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My Folders

OUTLINE FOR SAN FRANCISCO TALK

After the death of my husband and also of my best friend, I decide to walk across the USA at the age of 89 to talk to people, town-by-town, about the need for campaign finance reform--an unlikely issue.

My son sets up physical training to help me get ready: and tests I must meet before going;

After getting in condition and meeting my son's tests, I fly to California to begin my walk.

Traveling as a pilgrim, I meet interesting, helpful people along the way.

I turn 89 as I cross the Colorado River into Arizona at the town of Parker. I am met by the Marine Band, playing Happy Birthday, and by national news shows, who start promoting my walk for reform.

I am hospitalized for dehydration in the desert, but resume my walk. I cross Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas in the summer heat and often through sand storms.

A famous reporter from the New York Times comes to walk with me, but can't keep up.

By the time I am walking through Texas, I have come to some national notice, and am whisked here and there around the country to make speeches on behalf of campaign finance reform, though I always return to the road.

[info](#) By the time I get to the Appalachian Mountains--a hard climb--I meet blizzard conditions. It is very difficult.

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High



I turn 90 years old in Cumberland, Maryland, and ski the remaining 100 miles to Washington DC, as the heavy snows make walking impossible.

Some 2,300 people meet me in Washington D.C. to walk the final miles to the Capitol Building. Many Members of Congress are among them. The Today Show and Good Morning America cover the event live.

I speak on the Capitol Steps with many Members of Congress and government reform leaders. Two more years of active work proves necessary to get the reform bill passed by the House and the Senate, and signed by the President.

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I write a memoir of the trek and it is published by Random House.

I continue speaking out for campaign reform, even running for U.S. Senate at the age of 94 to keep at it.

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OUTLINE FOR TALK WITH FOLKS IN SAN FRANCISCO

1. Plan to walk across the u. so. at the age of 29.
 - A.. Help from son who sets up physical regime for the walk-- who thinks he can make it so difficult his old mother will give up the crazy idea..
 - a. Walking daily ten miles, carry 29lb pack with sleweping bag, trail mix, and change of underwear.
 - b. sleeping on ground for month, in sleeping bag in cold of November
 - c. thumbing ride to show I could do it, if I get up one morning finding it no fund & going home.
 - d. getting route from AA, and a letter of support from Common Cause.
 - e. writing letters to all possible help along the way. Churches, Sierra Club, Police Chiefs in various little towns.
 - B. Announce I am ready and all demands of physical regime complete.
 - C. Travel as a Pilgrim, seeking shelter from good people and getting it across California.
 - D. Meeting camper sent to me at 29 Palms in order to cross the Mohave dessert.
 - a. Get dehydrated in dessert, in spite of the camper and water and end up in hospital.
 - b. Start again . Cross Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas in the summer heat. reporter from New York Times comes to walk and gives up.
 1. People lining streets to see me pass, TV and radio attention.
 - D. I turn 90 years old in Cumberland and the band plays for me.
 - E. Hit snow in West Virginia and the A[[alachian mountains and send for my skis and ski down the abandoned C & O Canal 100 miles into Washington, D. C.
 - F. 2,300 people walk into Washington, D. C. with me, from all over the country. and I speak on the Capitol steps.
 - F. Write book with Burke, "Youre are never too old to raise a little hell" and it becomes popular as a read, in colleges and schools: showing power of one, and in rest homes showing what you can do at 90 years of age, if you are follish enough to do so!