

## Money in Democracy Theme-Policy Making,

### Questions & Notes on Answers

#### 1. How do expenditures on lobbying compare to campaign expenditures?

4 times

Bill McKibbens Energy article

#### 2. What sectors are the biggest funders of corporate lobbying?

Handout

Add up all of the FIRE group, they do way more than any other industry

Comber of Commerce biggest spender

#### 3. How did the early lobbyists operate?

Smooth, congenial with all the right social graces. Gentility, Jeffery Pasley

#### 4. How has our right to petition the government been manipulated by corporations?

Excuse for established lobbying industry in DC

#### 5. How do lobbyists influence policymakers?

Services that they cannot provide themselves

Provide political intelligence

#### 6. What is the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)?

Been around for decades

Koch Funded

ALEC Exposed

Lisa Graves – Center for Media & Democracy – John Stauber The rise of PR Firms

#### 7. How has conservative philanthropy influenced policymaking?

Nikki Jagpal – Center for Responsive Philanthropy

Axis of Ideology

#### 8. How does Congress work as a lobbyist training school?

Donny Shaw – Open Congress

Both Congressmen and staff

Abramoff Quote:

*“When we would become friendly with an office and they were important to us, and the chief of staff was a competent person, I would say or my staff would say to him or her at some point, ‘You know, when you're done working on the Hill, we'd very much like you to consider coming to work for us.’ Now the moment I said that to them or any of our staff said that to 'em, that was it. We owned them. And what does that mean? Every request from our office, every request of our clients, everything that we want, they're gonna do. And not only that, they're gonna think of things we can't think of to do.”*

#### 9. How influential was/is the Occupy Movement?

Changed the national debate

Ongoing local actions

Ashley Sanders article in Occupy Issue

#### 10. How did the Populists deal with Public Policy?

Reinvented Public Policy

Sub treasury, Regulations & Publicly owned railroads

### **11. How does the Power Elite work?**

Long Term Social Relationships, World Social Forum, Business Roundtable  
Non Profit Think Tanks  
Elite Decision makers using Market decision making

### **12. Who was Alexander Hamilton & what heritage did he create?**

First Sec of Treasury - Scion of British Money - Monied Interests in the Govt.  
America needed the monied elite or it would be overrun by Europe  
Rule by the Elite

### **13. How does the Revolving door work?**

From Corps to the Administration  
From Government Employee to Lobbyist  
From Corporate Exec to Congressional staff  
Advisory committees etc

### **14. Are our public policies "Insanity"?**

Chris Hedges Welcome to the Asylum  
RD Lang Crazy people are considered and Normal People are considered

### **15. What are the impacts of Think tanks?**

Policy making  
Reservoir of policy makers  
Changing the narrative  
Getting Corporate Story into the media

### **16. What are the most effective corporate Think Tanks?**

Council on Foreign Relations  
Heritage Foundation & AEI

### **17. How can we make policy makers loyal to the common good?**

Esprit de corps  
Confidentiality agreements

### **18. How can Community Rights ordinances keep depredations of corporate policy makers out of our lives?**

CELDF  
Measure S  
Proclaiming local rights that supersede corporate rights

### **19. How are corporations involved with Federal Advisory committees?**

POGO Article- Defense Department, FDA, Energy Advisory Boards

### **20. How are DC NGOs trying to deal with the revolving door?**

Revolving Door Working Group

Center for Corporate Policy, Center for Environmental Health, Center for Science in the Public Interest, Center of Concern/Agribusiness Accountability Initiative, Common Cause, Corporate Research Project of Good Jobs, Government Accountability Project Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Organization for Competitive Markets, Project On Government Oversight, Public Citizen, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Revolt of the Elders

A Matter of Trust How the Revolving Door Undermines Public Confidence in Government and What to do about it - 2005

## **21. How can we separate Corporations and State?**

Have class come up with suggestions

Publicly financed elections

Prohibit lobbying sponsored by corporate entities