, to leave a decent legacy for our children. Do not fail to appreciate the magical moment of life, fully participate in it, joyfully and constructively, never giving an inch to injustice, unfairness or inequality, nor ever forgetting the long line of people you have known and loved in the great circle that extends well into the next life.

Be involved. Stay involved. Understand what it means to be an American. It means to take responsibility for mature self-governance. In a world where the polar ice and atmosphere ozone levels are thinning daily, and in a world where the divide between the very wealthy and the literally starving is growing rapidly, ~~where one child in five goes to bed hungry and two out of five if they are Afro-American,~~ we must assume responsibility. We must take our place at the table of power.

Think how wonderful it would be if we, the proud state of N. H., were to be the fifth state to become a

~~to look back~~ with great pride at how we responded at this moment. We put our faith in our neighbors and in our elections, imperfect as both are. We will have us an election ^{in 2004} and end this nightmare. That will be our great victory. We will see that we did not allow ourselves to fall down in despair. We became the patriots America needed. We backed candidates capable of winning and we got them elected - people who believe in the Bill of Rights and in peace and justice.

Pause

The Swingstate Project is one of the aces up our sleeve in this election. We will—all of us who join up for this project—sign an absentee ballot, then go to the critical swing states and districts where our foot power and phone power and door-knocking skills and car rides to the polls can make a difference. If you have time for this work between now and the Primaries, go to the website: swingstate.org and sign up. Be part of the great task of rescuing our Democracy.

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I predict we will succeed. We have no room to do otherwise.

Thank you