

former Rep. John Anderson and his top aide, David Stockman. *David Stockman, the "opponent of government regulation," is credited with writing the 1971 Federal Election Campaign Act.* While George McGovern and Joseph Califano pushed for the elimination of federal campaign contributions replaced by 100 percent financing through the U.S. Treasury (for "established" campaigns), they settled for the FECA of 1974. This was enacted several days after Nixon's 1974 resignation. The linkage had been clearly made: Nixon's ties to certain constituencies were a crime.

At this point a transformation was well under way to alter the composition of the political parties. The limitations on contributions and the fear of overt labor/business/public-official relations helped the demise of traditional party politics.

Democratic Party officials admit that the GOP has beat them in mastering the election reform laws. These officials have initiated major fundraising programs to better compete with the Republicans, while Socialist International elements among Democrats are promoting fragmentation into several ideologically based parties. GOP officials have expressed self-satisfaction with the Reagan victory, crediting direct-mail schemes for the fact that the victory was the most significant "constituency" mobilization for a candidate in more than a decade.

Abolish the FEC

For President Reagan, the question of the FEC is critical. The proposals he has received to abolish the FEC, i.e., raise or remove contribution limits, and turn over auditing and enforcement to existing agencies like the GAO and the Department of Justice, could worsen and, at best, certainly not repair the damage done to American politics. Properly executed, the abolition of the FEC means cleaning out the networks within the Justice Department, the Congress, and the administration itself that have been and continue to be part of the Aspen project. For example, OMB head David Stockman was, in his previous life, a founding father of the FEC. Stockman remains on record in agreement with all key aspects of the Aspen Institute program.

These networks have most recently carried out the Abscam-Brilab-Pendorf entrapments. These are also the networks who are trying to bring down Mr. Reagan through desperate efforts to involve his constituents—the Teamsters, his congressional base, and his personal associates—in a new "Watergate."

The Congress must seriously reflect on the last twenty years. Recognizing the history of the subversion of American constituency politics, Congress should repeal the FECA of 1974, and reaffirm the political process specified in the U.S. Constitution that is the very foundation of the Republic.

Anti-Volcker moves shake up Washington

President Reagan's economic recovery program is doomed unless interest rates are brought down, according to spokesmen of the National Coalition to Reduce Interest Rates who told a large Washington press corps turnout June 22 that the nation needs: 1) an immediate lowering of interest rates; 2) the removal of Paul Volcker as chairman of the Federal Reserve; 3) emergency lower-interest credit for productive industry; 4) increased congressional oversight of the Fed; and 5) amendment of the Federal Reserve Act to ensure "that in the future, there will always be long-term, low-interest credit accessible to productive industry," in the words of coalition chairman Stan Hoynitski.

Hoynitski heads the Pennsylvania car-retailers association. Also on the steering committee are Lloyd McBride, United Steelworkers (USWA) president; John McCarrel, UAW local 544 (Pittsburgh) president; and Mike Bonn, USWA local 2227 (Pittsburgh) president.

Hoynitski stressed that continued high interest rates threaten the economies, and therefore the national security, of every nation in the Western alliance, then pointed to statements by Japanese and European leaders indicating that they will make this a number-one priority for discussion at the Ottawa heads of state summit in July.

Jim Smith, who spoke for USWA head Lloyd McBride, stated: "The experiment that Volcker is trying is not a new experiment, nor is it one where we don't already know the results. . . . The results of the Thatcher program [in Britain] have been that inflation is higher and the number of people at work is lower." Wouldn't lowering interest rates cause more inflation? asked a *Money* magazine reporter. "No," said Smith. "High interest rates cause inflation." "After 18 months of Volcker's program," added Hoynitski, "inflation should be down nearly 6 percent—and it isn't." Further, Hoynitski explained, the Volcker measures cause "Eurodollars to pour into this country" to take advantage of high rates, aggravating inflation.

Mike Bonn of the Steelworkers reported: "The steel industry is stagnant, it's old and has to be rebuilt—or we fight our next war with rubber bullets, not steel."

UPI, Reuters, Public Affairs Broadcasting, the Field News Service and others questioned the spokesmen for nearly an hour with Hoynitski reporting on morning meetings with Democratic Senators Boren, Melcher, Pryor, Sasser, and Zorinsky.