

**Manchester, N. H. for John Rauh,
Wednesday, June 28, 2006 Souhagan High
School**

Thank you for that fine introduction. Thank you for inviting us to come to speak to you this evening. I live in Dublin, N. H. and with me, are Carol & John Wyndham, of Peterborough, Del and Ruth Myers of Keene, all activists who have helped grannyd and her son Jim, and Dennis Burke of Arizona, to push Public Funding of Elections at the state level the past two years. Recently we have been invited to join with Alec Lee, of Concord , N. H.'s Democracy for N. H. to form a coalition to be called Granny's Pace to concentrate on New Hampshire and the need for public funding in this state.

I met John Rauh in 1998, It was in the home of Christianna Horn, who was having a home party for Paul Wellstone. It was my first public announcement that I was planning to walk across America for Campaign Finance Reform. and the McCainFeingold bill.

Paul Wellstone said, :”Doris, I think you may have something of note here. If you walk at the age of 90 for the passage of the McCain Feingold bill, people might listen asking, Why would an old woman of 90 walk across the land for Campaign Finance Reform. Is she crazy? You might start a movement.”

John Rauh, a guest at the affair, said to me:
“

I’ll give you my cell phone number and you may call me any time of the day or night if you need help. I’ll come wherever you are “.

Here is how public funding at the state level works. Candidates collect a certain number of qualifying signatures and small contributions—usually in the five dollar range—from people who live in their districts. This demonstrates community support. Someone who has long been active in their community will have an easy time of it, and they don’t need to kneel down and beg to wealthy donors in order to run for office.

You, too, can run for office, if that is your thing. Once the candidate receives the required level of community support, the state provides the candidate with sufficient funds to run his or her campaign. The participating candidate (it is a voluntary system) must agree to neither raise nor spend any other money, including his own. This neatly gets special interest contributors right out of the picture.

And when we got to Arkansas, there was Mary and John Rauh, come to walk with us for a few days.

“Doris”, John said, “You must talk more specifically about Campaign Finance Reform. Why are you not talking about Clean Elections at the state level. And we had a meeting one night, with pouring rain outside, drumming on the windows as John talked about public funding. From that day on, I stressed public funding, because I knew he was right. It will cost 1/10 of our present system, John explained. We have been

invaded by the corporations and big money interests and we are fast losing our democracy. It controls the White House, the Senate and the House or Representatives. We have had our representatives bought right from under us. We must get the big money out of our politics, and rid ourselves of the demands of big donors for laws that favor them, slashing our service systems laws to favor the pockets of the rich.

There are 100 Senators and 400+ House Members and today here are 30,000 lobbyists in Washington, D. C. representing these corporations and big interests. There is little chance that they, the elected politicians, will make a change until a grass roots effort is made. John Rauh tells about a sleepless night when he got up and went to his computer and envisioned an organization that would concentrate on passing a bill at the federal level, for public funding. His sleepless night ended in the forming of an organization he calls Just \$6, which he says is the amount needed yearly from each of we voters to

produce a system that will save our democracy and bring us back to a government of, by and for the people. A system to leave a decent legacy to our children, and a system that memorializes those people who gave up their lives in wars to defend that democracy, even as the young men and women believe they are doing for us in Iraq this very day.

I give you a dedicated man, who has worked ceaselessly, selflessly since the year 2000.

John Rauh