

The Passy Press

Letter to the Editor

From: Henry Clifford hcliffordws@undisclosed.com

To: Nick Gardiner enpg@thepassypress.com

Date: April 12, 2015

Subject: Re: New Essay Expose on Our Federal Government & What to Do About It

Dear Sir,

I am in complete agreement with Haven Pell's description of the corruption of our political system and the need to "occupy K Street" or perhaps in a larger context, occupy Washington.

The remedy he suggests is to "encourage" elected officials "to make a pledge that elaborates on the meaning of their oath of office . . ." We are not told what this pledge would consist of or how to persuade, or force, against their interest, elected officials to sign on to it. And if they did sign on what organization or body would monitor their compliance? The electorate? An appointed commission? Who?

In my experience I have found that even the strongest critics of our elected officials do not communicate their disapproval and demand for change to those officials. Our older generation having paid the taxes, fought the wars, fulfilled their obligation as citizens, and with the future of their children and grandchildren hanging in the balance, still do not make their voices heard. They are the largest stakeholders and have the time and resources to be game changers. For every billionaire corrupting the democratic process there are thousands of others who, collectively, can make change happen. Instead, they are mostly absent from the arena while, as Haven Pell points out, the lobbyists are always there with checkbook in hand.

It's not just that the playing field is tilted. One team is a powerhouse and the other is weak and apathetic.

Henry Clifford, Essex CT

Henry Clifford graduated from University of Pennsylvania then served in Korea with the Marine Corps. He has had a business career largely in investment banking and held elected and appointed positions in local government. He is the Co-founder and Chairman of the Committee for Peace in Israel and Palestine, Editor of the local monthly publication, Meadowords, and board member of Connecticut World Affairs Council. He has two children, seven grandchildren, and resides in Essex CT.