

Arizona

Thank you very much. *for inviting me to speak*

This is the third of your national conventions I have been given the opportunity to address. The first time was in 2000, five years ago. I was 90 at that time and I certainly didn't imagine that the both of us would still be kicking in 2005...because, you know, third parties don't live forever.

I am delighted that you are meeting in Yuma in the Arizona desert. I enjoyed walking through the Mojave Desert, which extends north of where you are meeting, on my walk across the US in 2000. When I finally got to Texas, I met a young lady named Shene' Hoffpauir ^{who} connected me with the Reform Party and we had quite a great time doing those thousand Texas miles.

the Reform Party - *out*
You helped me get the word ~~out~~ about campaign finance reform. We turned around the Dallas Morning News and we turned around tens of thousands of people.

When I got within 100 miles of Washington DC, they had one of their worst blizzards on record. There was no way to continue walking, so I sent for my old skis and did the last 100 miles that way. *cross-country skiing*

Old Senator Mitch McConnell—he is younger than I am but I call him Old Mitch because corruption can age a man terribly—he said that the reform bill would pass Congress when hell freezes over. So I had my picture taken on my skis and sent it to him.

Well, with your help, we passed that bill, the McCain-Feingold bill, but it seems that strengthening one dike against special interest money doesn't matter much if the other dikes are down. And so Washington, when it comes to

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corrupt money, should be called awashington, and it is worse than ever.

the McCain / Feingold.

But poor Mr. DeLay's current problems resulted from his attempt to get around ~~our little~~ law, so it is rather like we have been setting our traps in the forest by night, and we have a few pelts on our belts.

The Senate

Now, since I talked with you last, I must confess I did an awful thing: I ran for ~~Congress~~. Of course I didn't take any PAC money or other special interest money, so there wasn't much danger of my winning. I refused that money, of course, because a lady has her reputation to think of. I knew that if I really wanted to be a —well, you know what—I really should have started three-quarters of a century or so earlier.

Besides, Washington is awash in those, too. And can you imagine a town with uglier Johns than Washington. What an unpleasant town to sell yourself in, and yet it is quite the thing today. Nearly all our representatives are very into it.

the Senate

I ran for ~~Congress~~ so that I could use the platform of the campaign to talk about something good and something bad: campaign finance reform and George Bush.

Our campaign helped tip New Hampshire away from Mr. Bush, in fact. So that was all I had seriously hoped for. We on the margins must hope that our marginal contributions can sometimes tip history, and that is precisely what we sometimes do.

If ever there was a time when the history of our nation needs tipping, it is now. And let me get very serious here for a moment, for I believe I am talking to a room full of intelligent people who are young enough and smart enough to move

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history, and I know you will. So let me add my encouragement.

The world is locked in a battle to the death between traditionalism and modern^{is}^{ms}, when in fact those need to coexist. But our internationalized corporations are pushing matters into wars and into terrorism, and you and I and our grandchildren are paying an inhuman price—now and in the future.

These same beasts are tearing down our environment, actually ruining the world's climate, and buying our politicians out from under us so that there is no peaceful thing left for us to do.

Some of you get upset about immigration, but it is a symptom of the international machinery of colonial exploitation that has made us the plantation house in a world of economic slaves, and the answer is not to lock the doors but to end the exploitation so that people can stay in the homelands they love.

Corporations are more powerful than nations, and they have to be killed.

I don't know how to do it. But it has to be done. There is a proper scale of things that must be preserved if human freedom, human dignity, human economies and human lives are to be protected and advanced. Our enemy is not the corrupt politician or the man dying in the desert so that his family can have a life. That man and the men in this room are brothers in a global struggle against exploitation and against the corporate scale that drives it, against all human values. Every three and a half seconds someone, usually a child, dies of hunger on this garden planet. We are not taking

care even of our own species, and we have to change things. We have to change nearly everything, except the love that people feel for their children and the respect they give their neighbors, and that is enough to build nations and a world upon. Who do we think we are to allow such suffering on this, our little planet?

So, yes, ladies and gentlemen, make your mark. Look for the heart of darkness and drive your swords deep into it, flying not the flags of hatred and division but of love and responsibility. There is nothing more pitiful than a wasted life in a time when heroes are required.

We must transcend everything we know about politics. It is time to shake the planet awake from its nightmares and show the new way forward. It can only be done with love, I assure you, and only with a keen respect for wisdom, and respect.

Strange times, we have lived to see: the Christian Right has become an immoral cult of death, promoting war and torture and assassination, tearing down science and logic itself so that new inquisitions might cancer-out in every direction. I do not believe that a truly moral and thoughtful person can remain a member of the Republican Party any longer. It is time for such people to go, to stop lending their names to lies and torture, to the dismantling of America. These people have no place to go, for the Democratic Party has sold itself and it does not represent what many of these lost Republicans truly believe.

Something has to give, and it soon will. I don't know if third parties will prosper, or if one or both of the two parties will somehow be transformed. But it is time for people to act if they have a conscience. It is time for party leaders to offer themselves as new leaders, if they will.

Over the next few years, American political life will become something quite new. Let us all work, from the margins or from the middle, to represent America's true values: fairness, brotherhood, freedom, true compassion and the development of each person's potential. Let us demand the proper stewardship of the planet that will sustain our great grandchildren or, if we are meek in this moment, will count them as a last generation.

Thank you.

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