

For Immediate Release

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From: Ted Ankrum for Congress 2010

To: Media Outlets, open use

The Best Government Money Can Buy : by Ted Ankrum

The Senate just refused to pass legislation requiring foreign and US corporations, and other advocacy groups like labor unions to disclose who is paying for political advertisements. It was done on a party-line vote and puts the lie to the assertion that Democrats control the Congress. Without 60 votes, the Senate cannot take up debate on ANY Bill, and the Democrats only have 59 votes, so the Democrats do NOT have control of the Congress, the Republicans do.

A Supreme Court decision in the 19th Century held that corporations have the same rights as a person. A Supreme Court Justice of the same era said that a corporation was a way to have private profit while spreading liability to the public. However, corporations are here to stay. Based on the decision that a corporation has the same rights as a person, the Roberts Supreme Court struck down any limits on spending by corporations, both foreign and domestic, and advocacy groups on political campaigns.

American political campaigns are dominated by money to spend on television advertising. Today, the viability of a campaign is measured by how much money the candidate has to spend. Press coverage on campaigns is more often about the process of raising campaign cash than the issues. Our representatives are elected with campaign cash. It's why almost all successful first-time candidates elected to Congress are millionaires--they spend their own money, because challengers can't get support from the big donors.

In a very few years, "our" representatives are going to be owned by the big corporations willing and able to spend huge sums on advertising for or against a particular candidate. If you think the lobbyists own them now, think how it will be when a lobbyist tells a member of Congress: "vote this way, or we'll spend X millions of dollars on ads against you and for your opponent". Before the Roberts Court decision, this wasn't legal. Now it is. The Bill the Republicans killed would not have made the spending illegal--the Supreme Court has said it is--it simply would have required any ads to state who paid for them and for the person in charge to appear in the ad saying they approved the message, just as political candidates are required to do. Then

you, the voters, could judge for yourselves.

We all know that big business favors the Republicans, and vice-versa. Thus, the Republican-controlled Senate killed the Bill. Labor unions have been so reduced by big business and it's Republican cohorts that they will never be able to counter the impact of unlimited and secret big business spending. Welcome to the beginning of an America controlled by the big corporations.

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