

## **SPEECH FOR PAUL HODES**

**Peterborough Unitarian church June 10. 2006**

**During the 2004 campaign I saw and heard Paul Hodes most every afternoon when we candidates all got together on someone's lawn and made speeches to people who came to hear. Sometimes those lawns were rough-mown grass, and Paul never failed to take my elbow to make sure I didn't fall.**

**Mr. Bass first ran for office in 1994 and he raised \$459,000. By the time he ran in 2000 he was able to raise \$782,000. Somebody liked him very much for what he was doing.**

**I went to hear Charlie speak for the first time in 1994, when I was volunteering help to a candidate who was running against Charlie.**

**That was the year that someone, in the middle of the night, two days before election day, had painted out the B in Bass. We had a 8 by 4' sign on our Main Street and it was a lot of work getting it repainted. Some people were mean enough to think it should have been left unpainted that it suited Charlie just fine.**

**The speech I went to was in Wilton and my candidate made a splendid speech, dealing with all the issues and giving an idyllic picture of the future should he be elected. I thought it was a winner. Then Charlie got up, real casual like and asked us for our vote and then went into a real landed gentry tale . He never mentioned issues, but gave us a wonderful story about the Bass family and the men that had served New Hampshire, how well they had done, how they were an old family in the area, while his opponent had come from New York when he married a local girl, and he seemed a fine fellow, but what did he know about New Hampshire? And what he said was very true about his father and his grandfather and we all knew that and that Charlie really should be the one to represent us, so he won that race, because his family were old landed gentry and had lived in this area for many many moons and he had raised twice the money my candidate had.**

**When the McCain-Feingold bill for Campaign Finance Reform hit a snag and was in limbo because Charlie and three other members of the House who were following his lead, were refusing**

to sign a release we got the word to do something in N. H. if we didn't want the whole thing to collapse. We sent out word that we needed help, and 82 people showed up and we climbed the stairs to Charlie's office in Keene, and we stood there, like a bunch of sardines in a too small can, some of us standing in the hall and others down the stairs. We took turns reading from a 99 page report of money that had been given to the House of Representative Members the previous election. At 5:00 o'clock his office girl, who had been very patient with us, announced she was closing the office, so we said that was all right and thanked her for letting us spend the day there and we would be back in the morning. What time did she open in the morning? Charlie got the message and the next day he and his three friends signed. What it cost Charlie to give in we didn't know. We did know the McCain Bill was alive again.

So Charlie can be beaten, and we have the man that can do it. Because this state has come alive and the voters know what is important is not how much money Charlie can raise from rich corporate oilmen donors, who will steal the time from Charlie that belongs to you and me, his constituents. The voters want some one that isn't owned by a corporation.



**When I was in Washington, trying to convince both Republicans and Democrats to vote for the McCain Feingold non-partisan bill, I never could seem to get to see Charlie. One day I was standing in front of the Capitol building talking to some students when Charlie went by with a group of other business suited white shirted, fancy neck-tied men, and I realized they were probably headed for a two cocktail gentleman's lunch. I lost all proud and called to Charlie. running a few steps as I called. He looked back to see who was calling him and when he saw me he said over his shoulder, "You know where I stand. You don't need to see me." I knew where he stood all right, wherever his Republican leader told him to stand. And wherever his rich donors told him how to vote. Charlie took a few quick steps to catch up with his friends, and I imagined he told them it was a silly old lady. who ought to go home and make some cookies.**

**So if you are looking for a handsome man that is a fine courteous gentleman, a man that will never run away from you, that will find time for you, that knows the issues and will talk to you about them. Who is willing to give up time in his young life from a career in law, to serve us. A man that**

**will take your elbow to help you over the rough  
times in your life Let's help him to make a  
change. Let's vote in Paul Hodes.**

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