

"POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEES"—ONE EXAMPLE:

On a recent radio program hosted by political commentator Bill Moyers, Professor Forest McDonald, University of Alabama, noted that Thomas Jefferson felt that "democracy" would eventually fail as more people found ways to receive funds from the Public Treasury, eventually bankrupting the government. One example here underscores the growing corruption of the present PAC contribution process —(San Jose Mercury News, 3/13/89)

Northrop Employees Political Action Committee contributed \$605,747 to members of defense-related congressional committees between 1979 and 1988, according to Federal Election Commission records.

Contributions to Hefner's 12-member defense appropriations subcommittee grew from \$4,100 in 1979-80, before the B-2 surfaced, to \$48,400 in 1987-88. Eight subcommittee members, all B-2 supporters, received \$20,000 in honoraria for touring Northrop's B-2 plants and giving speeches in 1987, the last year of complete records.

In addition, four B-2 subcontractors flourish in the southern Long Island defense industry complex championed by the late Rep. Joseph P. Addabbo, D-N.Y., subcommittee chairman until his death in 1986. His minority counterpart, former Rep. Jack Edwards, R-Ala., was paid to continue his B-2 advocacy as a Northrop consultant after he retired in 1984.

Former Rep. Bill Chappell, D-Fla., who succeeded Addabbo, received \$21,250 from NEPAC between 1983 and 1988, when he was defeated amid corruption allegations. In addition, Northrop's Washington office booked airline tickets through Air Travel Service Inc., a Washington travel agency whose vice president for business development was Chappell's wife, Jeane. (Northrop said the arrangement ended last May.)

Here one sees what can happen when the Military/Industrial complex senses a possible change in taxpayer funding. Thru the ever present propaganda apparatus, it signals its workers to 'buy' their jobs at the expense and welfare of the entire nation. This is encouraged throughout the System to the extent that billions of dollars are stolen from the public treasury. For just a few hundreds of thousands of dollars in PAC money, Northrup has purchased \$65 thousand millions of tax revenues. Rep. Hefner says to "have faith". "Faith" is a term best left to theologians. Would a grand-jury see it this way?

Northrop's goal was not to buy overwhelming appropriations subcommittee support; that it had from the outset. Rather, defense lobbyists said, it was to reward and sustain supporters, to ensure that they and their aides remained open and friendly and to build their trust in Northrop.

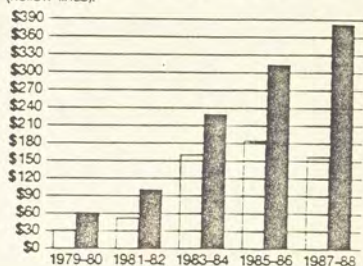
That matters. "You won't find any members on our subcommittee who can sit down and tell you any technical stuff about the B-2," according to Rep. Hefner. "Hell, I don't even understand radio."

"But you look at the briefings, films and slide shows, and it's very impressive. You come to see the potential, you know they've got some of the brightest people in the world working out there, and they say it's going to work."

"In the end, you have to have faith," he said. "There is no other way."

What Northrop workers gave

Donations, in thousands of dollars, to all of Congress (solid lines) and defense panels of both houses (hollow lines).



Source: Knight-Ridder News Service

On a recently broadcast "Bill Moyers' Journal" interview, Professor Noem Chomsky of M.I.T. noted that a public opinion poll found 75% of the respondents said they favored a military/nuclear freeze. And yet, continued Prof. Chomsky, there has been no action taken by the government to pursue this matter further. Mainly, he felt, because there is no organized mechanism for the implementation of the Public will. Instead, he went on, there is an orchestrated propaganda effort by our government to continue the expansion of nuclear and military arms.

The same can be said for state government, where the needs of the poor, the homeless, the aged, the sick and the children and the public and private institutions concerned with their care find only political indifference to their plight. Yet we are told over and over and over again that we have a government of, for and by the People.

Rather, the Power-elite use PAC funding to install into public office and support those politicians who favor continued funding with public tax money, the special interests and their corporations so they will be able to continue funneling money back into the PACs for the re-election of their favored politicians. The circle is complete. They have purchased the jury.

BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING!

In George Orwell's book about the future, "1984" published some 40 years ago, he envisioned a world where the state (Big Brother) watched and determined every move the people made. Those that did not conform faced real and subtle penalties. Again, Prof. Chomsky: "Propaganda is to a democracy as violence is to a dictatorship". By implementation of a Lotto/Legislature, the people will "watch Big Brother." It would be "1984", but in reverse.

Grand Juries have limited tenure. By this very limitation, there are far fewer means to corrupt or be corrupted. Today the System has control of the people. What is necessary tomorrow is for the People to take back control of the system.