



During the 20th Century, that effort brought forth a legal ban on the use of corporate and union treasury money in our political campaigns. Why? Because the great powers of such organizations, often managed internationally and using money coming from around the world, can always crush, over the long term, the influence of individual citizens striving for self-governance and the freedoms of self-governing people.

That long-standing ban on the use of corporate and union treasury money in our campaigns has eroded, as those institution have found ways to give millions to parties and to partisan committees, with the understanding that 92% of those dollars will be slipped into the palms of candidate committees. It is that abuse that the Shays-Meehan bill would correct.

Mr. Ney now proposes to take sides with those giant institutions, against the interests of the individual, the human, the citizen, and against the Shays-Meehan bill. How can ^{we} ~~I~~ not come stand here and express ^{our} ~~my~~ concern? I would not be here if ^{we} ~~I~~ thought ^{this} ~~my~~ modest protest would in any way obstruct or delay the workings of Congress. ^{this office} ~~I~~ believe in that process, for it is ^{our} ~~my~~



office
Congress, too. So, *we* I stand here out of the way, but stand *we* I must.

Rep Bob
~~Mr. Ney~~ knows the dangers of big money in politics. [He represents a coal mining region in Ohio, and must therefore balance the interests of coal mining companies with the interests of individual miners and their families.] He must balance the economic needs of his district with its environmental needs. That is a difficult job, and I commend him for it. [Yet Bob Ney accepts more money in his campaigns from coal mining companies than any other member of the U. S. House of Representatives, which must make his job that much more difficult. How to maintain fairness, when your political survival is held in the hands of the big coal companies? He is a giant, an ethical genius, for managing this seemingly impossible challenge.

Those coal dollars are not the "soft" dollars given by corporate treasuries, but are hard dollars given personally by executives and their PACs. Such money is not the subject of the current campaign finance reform effort before Congress. But that flow of money, and Mr. Ney's position as the top recipient of coal money in the



House, ought to give him pause before he commences to sabotage the efforts of the American people to clean out the corrupting influences of money given directly by giant corporations and union treasuries. Does he not worry that, despite his efforts to fairly and effectively represent his district and the American people, that he will be chided by history as Bribery Bob Ney for his high-profile defense of the present condition of political corruption?

What will history say of those who stand with him in his effort to preserve the present corruption?

Does Mr. Ney and those who stand with him truly defend the huge contributions made by special interests into the coffers of our parties and then into the hands of our candidates and public officials?

The big soft money donors -- corporations and unions -- who can give a million dollars are presently riding in the front of democracy's bus. We citizens of every color are now asked to sit in the back. We will not sit there. We will stand here until we are taken away.



Mr. Ney's bill is an attempt to defeat serious reform. Mr. Ney's bill would allow corporations and union treasuries to contribute up to \$900,000 per election. We the people are not fooled or amused. That is not reform, and those who vote for it are not for reform.

Consider this a bribery filibuster to begin in this office and continue where it must, here and around the country.

The list begins with a contribution from ...