

# The *Hightower* LOWDOWN

Edited by Jim Hightower and Phillip Frazer ♦ Vol. 9 No. 4 ♦ April 2007

The Bushites have demanded Iraq give its oil to global oil companies. See Hightower's latest animated clip at [www.hightowerdownload.com](http://www.hightowerdownload.com)

## The Logo Lowdown, *part 2*

# Corporations that paid-to-play in the last election

**F**ROM THE "LAND OF THE CLUELESS AND CONNVING," meet a couple of gentlemen who insist that America's political funding system is working splendidly. They report that there's absolutely nothing going on between the money interests and our lawmakers in Washington that should trouble our fuzzy little minds.

First up is one Paul Miller, president of the American League of Lobbyists (bet you didn't know that lobbying is now such an industry in Washington that they've formed a lobby group for lobbyists!). He offers this insight:

*"Our government is not corrupt, lobbyists are not bribing people, and members of Congress are not being bought for campaign contributions. I don't think we can say for certainty that the current system is broken."*

Gosh, I wonder if he can say "TomDeLay JackAbramoff DukeCunningham" with certainty...or a straight face?

Next comes Ben Barr, who's from a pro-corporate Arizona think tank called the Goldwater Institute. In an interview last October on the PBS television show "NOW," he shared this wisdom:

**NOW:** Do you think money is a problem in politics under the traditional system?

**Barr:** No, I do not. Money is speech.

**NOW:** But, surely money can also distort speech....

**Barr:** That's the price of freedom.... Speech costs money.

Follow the bouncing logic: Speech costs money;

money distorts speech; distorted speech is freedom.

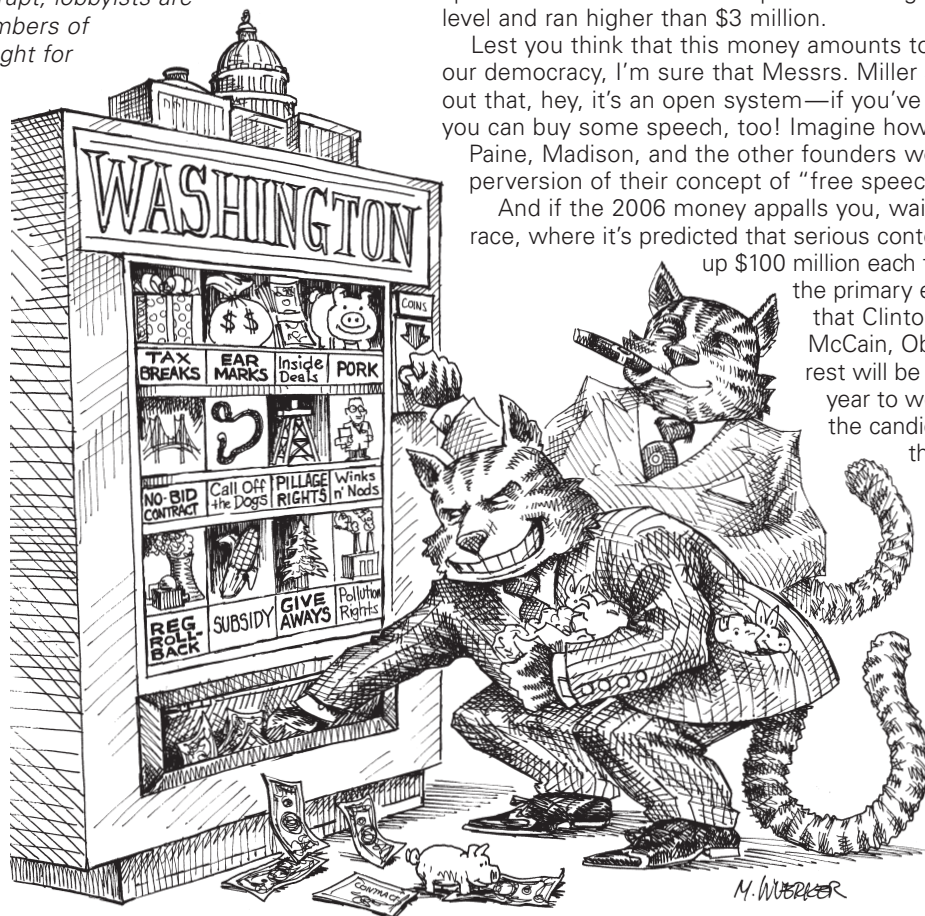
So, I hope you'll feel perfectly free to peruse this month's *Lowdown* listing of brand-name corporations and others who paid pricey sums in last year's congressional elections to buy oodles of speech for themselves. Their purchases began at the \$100,000 level and ran higher than \$3 million.

Let's you think that this money amounts to a gross distortion of our democracy, I'm sure that Messrs. Miller and Barr would point out that, hey, it's an open system—if you've got \$100,000 and up, you can buy some speech, too! Imagine how Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Madison, and the other founders would feel about this perversion of their concept of "free speech."

And if the 2006 money appalls you, wait for the presidential race, where it's predicted that serious contenders will have to put up \$100 million each to be competitive in

the primary elections. This means that Clinton, Edwards, Giuliani, McCain, Obama, Romney and the rest will be dragging sacks all this year to wealthy interests, with the candidates needing to fill their sacks with \$2 million every week!

To help reform this destructive, corrupting, absurdist system, call Public Campaign (202-293-0222). Meanwhile, you might want to take your own personal stand by voting with your consumer dollars, using this month's and last month's *Lowdown's Shopping Guide*.



Got milk? This advertising slogan has taken on a new meaning since biotech profiteers started messing with the very nature of milk.

Bioengineering industrialists are attempting to fill our cereal bowls with milk from cloned cows. And they want to label the cloned stuff "organic milk"! Hey—"organic clone" is an Orwellian oxymoron.

Yet a USDA advisory panel, toadying to agribusiness, is reviewing the agency's definition of "organic" to determine if cloned milk fits.

The USDA definition clearly states that no genetically engineered food can be labeled organic. It's hard to think of an animal that's more engineered than a cow that's conceived in a laboratory dish and has only one parent. The very essence of "organic" is that it denotes a product from nature, not one made by humans.

The good news is that several organic milk sellers—including Organic Valley, Ben & Jerry's, Land O'Lakes, and Horizon—say they will not use milk from cloned animals because consumers don't want it. When consumers learn that cloned animals suffer major levels of genetic abnormalities and that there have been very few food-safety studies done on the consumption of cloned food, they'll want it even less.

**IGNORING PARIS**

Stop the presses! There's been a stunning breakthrough in news coverage by America's establishment media.

The Associated Press, which feeds stories 24/7 to thousands of media outlets, recently imposed a one-week ban on any stories about Paris Hilton! Yes, the person who's

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**ENERGY/NATURAL RESOURCES**



CORPORATION	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED	CORPORATION	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED
Koch Industries, Inc.	\$1,274,055	86% to GOP	Chevron Corp.	\$534,237	86% to GOP
Exxon Mobil Corp.	\$827,882	90% to GOP	Occidental Petroleum Corp.	\$476,525	74% to GOP
Valero Energy Corp.	\$787,950	88% to GOP	Duke Energy Corp.	\$412,475	80% to GOP
Southern Co.	\$759,274	77% to GOP	ConocoPhillips	\$414,083	90% to GOP
Florida Power & Light Co.	\$755,095	81% to GOP	Marathon Oil Corp.	\$405,803	80% to GOP
American Electric Power	\$674,500	79% to GOP	Sunoco, Inc.	\$314,550	81% to GOP
TXU Corp.	\$584,864	79% to GOP	Andarko Petroleum Corp.	\$260,000	91% to GOP
Peabody Energy Corp.	\$519,250	91% to GOP	Chesapeake Energy Corp.	\$249,820	93% to GOP

**COMPUTERS/INTERNET**



CORPORATION	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED
Siebel Systems, Inc.	\$663,750	89% to GOP
Intel Corp.	\$478,259	63% to GOP
Dell Inc.	\$384,602	83% to GOP
Google Inc.	\$286,987	91% to GOP
Oracle Corp.	\$264,395	65% to GOP
Unisys Corp.	\$215,735	65% to GOP
SAP America	\$184,304	69% to GOP
EMC Corp.	\$178,300	74% to GOP
VeriSign, Inc.	\$158,950	82% to GOP
Prologis, Inc.	\$249,150	84% to Dems
Achievement Technologies, Inc.	\$215,300	99% to Dems
Progeny Systems Corp.	\$197,875	70% to Dems

**DEFENSE**



CORPORATION	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED
BAE Systems	\$979,089	64% to GOP
Fluor Corp.	\$363,920	78% to GOP
Bechtel Group	\$269,650	64% to GOP
Halliburton	\$205,390	94% to GOP
Vought Aircraft	\$128,000	73% to GOP

**BANKS/INSURANCE/FINANCE**



CORPORATION	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED	CORPORATION	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	\$2,147,239	71% to GOP	Mellon Financial Corp.	\$341,720	69% to GOP
PricewaterhouseCoopers	\$1,367,604	70% to GOP	National City Corp.	\$210,260	85% to GOP
KPMG LLP	\$1,256,900	67% to GOP	Trust Company of the West	\$213,170	70% to GOP
Wachovia Corp.	\$1,115,144	64% to GOP	SunTrust Banks, Inc.	\$172,976	73% to GOP
USAA Insurance	\$637,850	76% to GOP	Cash America International	\$145,350	73% to GOP
American Financial Group	\$626,900	98% to GOP	College Loan Corp.	\$138,000	88% to GOP
Nelnet, Inc.	\$561,600	76% to GOP	Bank of New York	\$199,431	66% to Dems
St. Paul Travelers Companies	\$498,519	67% to GOP	City National Bank	\$159,301	97% to Dems
Zurich Financial Services	\$467,985	82% to GOP	Advance America	\$131,900	84% to Dems
Aon Corp.	\$435,432	76% to GOP	Business Loan Express	\$124,100	98% to Dems
U.S. Bancorp	\$429,520	68% to GOP			

**CONSTRUCTION**



CORPORATION	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED
Washington Group International	\$681,019	66% to GOP
Caterpillar Inc.	\$474,241	84% to GOP
Centex Corp.	\$284,472	92% to GOP
Perry Homes	\$159,000	99% to GOP
Clark Construction	\$138,450	96% to GOP
Kohler Co.	\$125,300	86% to GOP
Zachry Construction Corp.	\$124,250	87% to GOP
Stanley Tate Enterprises	\$124,200	100% to GOP
Williams Brothers Construction	\$116,300	100% to GOP
William Lyon Homes	\$111,500	100% to GOP
Village Homes of Colorado	\$103,637	100% to GOP
Owens Corning	\$102,450	77% to GOP
Tishman Realty & Construction	\$218,100	99% to Dems

**HEALTH SERVICES/PHARMACEUTICALS**



CORPORATION AND PRODUCTS	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED	CORPORATION AND PRODUCTS	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED
Pfizer, Inc.	\$1,698,639	68% to GOP	HCA, Inc.	\$299,187	69% to GOP
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	\$1,101,591	69% to GOP	sanofi-aventis Group	\$271,285	73% to GOP
Amgen Inc.	\$1,055,975	67% to GOP	Humana, Inc.	\$233,947	82% to GOP
Eli Lilly and Co.	\$668,060	72% to GOP	Bayer Corp.	\$205,833	82% to GOP
Abbott Laboratories	\$662,946	83% to GOP	PacifiCare Health Systems	\$188,500	67% to GOP
Merck & Co., Inc.	\$532,856	78% to GOP	Kaiser Permanente	\$109,546	69% to Dems
AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals	\$520,730	74% to GOP			
DaVita Inc.	\$487,800	68% to GOP			
Schering-Plough Corp.	\$463,438	77% to GOP			
Kindred Healthcare, Inc.	\$415,000	75% to GOP			
Medco Health Solutions, Inc.	\$387,220	68% to GOP			
Novartis AG	\$375,933	71% to GOP			

**TRANSPORTATION**



CORPORATION AND PRODUCTS	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED
UPS	\$2,522,673	65% to GOP
FedEx Corp.	\$1,522,354	64% to GOP
Union Pacific Corp.	\$1,327,765	77% to GOP
Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp.	\$1,264,944	71% to GOP
Enterprise Rent-A-Car	\$942,320	83% to GOP
General Motors Corp.	\$835,235	67% to GOP
Ford Motor Co.	\$561,761	66% to GOP
CSX Corp.	\$526,980	71% to GOP
American Airlines	\$464,578	67% to GOP
Continental Airlines	\$291,923	72% to GOP
Southwest Airlines	\$267,264	76% to GOP
Northwest Airlines	\$243,866	70% to GOP
CarMax, Inc.	\$182,850	92% to GOP
Carnival Corp.	\$181,099	70% to GOP
Delta Air Lines	\$151,817	80% to GOP
Overnite Corp.	\$147,500	94% to GOP
Rolls-Royce	\$137,750	79% to GOP
US Airways	\$116,150	71% to GOP

**Playing both sides**

Some major players wanted to be “winners” no matter which side prevailed last November, so they split their campaign investments pretty evenly. Here are million-dollar donors who hedged their bets in 2006:

CORPORATION	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE TO DEMS	PERCENTAGE TO GOP
Goldman Sachs	\$3,348,816	61%	38%
Citigroup Inc.	\$2,368,516	51%	46%
Verizon	\$2,080,425	40%	59%
Bank of America	\$2,050,034	44%	55%
JPMorgan Chase & Co.	\$2,009,121	56%	43%
Lockheed Martin	\$2,007,569	42%	58%
Microsoft	\$1,995,492	56%	43%
UBS AG	\$1,909,551	50%	45%
Morgan Stanley	\$1,837,253	48%	51%
Comcast Corp.	\$1,796,325	49%	50%
Aflac Inc.	\$1,634,685	43%	56%
Ernst & Young	\$1,434,481	42%	57%
General Dynamics	\$1,419,913	38%	59%
Blue Cross & Blue Shield	\$1,375,346	41%	59%
Bellsouth Corp.	\$1,355,995	41%	58%
Boeing Co.	\$1,173,141	43%	56%
Raytheon Co.	\$1,116,880	43%	57%
New York Life Insurance Co.	\$1,102,025	52%	47%
Merrill Lynch	\$1,036,433	45%	54%
NewsCorp. (Fox TV/film)	\$943,682	55%	45%

famous for being famous, the celebrities’ celebrity who gets pandering media coverage for—well, for just being there—was to be ignored. For a week!

Could AP stick with it? Would the earth wobble on its axis if this partygoing heiress to the Hilton hotel fortune did not get her daily dose of glamour coverage? Would anyone care? Or even notice?

During Paris Blackout Week, AP courageously let Hilton’s 26th birthday pass with nary a mention. She had a fab birthday bash in Las Vegas, ignored. Then, she had a second birthday blowout at a Beverly Hills restaurant, where one of her friends got ejected for insulting Paula Abdul and Courtney Love—yet AP stoically refused to rise to this delicious morsel of gossip bait.

Interestingly, AP’s editors report that during their Paris-free week, not one of its worldwide media customers begged for a Hilton story or inquired about the lack of same. Not that this “celebutante,” as she’s called, got zero coverage that week, since other media outlets maintained their all-Paris/all-the-time focus. For example, *US Weekly* has an item and/or photo of Hilton in practically every issue. “People now come to expect to see pictures of her,” says an editor of this celeb magazine. “People are fascinated by [her].” People? I’m not. Are you? Okay, AP’s ban was only for a week, but it does offer hope that if the media coverage went away... maybe she would, too.

**WALTER REED PRIVATIZED**

The gross mistreatment of our wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center is disgusting, but there also appears to be a

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04/07

**The LOWDOWN**

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scandal behind the scandal.

The *Army Times* reports that the head of the center warned last year that “patient care services are at risk of mission failure.” Why? Because under George W’s “competitive sourcing” directive, the Pentagon has been pushing to privatize as much of its work as possible. And in 2006, top officials awarded a \$120 million contract to turn the facilities management over to IAP Worldwide Services, run by two former senior Halliburton officials. IAP, which brags that Dan Quayle is on its board, is the contractor that botched the delivery of ice to New Orleans during the Katrina fiasco.

Last year, knowing that privatization was coming, skilled public employees left Walter Reed in droves. Instead of having 300 federal staffers to handle facilities management, IAP has put in only 50 private workers to try to do the job.

Top army officials got urgent requests for additional staff, not only because so many were leaving, but also because the number of war wounded was increasing. The requests were denied, essentially to go along with Bush’s rush to hand public services over to inept profiteers.

**WHAT THE IRAQ ATTACK WAS ABOUT**

A bumper sticker about the Iraq war asks, “What’s our oil doing under their sand?”

Of course, the Bushites hotly denied that their disastrous war is about grabbing the second-largest oil reserve in the world. “It has nothing to do with oil, literally nothing to do with oil,” barked Donnie Rumsfeld!

Could that be yet another of their lies? Yes!

Go to [www.hightower-download.com](http://www.hightower-download.com) to see Hightower’s latest video exposing this law that gives Iraq to Big Oil.

**COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS/ENTERTAINMENT**    

CORPORATION AND PRODUCTS	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED	CORPORATION AND PRODUCTS	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTED
AT&T	\$2,835,997	65% to GOP	Time Warner	\$1,861,845	72% to Dems
General Electric NBC Television Network, Universal Pictures, Bravo, CNBC, MSNBC, Sci Fi, USA Network, Universal Parks and Resorts.	\$1,172,101	90% to GOP	Time, Entertainment Weekly, Fortune, In Style, Life, Money, People, Real Simple, Sports Illustrated, Coastal Living, Cooking Light, Southern Living, Sunset, The Progressive Farmer, Golf Magazine, This Old House, Homes & Gardens, DC Comics, Mad Magazine, Turner Broadcasting System, Atlanta Braves, Cartoon Network, CNN, NASCAR.COM, TBS, TCM, Pogo, TNT, Turner Network Television, Court TV, AOL, CompuServe, MapQuest, Moviefone, Xdrive, New Line Cinema.		
Clear Channel Communications Several TV stations, over 1,200 radio stations, concert venues, advertising.	\$789,279	64% to GOP	Viacom Inc	\$855,971	80% to Dems
Qwest Communications	\$693,653	66% to GOP	BET, MTV, VH1, Nickelodeon, Nick at Nite, Comedy Central, CMT, iFILM, DreamWorks SKG, TV Land, Paramount.		
Corning, Inc.	\$396,710	65% to GOP	QUALCOMM Inc.	\$447,550	65% to Dems
IDT Corp.	\$365,183	84% to GOP	Discovery Communications	\$135,320	98% to Dems
Motorola, Inc.	\$355,221	68% to GOP	Discovery Channel, TLC, Animal Planet, The Science Channel, Discovery Times, Military Channel, FitTV, U.S. Hispanic Networks, Discovery HD Theater.		
Bresnan Communications	\$229,150	98% to GOP	Working Assets	\$117,914	100% to Dems
Salem Communications	\$181,499	100% to GOP			
Western Wireless	\$159,700	79% to GOP			

**Union donations**

The right wing constantly says that, yeah, corporations are big Republican backers, but that this money is balanced by the donations that unions make to Democrats. Nice try, but no cigar. While unions do support Dems, total corporate investment in congressional races dwarfs that made by the unions. The union total of \$65 million is less than that of the electronics industry alone (\$67 million) and amounts to less than 7% of the roughly \$880 million that corporations put up last year. Here’s a listing of the top 20 labor donors, with the percentage they gave to Democrats:

TRADE UNION	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE TO DEMS
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers	\$3,018,636	97%
Laborers Union	\$2,936,259	87%
Operating Engineers Union	\$2,788,595	78%
American Federation of Teachers	\$2,569,498	99%
Carpenters & Joiners Union	\$2,522,173	75%
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees	\$2,347,588	98%
TRADE UNION	TOTAL CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE TO DEMS
National Education Association	\$2,339,477	87%
United Auto Workers	\$2,303,290	99%
Teamsters Union	\$2,284,522	90%
National Air Traffic Controllers Association	\$2,149,570	76%
International Association of Fire Fighters	\$2,145,105	72%
Machinists/Aerospace Workers Union	\$2,086,589	98%
Plumbers/Pipefitters Union	\$2,086,170	91%
Air Line Pilots Association	\$1,819,250	89%
Sheet Metal Workers Union	\$1,771,700	95%
United Food & Commercial Workers Union	\$1,722,305	98%
American Postal Workers Union	\$1,721,500	95%
National Association of Letter Carriers	\$1,718,300	88%
Service Employees International Union	\$1,674,192	92%
AFL-CIO	\$1,615,577	88%

*Last issue showed Starbucks as a part of Altria, giving heavily to Republicans. Altria (Philip Morris) owns Starbucks products sold in supermarkets—not the coffee shops.*

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**CORPORATIONS THAT PAID-TO-PLAY IN THE LAST ELECTION**

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