

The Passy Press

Letter to the Editor

From: John Hennessy johnhennessy@undisclosed.com

To: Nick Gardiner enpg@thepassypress.com

Date: April 3, 2015

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

Dear Sir,

Haven has it right about the influence and power of K St. What put the nail in the coffin was the Supreme Court decision that money was free-speech, ignoring the long history of money breeding corruption and concentration of power in the hands of a few.

He lets Wall Street off much too easily. They have financed the moral corruption and concentration of power on K St., which has led to lifetime incumbency of our leaders, without accountability.

The one thing that Gingrich had right in the Charter for America was that each Republican, newly elected to Congress, would take an oath to abide by term limits. However, in the real world of big money and power concentrated in Washington, the freshman class that was elected in 1994, and had pledged to abide by the term limit, succumbed to the power and pleasures of Washington and not one resigned when his term was up. End of story.

I am going to send you a recent lecture by a Harvard Professor of history at the Roxbury Latin school, pointing out that Montaigne had instructed us that 4 cultural values are required for the long term survival of democracy: Restraint, humility, self rule (self-discipline) and reciprocity. He also points out that the inherent conflicts generated by a functioning democracy's often unleash forces that erode and then destroy the cultural resources on which democracy depends. Sadly, in the current American body politic, starting at the very top, one would be hard put to find even 1 of these essential values.

Best wishes,

Jack

John Hennessy is the former Chief Executive of CS-First Boston and was Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Treasury.