

Sept. 10, 1993

Dear Brian:

Re: "Journalist's Round table today"

It was one of the BEST Shows of 1993. Please keep up the excellent work, and to all C-Span employees, the excellent Team Work.

I hope soon, you will have a "Political Round table"
 1 ea Republican Representative and Senator with
 1 ea Democrat " " " " "
 a 2 hour show with 90% Call-ins - on the Current agenda for the balance of 93 and 94 Budget year.

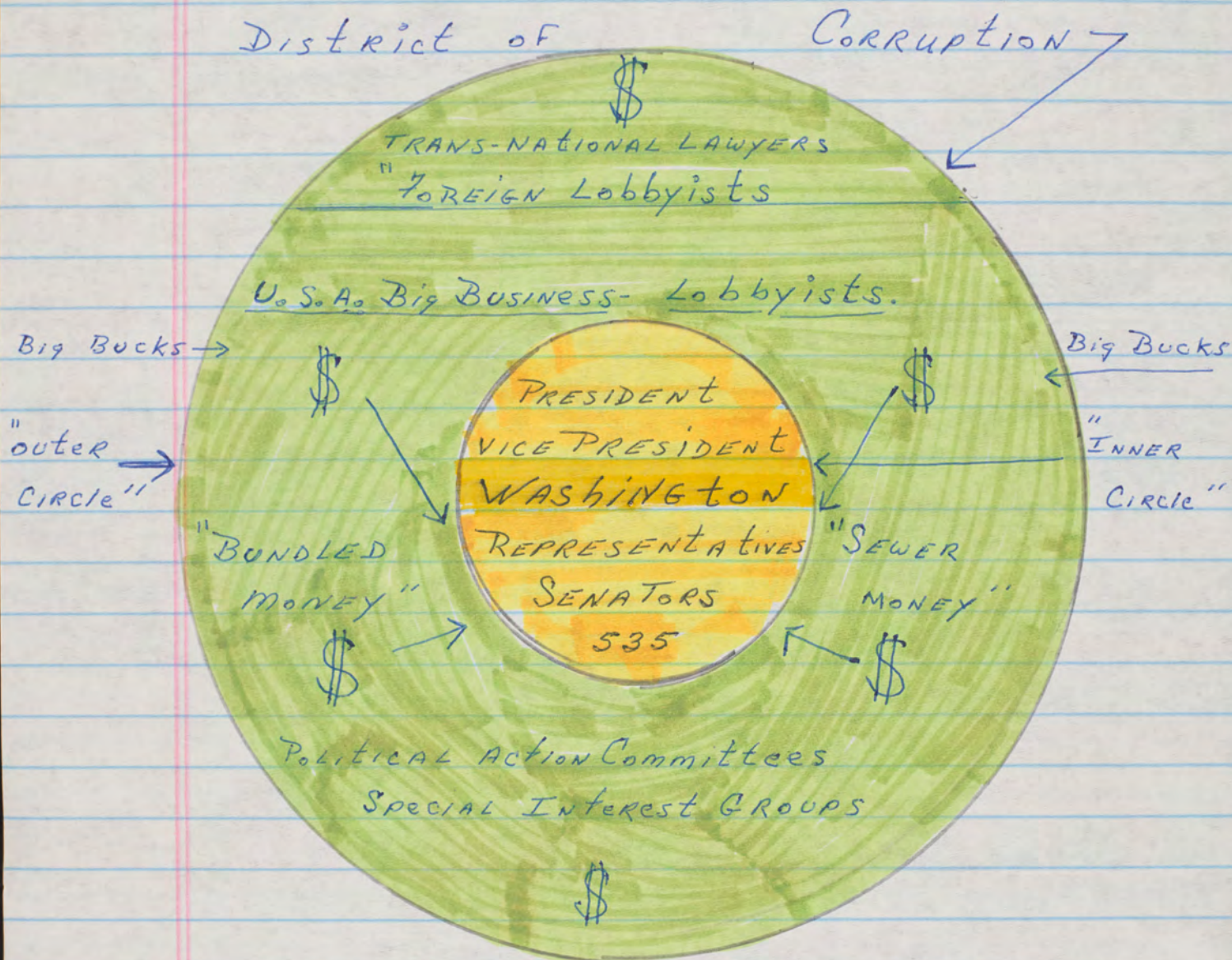
Two questions to be asked:

- 1). N.A.F.T.A. is illegal/Unconstitutional, along with T.E.A/T.A.A - 1962
 - 2). Trans-National Lawyers - "Foreign Lobbyists" also illegal/unconstitutional -
- 1). Const. Article I, Section 8 #1
 → 2). " Article IV Section 4

Please when answering my letter (s) you need not send a C-Span booklet. The cost of printing and postage do add up. I now have two very informative booklets.

Thank You Mr. Lent for Honest Tele Viewing
 I hope you can use the Enclosed. Respectfully

Where is Washington?



my voice
my vote

your voice
your vote

ROSS PEROT
CITIZENS-USA

Sept. 10 1993

9-10-93

■ William Safire

Bush and Iraqgate men protected well by Clinton

WASHINGTON — George Bush privately assured Bill Clinton that he would not criticize the new president during the first year of his term. I cannot attribute that to any source, but trust me. And Bush has kept his word.

In what may be an unspoken quid pro quo, the Clinton administration has moved to quash any revelations about Bush's Iraqgate scandal.

You remember Iraqgate: the White House corruption of Agriculture's loan guarantee program to slip foreign aid billions through an Italian bank to Saddam Hussein, which he used to finance his secret nuclear buildup. The Bush Justice Department sought to contain the scandal by pretending the Italian bank knew nothing of its Atlanta office's huge Iraqi dealings — despite suppressed CIA evidence to the contrary.

During the '92 campaign, Al Gore accurately charged that "the CIA reported to Secretary of State James Baker . . . that Iraq was clandestinely procuring nuclear weapons" while State was urging more loan guarantees to appease the dictator. Candidate Clinton, asked if he would favor a special Iraqgate prosecutor under a new Independent Counsel Act, replied unequivocally: "Yes."

That was then. Last week, in Atlanta federal court, Clinton Justice arranged for the local Banca Lavoro manager to cop a plea on three minor charges of what had been a 347-count indictment, thereby blocking full disclosure of Rome's corrupt involvement — with guilty knowledge of U.S. officials — in a public trial.

John Hogan, Attorney General Janet Reno's longtime assistant in Miami, is the prosecutor who insists that the bank in Rome was innocent, over the plea bargainer's continued disputation. Federal Judge Marvin Shoob, the Sirica in this case, rejects Hogan's contention as "absurd . . . never-never land." He sees a "wider-ranging sophisticated conspiracy that involved BNL-Rome . . . and the governments of the U.S., England, Italy and Iraq."

But Ms. Reno's man, who joined Justice on June 7, has conducted what she falsely calls "a thorough independent investigation," resulting in "no reason to change our opinion."

Thus Clinton appointees at Justice have closed ranks with prosecutors and fixers desperate not to be brought before a grand jury by a truly independent counsel. Bush Justice appointed the lawyer for Saddam's main arms purchaser as U.S. Attorney in Atlanta; Clinton Justice is appointing a lawyer from King & Spalding, BNL's law firm, who previously worked on the case as a prosecutor to be U.S. Attorney there now.

Reno is unconcerned at how her assertion of BNL-Rome's innocence bolsters the Italian bank's claim against the United States for \$380-million of the loans to Saddam that James Baker persuaded Agriculture's Clayton Yeutter to guarantee. If the Criminal Division holds that Rome was victimized, shouldn't the United States pay up? "Apples and oranges," Hogan tells me; that's the Civil Division's job.

Hogan is familiar with Italian suits, having once been accused of receiving stolen clothing in a Miami "hot suit" case; he earned a straight-arrow reputation by resigning as prosecutor despite his innocence.

But now he uses "ongoing investigation" to duck questions, despite St. Janet's claim of his work having already been "thorough"; it is patently not "independent."

Did Hogan take testimony under oath from ex-Attorney General Dick Thornburgh about a White House meeting with Italian Ambassador Rinaldo Petrignani, directed by Rome to "raise the case to a political level"? Or ask the Criminal Division why an update on the BNL investigation was prepared for the AG just three days before that meeting?

Did he convene a grand jury to examine the Oct. 26, 1989, memo to Baker, with attached talking points and Baker notations, showing how commodity credits were abused for Saddam's backdoor financing?

Is it not a blatant conflict of interest for him to close out the Atlanta case while purporting to investigate the Atlanta prosecutors on whose work he depended?

Reno's man sayeth not. No wonder we hear not a peep of criticism about Clinton from Bush; the former president and his men are being well protected. Congress should pass the Independent Counsel Act and demand it be used in this case.

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■ Clay Bennett

9-8-93 - *St. Pete Times*

Congressman,
I need your help...



...No, I'm not
a lobbyist...



...No, I'm not
with a PAC...



...No, I'm not
a campaign
contributor...



... I'm a voter...



... Hello?...





9-6-93
COLUMNIST

**HOWARD
TROXLER**

Congress: If you can't beat 'em, bribe 'em

If you're like me, you've been worried sick this last month because Congress was on vacation, depriving the nation of its wisdom. We managed to survive.

This week Congress goes back to Washington, but its timing is bad. If I were a member I would vote to stay in hiding for another month.

We are heading toward another high tide of ill will toward Congress over the next few months, like the storm of talk-radio outrage a couple of years ago that blocked a congressional pay raise.

And who can blame the people? The recent news is only more of the same:

■ The 110 new members of the House elected last year, supposedly a force for reform, are getting almost half of their campaign money from special interests, Common Cause reports.

They raked in \$8-million for the first half of this year. The top money-getter from interest groups, we should be proud to hear, is Florida's Peter Deutsch, a Democrat from Lauderhill.

This is not surprising to me. Deutsch last year shook down a telephone company lobbyist for money right in front of me, while reminding the lobbyist of how he had voted for the phone company in the Legislature.

Deutsch was so intent on the task at hand that he kept ignoring the poor lobbyist's repeated, desperate references to me as a writer for the *St. Petersburg Times*. I actually felt sorry for the lobbyist.

■ Ralph Nader, taking a page from Ross Perot, has announced a "citizen movement" to cut congressional perks and salaries, and has provided some embarrassing statistics and nicknames for some of the biggest spenders, who dip into their campaign funds for interesting reasons.

For instance, Dan Rostenkowski of Illinois is the "Meal King" for spending \$104,000 in campaign money for meals and catering over the past two years. One member handed out \$1,261 in tips to skycaps and bellmen. Another spent \$80,000 on first-class air fares. Another spent \$7,000 at the liquor store.

■ Perot's folks, meanwhile, are campaigning against a sneaky secrecy rule in the House that lets the members hide their true position on many issues. The House is fighting back — and is using that same secrecy rule to do it.

See, when the House wants to kill an idea it doesn't like (for instance, term limits), it just keeps it bottled up in a committee.

If enough members of the House sign a "discharge" petition, the bill can be forced to a vote. But here's an outrage: The names on the petition are *secret*.

That means a member of Congress can brag to the voters all day about how she or he supports a certain idea, but still secretly help kill it by not signing the petition — and the voters never know.

Naturally, the idea to abolish this secret practice is bottled up in a committee, and officially, we don't know whether our own members of Congress are helping to kill it.

Here is a paradox about Congress: Most of the members I know work their rear ends off, from early in the morning until late at night. They do a pretty good job of serving their constituents. They are proud of their work, and hurt that the public doesn't understand them.

But collectively, they are a failure. They are borrowing 30 cents or so for every dollar they take in, and then they blow it on everything they can. They have failed utterly to fix a single one of the nation's worst problems.

So people want to get even with Congress, and the easiest way is to focus on their pay and their perks. Some people tell me we ought to cut their salaries in half, or even not pay them at all.

I disagree. I don't think we'd get a better Congress by cutting its paycheck in half. What'd we'd probably get, if it's possible, is a Congress twice as bad

So I have a counterproposal, which is to *bribe* Congress on behalf of the public interest. I think that we ought to give Congress a cut of every dollar it takes off the deficit, say 0.1 percent. If Congress saved us \$100-billion next year, its members could divvy up \$100-million, or about \$187,000 apiece.

That would be enough cash to live comfortably without relying on PAC money. So we could save money and outbid the special interests, and improve the public image of Congress at the same time. I find no flaws with this plan, and I propose that we adopt it at once.

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