

Smin

*Common Cause
Alliance For Democracy*

(Nashville)

Thank you very much.

Those of us who hold fast to the notion that people have a natural right to political equality, and that Government is our own common instrument for the expression of our highest instincts of brotherhood, must always struggle against those contrary ideas: that we are not equal; that the management of civic and economic affairs is the rightful province of the wealthy; that government is not the campfire of our common efforts and aspirations, but that it is, instead, a danger to the entitlements and free license of the propertied class.

Those of us who argue for equality --the necessary ingredient of true freedom-- must argue against the current political campaign finance system, as it sells public policy to the highest bidders, and it sells access stolen from constituents. It is called



campaign finance, but it is known more precisely as bribery.

While we enjoy each others' company here today, the polar ice cap melts rapidly away, the protective layers of the atmosphere disappear, whole demographic groups are imprisoned, mountain ranges are tipped over into once-beautiful streams and villages in order to extract the minerals needed for a gluttony of industrialism held in place --against the interests of our people-- by political bribery on a scale we have never before suffered.

Those of us who hold fast to the idea of equality, and of an honestly representative government that expresses the highest instincts and ideas of our people, can be encouraged to know that we will overthrow the current corruption, because our ideas are historically sound and their system is unsustainable. It will fall, partly of it's own gluttonous weight, and partly because we are digging away at its foundation of sand.