

SPEECH OPENING THE PUBLIC HEARING ON HB794 ON
September 2, 2008 IN CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Doris Haddock/Robin Foster

Thank you.

It is normally expected that, when given an opportunity to speak, I will talk about campaign finance reform and, more specifically, about the public financing of campaigns as a way of cutting the threads of the big-money puppet show in Washington and in Concord.

Today is no exception. Happily for you, or unhappily, whichever way you are bending, they have limited me to two minutes, to state the case.

*Now called
§5 Chapter* ~~HB794~~ HB794 was passed by the Senate, the House + signed into law by the governor. It is now called Chapter 55.

[~~The HB794 we are asking you to consider is an amendment to the final bill already accepted by the Senate, the House and signed by the Governor. The amendment requires clarification of the language of the bill and prohibits any use of the general fund to finance its implementation.~~

Some 30 states and a number of cities and towns are in the process of adopting public funding. Maine and Arizona have already adopted public funding by citizen initiative and in 2009 Connecticut will have it by action of the legislature. What we are seeing here is a citizens' movement from the grassroots which I believe will be unstoppable.

Public Funding of our politics makes sense and should be added to the funding of our military, our teachers, our police, our firemen and other public officials. It will free our politicians

from needing to beg for campaign expenses which they find demeaning and disagreeable and which makes them beholden to their donors.

How wonderful it would be if N. H., Maine and Connecticut become models for the other states to follow! When sufficient states have accepted the system a critical mass will form and it will go federal. When that happens John Rauh, with his federal bill, will be there to take over.

We could be making history today ladies and gentlemen. Let's make an all-out effort to find an acceptable source of funding for this bill. The step toward changing the way our country's elections are funded will be making a contribution toward saving the world. When you are my age you will sit and smile as you think about it, for you will know that you did the right thing!

Thank you.

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