

# The Passy Press

## Letter to the Editor

**From:** Jamie McLane [jmclane@undisclosed.com](mailto:jmclane@undisclosed.com)

**To:** Nick Gardiner [enpg@thepassypress.com](mailto:enpg@thepassypress.com)

**Date:** May 13, 2015

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

Dear Sir,

Haven Pell's thesis is right on target. Special interests, and their lawyers and lobbyists, own Washington, D.C. These K street firms generate the money from special interest entities, and lots of it, and the money buys votes for a particular specialized interest bill, whether good for the country as a whole or not.

I see 3 solutions:

1. All Senators and Congressional Representatives be required to disclose quarterly where all their money comes from (all payments and contributions over \$1,000) to fund their offices in D.C. and in their home districts, and for their PAC. The contributor's name and address, and if a corporation or private company, identification of the industry in which the organization has its principal business would be required.
2. A lifetime ban on lawmakers ever becoming lobbyists
3. Return to the concept of Revenue Sharing as proposed by the Nixon Administration in the early 70's. The whole theory was to reverse the growing flow of power - - resources and influence to Washington - - back to the States and to the communities. These were the priorities at the time. A myriad of categorical grants (which by definition are special interest driven today) were combined into 6 special purpose programs (block grants) for law enforcement, manpower, education, transportation, rural community development and urban development. The funds for these programs would be given to the states and counties and local governments each year in block grants. These grants would then be used by states, the counties and the cities, and not federally with federally mandated regulations. The whole idea was to get tightly bound program money flowing back to the States and communities in massive general grants. The idea was to move accountability closer to the people. Obviously, there are issues related to different states and locales using the funds differently, but the money and accountability would be closer to the people. K Street would now have to set up shop in 50 states, and many counties and communities, not just D.C.. K Street would now have to deal with state, county and local governments and not just Federal agencies, as they do principally today. The General Revenue Sharing Bill was signed into law by President Nixon on October 20, 1972.

Campaign Finance might be drawn into the discussion. Estimates for spending on the 2016 Presidential campaign are now \$5 billion - double what Obama and Romney spent in 2012. Twenty times the \$240 million spent by Clinton and Dole in 1996. As Churchill said: "democracy is the worst form of government except for all the others". The British now are in middle of a 6 week campaign - total cost is estimated to be under \$50million. And, that is for 600 members of Parliament. Not a lot of room for influence peddling here. We need to limit campaign spending. And, stop our President and Senators and Congressmen being compromised by billions of private and corporate investments.

Jamie McLane  
Bryn Mawr, PA

Jamie spent a couple of years in the Department of Health Education and Welfare and in the White House in the Nixon Administration before becoming the Deputy Director of the Cost of Living Council (1972-74). His career was in finance as a SVP and Division Executive at Citibank in NY and London and then in healthcare as CEO of Aetna Health Plans, President of Novacare, Inc and CEO of Healthaxis, Inc. He has served on the board of several public and private equity backed healthcare and healthcare technology companies. He is a graduate of Yale University (1961) and the Harvard Business School (1967). He served in the U.S Navy in the Pacific (1961-65), based in Japan. He was Chairman of Outward Bound USA and is still very active in the urban based Philadelphia Outward Bound School.