

Today, the government is not in the hands of the people. It is controlled by those who can afford to give millions of dollars to political candidates, and who demand in return that the candidates serve their interests, rather than the peoples.

This is a formula for environmental disaster and it is an equation to force an end to democracy.

I therefore hope your first objective, personally, will be to get big money out of politics so that real people can get elected, and so that all citizens can approach their representatives in a free exchange of ideas and needs, unpolluted by money and the obligations of money.

Abraham Lincoln described what we still long for; a nation of the people, by the people, and for the people. If you do not bring his dream forward, your elder years will be lived upon a ruined planet, ruled by invisible and brutal powers. Do not let me be a prophet: prevent these things with your love today

long before Lincoln, NATIVE /Americans ruled this continent with a constitution that we might well take as our own founding document so that we might try to live up to it.

We would do well to install our new senators and representatives in the same way that we Americans did when we were the Five Nations of the Iroquois. Here is a part of the ceremony, addressed to any new representative arriving at council:

“Your heart shall be filled with peace and good will and your mind filled with a yearning for the welfare of the people. With endless patience you shall carry out your duty and your

firmness shall be tempered with tenderness for your people. Neither anger nor fury shall find lodgement in your mind and all your words and actions shall be marked with calm deliberation. In all of your deliberations in Council, and in your efforts at law making, in all your official acts, self-interest shall be cast into oblivion."

Young friends, the only hope for our planet is a new generation of leaders who have cast all self-interest into oblivion. It is not easy to do. Pride and greed raise themselves anew in every generation. Can you do better than those before you? You will simply have to in order to survive.

Now, for the next few years you may think that your choices in the election booth are so poor that you may as well not vote. Your friends may think that. Let me tell you why you must vote anyway.

Of course, I cannot get you to vote if you do not care about such things, or if your life is so focused on your own daily needs that you cannot make an investment of an hour in your civic beliefs. I cannot do it. And, if you are so selfish that you will not help promote fairness and justice in the world through your votes, or if you are so dense that you do not see how the future hangs on your decision to vote or not, and how lives are at stake, then there is nothing I can do about you. You are determined to be a wage slave in someone else's system. All I can do is wave good-bye to you as you SLIP under the waves of other people's power over you.

But if you are deciding to not vote for more practical reasons, let me talk to you. Let's argue.

Many people say they will not vote because there is nobody to vote for, or that the people they would be willing to vote for cannot win, so what's the point of voting? People do not want to waste their votes.

There is no such thing as a wasted vote, and I will explain why.

First, forget the idea that your vote is a short term investment in short term candidates. Let us see our votes as more important than that – as long term investments in our long term strategy for bringing our values into action. If we vote for the best candidates, we are voting for their ideas and we are moving those ideas forward, whether or not the candidates win.

We will be building a voice that will, in the long term, have its day and ELECT its candidates.

So, vote your heart! Be a strategic, long-term voter. You will shape the America AND THE WORLD Of tanner,

Don't outsmart yourself by spending your one vote in an attempt to keep the worst candidate from winning. America will never get great leaders if we vote that way.

What happens if the worst person, in your view, gets elected by one vote—because you voted for the best candidate instead of the second worst? The world does not end. Parties reorganize to attract the emerging blocks of reform voters. The pressure for real reform continues to build toward the next election, and those who do get elected must look over

their shoulders at the growing numbers of voters who demand change

If you are not adding to that block, then you are not investing your vote in your values. Vote for the long term—vote your values—and be patient.

JA vote cast in fear for the lesser evil is a vote which evaporates the day after the election. A vote cast in love and passion changes the American political landscape for all history.

\Vote your heart and let the chips fall where they may.

Freedom. Justice. Nature itself. We are entering a time of great political struggle. It is a struggle of the human soul, and aren't we all fortunate—and you, especially—to live in an age when so much is at stake, and when we must rise to our greatness as a people, and as individuals? You know in your heart what is right and what is wrong in the world. You must educate yourself continuously so that your instincts are wise and well informed. And yo must take the weapons of your heart and mind out into the world to do battle under the banners of love, justice, understanding, service, forgiveness, tolerance, humanity, and brotherhood.

If you leave it all to others, you are missing the fun and the reason for living.

Thank you.