[redacted]
Norman, OK 73072

15 May 1992

C-Span
400 north Capitol St
Suite 650
Washington, D.C. 20001

Attn: Brian Lamb

Dear Mr. Lamb:

First, your book review program is just great. Just how good? Well I have purchased several volumes which were the subject of the reviews. In fact I purchased several copies of Tenured Radicals and have given them to friends.

Second, I know you are probably bound by some sort of agreement to televise all sessions of the house (C-Span 1) but really such sessions are for the most part if not entirely blather. The committee hearings are so much more interesting.

Third, as amazing as it may seem I must watch C-Span at least two hours a day so I do enjoy it. Thank you and your staff.

Fourth, subject to the limitations of 3 above I have not heard one mention of the subject of the inclosed article. I have not heard one comment of the subject in Journalists Round Table. What I do hear is the constant drone of the nobility of those leaving Congress for various high ideal purposes. Don't you think the other side of the coin deserves a little time? Don't you think it would be interesting to hear Ralph Naders views on this subject? Don't you think it would be interesting to hear the question posed to departing congress persons? In fact until a friend sent me the inclosed clipping I never had heard of the subject being addressed.

Yes, I have tried to get on your call in line but so far no luck.

lastly hats off to you and yours at C Span.

[redacted]

Campaign Leftovers for House Retirees

Some Pledge to Donate Unused Funds to Candidates, Charities

By Kenneth J. Cooper
Washington Post Staff Writer

This is the last year that House members elected to Congress before 1980 can retire and take unspent campaign money with them, but so far only one—Rep. Walter B. Jones (D-N.C.)—has said he will make personal use of his leftover funds.

Jones, 78, chairman of the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee, has announced that he will use about $282,000 in campaign funds to finance his retirement. He also will receive a federal pension based on his current congressional salary of $129,500. That pension is estimated to be more than $70,000, according to the National Taxpayers Union.

Congressional pensions are based on a formula that combines the member's three highest years of salary, multiplied by the number of years of service, multiplied by 2.5 percent. Service includes military service and other federal service, including work as a staff member or other federal employment.

Another four of the 30 departing members eligible to bank unused campaign contributions would not specify their plans for the money when surveyed by Public Citizen, an advocacy group founded by Ralph Nader. The four Republicans—Reps. Lawrence Coughlin (Pa.), Robert W. Davis (Mich.), Larry J. Hopkins (Ky.) and Carl D. Pursell (Mich.)—together could lawfully convert more than $1 million to personal use.

The campaign leftovers of the 28 voluntary retirees and two members defeated in primaries total more than $8 million.

Some departing members said in media statements or through aides that they would devote leftover funds to other candidates, political parties or charities, with education often being a favored beneficiary. A couple of members said they planned to refund recent donations, while several said they would save the funds for current or future campaigns for another office. Still others said they had not decided but pledged not to keep the money for themselves.

The most novel plan so far has come from Rep. Edward R. Roybal (D-Calif.), chairman of the House Select Committee on Aging, who said he would donate $225,000 to a gerontology center named in his honor at California State University-Los Angeles.

The post-World War II record of 55 voluntary retirements from the House, which has coincided with the legal deadline for personal use of campaign funds, has raised voter suspicion that greed—and not reapportionment, frustration, more family time or other stated reasons—has motivated many retirees.

Joan Claybrook, president of Public Citizen, said few members have indicated they would convert campaign funds to personal use because watchdog groups like hers have tried to expose what in years past had been a routine, accepted practice. Public Citizen's survey updated another released in February.

"I think that they feel it's not a right thing to do, so they don't want to admit it," Claybrook said.

Rep. Brian J. Donnelly (D-Mass.) could legally take more than $500,000, but in March he told the Boston Globe he would not do so because "I don't want my children reading that in my obituary." Instead, Donnelly, 46, has said he will donate the money to charities, scholarships and the Democratic Party.

CASH AND CARRY

DEPARTING HOUSE MEMBERS WHO CAN CONVERT LEFTOVER CAMPAIGN MONEY FOR PERSONAL USE

Member	Can take	On hand
Glenn M. Anderson (D-Calif.)	$164,198	$20
Frank Annunzio (D-Ill.)	$195,854	$24,929
Les AuCoin (D-Ore.)	$373,960	$420,643
Doug Barnard Jr. (D-Ga.)	$531,207	$267,799
William S. Broomfield (R-Mich.)	$652,550	$810,866
Beverly B. Byron* (D-Md.)	$72,638	$8,330
Lawrence Coughlin (R-Pa.)	$254,067	$330,879
William E. Dannemeyer (R-Calif.)	$38,742	$309
Robert W. Davis (R-Mich.)	$137,236	$82,188
William L. Dickinson (R-Ala.)	$444,360	$306,545
Brian J. Donnelly (D-Mass.)	$545,398	$745,707
Joseph M. Gaydos (D-Pa.)	$116,980	$122,182
Frank J. Guarini (D-N.J.)	$250,233	$324,697
John P. Hammerschmidt (R-Ark.)	$404,881	$492,698
Larry J. Hopkins (R-Ky.)	$658,031	$689,494
Andy Ireland (R-Fla.)	$96,852	$43,038
Ed Jenkins (D-Ga.)	$453,052	$424,727
Walter B. Jones (D-N.C.)	$282,323	$324,214
William Lehman (D-Fla.)	229,657	$338,522
Matthew F. McHugh (D-N.Y.)	$135,638	$130,766
Donald J. Pease (D-Ohio)	$303,362	$200,864
Carl D. Pursell (R-Mich.)	$146,808	$317,366
Robert A. Roe (D-N.J.)	$874,387	$899,468
Edward R. Roybal (D-Calif.)	$194,434	$225,364
Marty Russo* (D-Ill.)	$60,458	$88,669
Richard T. Schulze (R-Pa.)	$352,943	$280,731
Bob Traxler (D-Mich.)	$294,626	$434,491
Howard Wolpe (D-Mich.)	$114,664	$139,753
Chalmers P. Wylie (R-Ohio)	$66,318	$112,966
Gus Yatron (D-Pa.)	$142,115	$52,893

*Members who lost 1992 primaries who qualify.
SOURCE: Federal Election Commission, Public Citizen, member offices. Figures are as of March 31, 1992.

Despite existing law, Claybrook said keeping campaign funds is "inappropriate" because House members get a generous pension. She said those who wish to keep the funds should seek permission from each contributor, a procedure she acknowledged would be difficult.

A 1989 ethics law permitted members who entered the House before January 1980 to make personal use of leftover campaign funds if they left office before the 103rd session, which begins next January. The maximum they can take is the amount of their campaign funds on Nov. 30, 1989, the date President Bush signed the bill. Members can bring their current campaign funds up to that 1989 level before they retire.

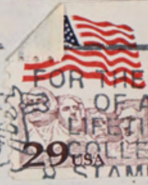
The two members eligible to take the most money and retire appear to want to stay in the House. Rep. Stephen J. Solarz (D-N.Y.) is running for reelection though he could convert as much as $1.4 million to personal use. So is Rep. Dan Rostenkowski (D-Ill.), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, who could pocket up to $1 million.

Nothing except their word binds the "grandfathered" members who leave the House and forswear personal use of their campaign money.

Former representative Fernand J. St Germain (D-R.I.), when defeated in 1988, said he would give his surplus of $245,000 to other candidates and charities. But St Germain notified the House clerk in January that he had shifted the remaining $176,000 into his personal account. The transfer was entirely legal.

[redacted]
Norman, OK 73072

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 731
PM
16 MAY
1992



FOR THE RIDE
OF A
LIFETIME—
COLLECT
STAMPS

MLDCR #08

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Attn: Brian Lamb.