

Our Dysfunctional U.S. Congress

*Throughout all of human history up to this very day,
the Many have most often been oppressed by the Few.
Intentionally kept down within their own society,
rather than being led to higher ground.*

Truly responsible political and public leaders will guide their society, the Masses where they desire to go, leading them on the often difficult path that needs to be traveled in order to progress.

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From the second paragraph of *Common Sense*,

As a long and violent abuse of power, is generally the Means of calling the right of it in question (and in Matters too which might never have been thought of, had not the Sufferers been aggravated into the inquiry),

and, as the King of England hath undertaken in his OWN RIGHT, to support the Parliament in what he calls THEIRS,

*and, as the good people of this country are grievously oppressed by the combination, they have an undoubted privilege to inquire into the pretensions of both, and **equally to reject the usurpation of either.***

– T. Paine

Good old Mr. Webster defines *usurp* in the following ways:

1. to take possession of without legal claim.
2. to seize and hold (as office, place, or powers) in possession by force or without claim.
3. to seize or exercise authority or possession wrongfully

The bold and final rejection of the *usurpations* under which the colonists had been suffering became their American Revolution.

We must now reject the forms of *usurpation* under which our society is being made to suffer, thus rightfully engaging in our Second American Revolution.

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Necessity of this Moment

The majority of the economic and social problem solution presented in An American Agenda will absolutely require legislative action by the U.S. Congress to be implemented (to say nothing about Presidential ownership). Unfortunately the grim fact is that the U.S. Congress and its consistently dysfunctional operation are currently the People's primary problem or road-block to those solutions being implemented. The *good news* is that it is within our electoral power to correct our elected leadership problem by *physically removing* that road-block! This agonizing situation must now be aggressively confronted and resolved as the first priority. And the absolute *necessity* for such a bold confrontation is as certain as the sun rising and setting.

The U.S. Congress is to serve as our national legislative body. It was established by the Founders in order to facilitate the resolution of the public's problems that could not be addressed at the local, county, and state levels. Simply, from the standpoint of the American public the Congress is not doing their job.

Not Been Getting What They Deserve

Consider this:

- In a poll taken in October 2007 the Congress' overall public Approval rating had dropped to **11%**.
- Stated another way you would say Congress has an overall public **Disapproval** rate that has risen to **89%**.
- They have a higher Disapproval rating than Bush II, which is one race they should not allow themselves to be ahead in!

I ask you, how long would any of us keep our job with that type of performance rating? Toast!

Until the 2006 off-year election, when only a portion of the disgruntled electorate showed up at the polls and called the Congressional members of their respective states to task, the House and Senate incumbents "enjoyed" a comfortable **90+** percent re-election rate. Those aggravated voters did a great job and set the right example! Further, the Congressional races in many other states were far closer than the incumbents had ever seen.

Those state level votes were in affect our electoral "warning shot" to Congress — the virtual Bunker Hill of our Second American Revolution. It was the needed precursor to what could very well happen to the lot of them in 2008.

Let's face it folks — We the People do not have a lot of options here. In reality — *We* have always had a very viable option under the Constitution to exercise in order to exercise ultimate control the Congress. To vote all of them out! In November of 2008, the American electorate can vote 468 of the 535-Club out of office. Fire them!

I declare that it is time for us to seriously consider that prudent action and to finally deal with our dysfunctional U.S. Congress. I believe that you, I, and our fellow Americans know full well that our national Legislative Branch of government is broken and we must now act to resurrect it.

It is necessary to confront and bring an end to the *Political Party-based Heredity of Congressional Power* passed from one member of an “unauthorized political class” to the next. We will necessarily exercise the Civilly Responsible approach to Congressional Term Limits that has always been available to us.

By joining together and deliberately exercising our citizen's Constitutional Right on a single, momentous day in November of 2008 – We the People positively will transform the American political system for the sake of the Common Good of the Masses. To be clear, We have the Authority, indeed not the Civil Responsibility to replace the current members of Congress for not doing our work.

And in so doing *We* shall send a virtual tsunami of a political shock wave around the world.

The Heart of the Matter

***“Politicians neither love nor hate.
Interest, not sentiment, directs them.”***

*Lord Philip Dormer Stanhope Chesterfield,
1694-1774*

An Anonymous Definition

How is this for a sarcastic, yet practical description of our two political parties?

The Democrats like to throw money at problems.
The Republicans just like to turn their backs and hope that the problems
will just go away.

Does that sound about right to you?

Although under Bush II, the Republican Party has taken to throwing the money
around so much that they make the Democrats look good!

About Our Two Political Parties

I did determine when initially drafting this book to speak sharply about
Congress, business, industry, and any other domestic and foreign entity that is
standing between we American citizens and the preservation of our Common
Good.

Realistically speaking the actions of Congress and the current President and his
side-kick, are solely and deliberately aimed at addressing the desires of those that
they really care about serving! And bluntly put, that evidently does not include
the vast majority of We the People, as well as and most small and large
businesses in America either. They are equal opportunity abusers!

The Republican Party

Overall, the **Republican Party** is just taking care of business. That is big
business and the politically powerful that are having a virtual field day under the
Bush II and Cheney tag team. The dreadful combination of the Bush II
“*oil-first*” mentality and Cheney’s mantra of “*anything that is good for the
Military Industrial Complex is just fine*” (especially an optional Iraq war) — has
shaped our foreign and domestic policy with devastating results. Any question
about that analysis?

And if left unchallenged much longer the Republicans and their unelected

handlers will succeed in driving the National System and our American way of life directly into the ground along with what is left of the Middle Class.

The actual entities that drive the Republican Party are doing whatever they like utilizing the Law of the Jungle – “the survival of the fittest” – in exercising their blatant abuse of power and catering specifically to a precious few BIG business entities. Several of those industries and other Special Interest entities were reviewed in *An American Agenda*. Many of the items on the Grievance List clearly document their long term successes in maintaining that Special Interest driven status quo within the National System.

The only real question is how much more damage they will “accomplish” on both the domestic and foreign stages before the 2008 election relieves us of their burden. Because the Democrats certainly do not look like they will resolve anything of importance prior to that date, do they? Next...

The Democratic Party

On the other hand there is the **Democratic Party** that continues marching on in functional disarray. The Democrats so desperately need a viable political agenda — a reasonable people-oriented, national agenda that will once again prove them to be the “*party of the people*” – of the regular American citizen. Our nation needs the Democrats to “actually function” as the other national party. It is critical to the proper functioning of our representative form of government. It is a baseline requirement of our Democracy and a question of practical political balance!

To be more direct, the Democratic members of Congress and their party’s leadership need to remember that they (and the Republicans) were sworn in to work for American citizens first and foremost. For fruitless political reasons they seem to have lost track of the very people, who’s Common Good it is their responsibility to protect.

A most glaring example of that is the IO — Illegal Occupant immigration issue. All else could very well succeed or fail based upon an issue that should be a political no-brainer for both parties.

The Democratic leadership must step back and re-think the entire issue of the “pathway to citizenship” for millions of IOs from all over the world that have invaded our country (since what was supposed to be the last and supposedly final Amnesty Act for IOs back in 1986). The American public demands an end to the immigration chaos. The Democrats need to grow some guts and serve ‘us’ – the American citizens. The newly elected batch of Democrats will have a clearer perspective on the issue!

If the Dems could decide to stand and do the hard work that needs to be done on that *bone-marrow* national issue, the voters might once again begin to consider the Democrats as the party of the regular American citizen – the Masses.

Overall, the Democratic Party can't seem to grasp what needs to be done to practically address the People's problems. They struggle to figure out how to explain to the American public the rationale for the types of changes that are needed to Preserve the Common Good, let alone conceive of them in the first place.

Frankly, the entire Democratic Party needs to read this book. They need to study An American Agenda in particular and seriously consider embracing all of it as their own. Be assured that in so stating, I am not advocating the Democratic Party over the Republican Party. Both parties are currently failing us. Both need to read CS2 and start acting for the Common Good, instead of the Special Interest.

If we look at America as one huge business enterprise as Ross Perot once offered, the Republican Party and those that pull their puppet strings 'generally' represent Management. The Democratic Party and those that push their buttons, along with the party's historical concerns for the fate of the average person thus represent Labor.

My personal opinion is that in too many cases over the last decade or so the nation has functionally had a Republican and semi-Republican Party! Consider that grim political reality for a few moments. It demonstrates the growing power of the Special Interests in driving both parties and the U.S. Congress.

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The Abuse of Un-Challenged Power

Historically and to this very day, whenever power is left to its own devices and without a viable, public-driven, and functioning popular government — societies have always degenerated into a controlled chaos that continues to benefit fewer and fewer, with grinding conditions for the Multitudes. Consider these — the Few vs. the Many – Power vs. Powerless – Haves vs. Have-nots.

That is not a Liberal analysis, but it is that of a terribly concerned American citizen. And I know that I do not stand here alone.

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Remember that growing out of the Great Depression the programs under the New Deal were only devised and enacted in unavoidable reaction to economic and social crisis. It was a politically critical moment in time when hard and publicly practical solutions to vital public problems (in the National System) **had** to be developed **and enacted rapidly**. It was effective, but reactionary national legislation and leadership on the serious issues of the day.

It is now some 70 years later and Congress still avoids pro-active legislation to address serious public problems (the Grievance List) and has a bad record in reactionary situations, i.e. Katrina.

Also, it was the Democratic Party that built those required New Deal public-oriented programs, such as the Social Security System that were enacted against the best efforts of the Republican Party and business to prevent it. Think of what it would be like if Social Security had not existed over the past several decades. Not a good thought.

Most thankfully, our *U.S. Constitution* gives *We the People* the Right and Authority to control both the Republican Party's under-lying, self-serving mentality that the Few know what is best for the Many – and the Democrat's foolish philosophy that people can just be given to without stipulating the level of responsibility and accountability expected in return. Again, there must be a practical balance and it evidently is our job to insure it.

Their Traditionally Vicious Cycle

As previously mentioned, some years ago the following perspective on national politics was offered to me and I found it interesting. How does it sound to you?

Historically, the Republicans have come into office, the White House in particular, and after some years in power have succeeded in “screwing up” the economy! The American public loses patience and so hands the national leadership over to the Democrats. The Democrats take over, confront the mess, and somehow get things turned around. The People – us – with an all too short political memory see that business is going well and say hey, we should put the Republicans in charge because they are very pro-business and will only make things better. The Republicans are then placed back in power and once again mess things up — and the cycle continues.

Sarcastic — absolutely, but far closer to true than false.

In 2008, the Democratic Party unless they shoot themselves in both feet will once again assume control of the White House and a capture clear majority in both houses of Congress. They will also inherit the historic mess that Bush/Cheney and their handlers have willingly and irresponsibly created — and profited from.

The Democrats will once again be challenged to clean-up a Republican generated mess on both the domestic and foreign fronts. And these very possibly are the biggest ones yet.

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For a Viable Third Party – It is Too Late

My observation is that while a true Third political party in American politics may have once had a chance to develop and grow into a viable force — that time has passed and the door is closed forever.

Of course, if we simply get our floundering 2-Party system functioning properly and the nation embraces a Common National Vision, we do not need another party! Further, We just cannot afford to waste the many years it would reasonably take to build one. There is far too much time-critical work to address now.

And just why is it that a Third party is no longer viable? The primary reason is that the entrenched leadership and members of both parties have to the greatest extent possible ‘rigged’ things up for their easy reelection. They have configured the 435 U.S. Congressional Districts to discourage, if not blatantly prevent the intrusion of any Third-party candidates.

The self-serving, politically devious craftsmanship of the Congressional Re-Districting is one of the only things that both parties have collaborated and worked together on for the mutual preservation of their precious jobs!

Further, the 2-Parties and their handlers have successfully collaborated in shifting forward more and more of the Presidential primaries into a virtual log jam in January and February 2008. Why you ask? While in some cases it may be a given state scheming to obtain a bit more political clout in the Primary Season. Rather, it is because it makes it even harder for non-mainstream, alternative candidates – even those within their own parties to have much of a chance against the better financed and “party acceptable” candidates.

This intentional and loosely-coordinated early Primary Elections traffic jam could very well determine the nominees for president and vice-president of both parties before the end of March. And all efforts will be made for them to be Party-acceptable nominees, only. This is not a good development for Democracy, but it is seen as essential to the Few in preserving the status quo of political power within the National System.

“Late Night” and Fast Legislators

The mostly quiet Congressional Redistricting actions (we won’t talk about Texas) point out that when the Congress is motivated to do something tedious and that requires real negotiation they can work together and get it done.

On the night of Sunday March 20, 2005 another and a most sad (if not pathetic) example of their legislative “abilities” occurred when, under the direction of a purely politically motivated White House and Republican Party, *some* the members of Congress flew back to DC to briefly debate, pass, and enact “late night” legislation.

As documented on a Congressional legislation website regarding Bill S686:

This bill, which both the Senate and House passed in an emergency Palm Sunday session, gave federal courts jurisdiction in the matter and required a federal judge, upon the family’s request, to launch a new inquiry into the legal and medical questions surrounding Terri Schiavo’s condition, which was the result of a severe loss of oxygen to her brain when her heart temporarily stopped on February 25, 1990. The debate and final vote largely fell along the lines of the right-to-die and pro-life movements. The Senate version of the bill was passed on the afternoon of Sunday, March 20 (by voice vote — as a result, there is not an official record of this Senate action). The House followed suit just after midnight on Monday, March 21. The bill was immediately rushed to the White House, **where President Bush signed it at 1:11 a.m.**

The U.S. House of Representatives Vote

Party	Yes	No	Not Voting
Democratic	47	53	102
Independent	0	0	1
Republican	<u>156</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>71</u>
	203	58	174

This was a politically arrogant and gross interference in one (1) family’s private struggle over the death of a loved one. And the “*decider*” dramatically flew in from Texas on Palm Sunday just to be there to sign “his” legislation into law.

A pathetically classic example of *Minority public* representation and leadership was delivered! The Bush II White House and some in Congress were quick to do what at least an 80% majority of the American public deemed inappropriate. It is really too bad they will not even consider performing a similarly aggressive action and intervene *to protect* two (2) wrongfully prosecuted and imprisoned Border Guards?

While that overt, after midnight operation did demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt how fast Congress can get something “different” done, it was far from their finest hour. It was blatant and *sinful*, political pandering to certain narrow-minded Special Interests and did not sit well with many of the Silent Majority. To their credit enough of the electorate reacted to that personally intrusive legislative action at the polls in November 2006 and it helped cost a few of those members re-election. Good going America!

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To continue

Only Possible Opening

Today, in 2008 — the only practical “**Third Ticket**” option would be for a purely Independent President and Vice President political team to step forward and offer a Common Good based, aggressive Change platform (like an American agenda) and the strong political leadership that the nation now can only dream of being able to vote for.

Clearly such a political team must present themselves as providing only that brand of political leadership in order to be considered at all viable in 2008. Absolutely not as a Third party in the making for it would only muddy the water and make it easier for the 2-Parties to exploit and confuse the issue.

Realistically and sadly that is about all there is to say about our Third Party option. We must aggressively work the 2008 Presidential and Congressional campaigns across the country to take Control of the 2-Parties we now have and see to it that they know they must start working for us. Or else, we will decisively deal with them in November...

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I will add that I do believe there could very well be an opening for such an Independent Presidential team in 2008. First, this could be the downside of the 2-Parties compressing the Primary Season and identifying their nominees so early in 2008. It will leave time for an alternative to step forward and catch on with the “disturbed” electorate.

Secondly, as most of the debates have clearly demonstrated, neither party has a platform! At least not one aimed at fixing the issues on the Grievance List and others that the public is concerned about. They only seem to talk about Iraq, Bush II, and their non-solutions to real problems like Health Care for all Americans, and Immigration Control.

The door could be opened. An American Agenda is waiting to be claimed...

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Profiling the Congressional System

Yes, let us 'profile' the rarely discussed "*Congressional System*" – the American 2-Party Political Machine.

Has a non-All White Male Congress Mattered – Not Enough

Over the last 50 years, while the profile of the USC has changed, the results really have not. The intellectual promise was — that with the appearance of women and various minorities, that Congress would become more in sync with the needs of the People — more functionally in tune with the average working American. The expectation was that a 'blended' Congress would be more interested in fixing societies' problems and dealing with the issues faced by the Masses.

That much anticipated and hoped for positive impact of women and minorities in Congress since the 60's has not dramatically materialized — just take another look at the Grievance List. How would you call it?

There have been a "few" signs of progress, with the Civil Rights Acts of the 60's and under President Clinton's much Republican-harassed two terms. However, considering our current state of national affairs I believe it is fair to conclude that the non-white, male members have more or less only gotten with the program and "*blended into*" the Congressional System rather than causing it to be re-tooled.

While many of them may have sincerely run for office and entered the Congress to make a difference and change the "way things work in Washington" — instead they all too quickly just became part of that Power-hungry closed community inside the DC beltway.

And objectively evaluating our Grievance List of long-standing problems which still plague much of our society, those Congressional members not in the American-White male group have simply learned how to get into the game, play the game, maintain their position in the game, and be happy multi-term members of the **535-Club** — for as long as possible. The freewill submission to the dictates of the Congressional System applies to every member of both parties, including your and my state's favorite sons and daughters! Ask not what they have done for you — ask what they have not done for all of us.

More than a **Color Blind** “Congressional System”

That “realistic” analysis points out the Plain Truth that the all-powerful “Congressional System” is truly color, gender, ethnic, and otherwise blind when it looks at the 535-Club members. To the Congressional System all members of the U.S. Congress look the same!

Consider that your Representative or Senator is one of 535 people chosen to be in charge of national legislation concerning the lives and livelihood of the other 299,999,465 citizens. Those are the numbers.

And they each have an average of 63 lobbyists running after them all the time offering goodies – like holding legal, campaign fundraisers for them! And get this. The first fundraisers that are held after a given election are held to help the winners raise money to pay-off any left-over campaign debts! Isn’t it just wonderful?

Further, he or she is treated like near royalty by staff, and most of the public and the press! They are a *virtual rock star* in a suit or pants suit! Consider that when any person has all that for a couple years they easily can and do get real attached to the position! And just what does a person need to do to keep “their position” they ask? The response is – play the game exactly the way the senior members of the 535-Club tell you to play it. Maintain the status quo and do not rock the boat!

The American *Congressional System* is currently a well-funded, self-perpetuating 2-Party political machine running under the skillful mentoring of the dug-in senior membership of the 535-Club and its Special Interest handlers.

And that America is what is wrong with the National System. It is why the Congress does not fix or even seem to care about solving our long-standing problems. Their handlers do not want them to...

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Fortunately, my equally aggravated fellow Americans – as previously mentioned We can Change all that during the upcoming Presidential and Congressional campaigns. Together, we possess the full authority to reset-to-zero the terms of 468 of 535 of those Congressional members on Election Day 2008.

I strongly suggest that We need to declare Common Agreement on An American Agenda and at the same time need to put the absolute fear of an enraged electorate into the members of the U.S. Congress. To demand that they begin to initiate *Midnight Legislation* to take action with appropriate parts of the Agenda

prior to the November 2008 Election Day. To somehow prove they are worth keeping their jobs, or else to expect to be replaced on our nation's historic voting day. I personally believe that no matter what they might try to do, they all need to be retired in 2008.

And remember that the U.S. Constitution is our fearless leader and guardian.

My Sense of the Public's Weariness

Over the last *30 years or so*, I have had the absolute pleasure of talking with literally thousands of other "regular" people about politics and various issues that we confront in our daily lives. In fact, talking with other people most of whom are total strangers about political and religious issues, I consider as my primary hobby! And since I will only discuss "politics and religion" with people, not argue about them, I have enjoyed many interesting conversations regarding their personal opinions, concerns, and dreams.

Over the last *15 years* I have observed that the average American has become more informed and conversational on political issues. I believe that demonstrates the fact that they are more concerned about the way things are going and what it means for their own future and that of their children and grandchildren.

And over these last *7-plus years* all of the negative conditions that continued to grow around us during the 1990s have accelerated with some reaching critical mass (and that does not include the Bush II's optional and failed Iraq War).

Objectively this negative "national condition" must be credited to the combined 535-Club memberships of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate — credited to both parties that are ignoring our common problems and their Constitutional responsibilities to address and fairly resolve them. Credited to our alleged national leadership that is acting more and more like spoiled children arguing over who will get their way and not accepting responsibility for their freewill, legislative actions and more so their consistent in-action.

It is all too easy to observe that the Masses of us have grown tired of Congressional inaction, and are disgusted with the current direction of America and with the growing dysfunctional nature of our National System. In both the domestic or foreign arenas our valid concerns have only grown more intense over these last years, as we have stood helpless and observed conditions truly worsen.

My sense is that the American citizen is more than ready for realistic, honest, and problem-solving oriented national leadership. I observe, that is where we stand as we approach the crucial 2008 national campaign and the pending Election Day.

A Tale of Two Georges

Let's face it. Even though we have now suffered through three (3) more "do little or nothing" Congresses, the truth is that things have been made far worse over those 6-plus years because of the current occupant of the White House and his very involved side-kick!

While I acknowledge that such comments about a sitting President do bother some Americans, frankly their number has steadily decreased year-by-year. As the old saying goes, "if the shoe fits wear it." And this ain't a glass slipper!

Bush II rode in proclaiming he was the "unite-r". However he has proven himself to be anything but that. His actual job performance has clearly proven him to be the ultimate "divide-r" and "ignore-r" — and his overall job failure applies in both the foreign and domestic arenas.

It could be viewed as a little ironic that as we approach our *Second American Revolution*, we find ourselves under a President *George* Bush II as opposed to a King *George* III. Today's George II is commonly known to have little interest in watching the news on television or reading newspapers (you know something close to reality) that only contributes to keeping him isolated, out of touch with the Masses, and safe in his own protected, self-serving, imaginary little world — just like King George III.

For example, Bush II on his second or third trip to New Orleans after the Hurricane Katrina disaster was provided with a special DVD prepared by his staff that was comprised of news footage from network and cable news programs. This was done so he could have some idea as to what had happened there. Analyze that for yourself.

Sorry if you find this all a bit harsh, but there it is. Again, some consider criticizing the President in bad taste, but the truth is the truth, and this is one president that has truly earned it and has the public job performance disapproval rating to prove it!

I will share with you and it is disappointing for me to say, but Bush II is the first president in my lifetime that I am personally embarrassed to have as my president. Some had their problems with Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Bush I, and Clinton, but to me and many others Bush II easily claims that sad prize.

Clearly, Bush II took an absolutely grand opportunity to unite the world in a Common Cause after the tragedy of 9-11, but for the sake of Special Interest driven politics (oil), he single-handedly drove America's international standing (and federal budget) right into the ground. Of his own freewill he deliberately

“decider-ed” to cater to the Few at the expense of the Many! Like I mentioned before in regard to party politics, Bush II is delivering the ultimate example of a Republican taking care of business – Big business. The thing that he may be grimly credited for in years to come is making things so bad – pushing the pendulum so far to the wrong side — that it caused American society to rebel and take the actions required to again Control their own government.

Grimly folks, there are many times we could close our eyes and sense what it was like to be a “peasant” in jolly old England! Of course, English Kings were expected to be *out of touch* with the peasants, while “real” American Presidents are supposed to be *in touch* with the concerns of American citizens — and to possess the personal and political determination to do something about the People’s problems. Of course how could we expect compassion and concern for the average citizen, from a man that does not even offer his own wife his arm when they are walking down the stairs of Air Force One?

The privileged Few with financial and/or political power are currently having-their-way with the National System and demonstrating no practical regard for the negative “trickle down” consequences it places upon a growing percentage of American citizens. Further, they are not even demonstrating prudent regard for the Environment that their own families must rely upon in the future. Personal and corporate short-term gain is clearly more important than the public’s universal, long-term, public pain – the Few over the Many.

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To be clear, I am not for one moment saying that Bush II is solely responsible for the conditions we now face (except for Iraq) because he absolutely is not. However (comma!) his excessively Special Interest biased policies, his blatant political arrogance, his refusal to acknowledge his own policy blunders, and his practical disregard for the welfare of average citizens — combined with both parties in Congress more interested in fighting over everything rather than solving anything — have all combined to create the “national condition” that we Americans find ourselves struggling against today. In the last 6-plus years their combined efforts have worked to accelerate this decline. And the members of Congress expect to get re-elected?

If George Washington and the first Congress of the United States of America were to appear today and review the conduct and performance of our current president and Congress, they would be disgusted with them all! It is now October of 2007 and the job performance disapproval rating of the entire Congress is higher than that of Bush II. We the People are being subjected to a real time performance of *Worse and Worse!*”

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Placing the Blame

In the final analysis, We must hold the 535 members of Congress far more accountable than our current and past presidents for our long-standing national problems. Referencing the reasoning of Thomas Paine in *Common Sense* as he first described the concept and workings of Representative government — it is the direct responsibility of the popularly elected members of Congress to solve the problems that cannot be practically addressed and resolved at the local and state levels — to dutifully represent the People that sent them there! As Paine wrote,

This will point out the convenience of their consenting to leave the legislative part to be managed by a select number chosen from the whole body, who are supposed to have the same concerns at stake which those have who appointed them, and who will act in the same manner as the whole body would act were they present.

While our nation's presidents do come and go every four to eight years, the Senators and Representatives have come to build careers under that magnificent Capitol Dome. Career politicians are not what the Founders had in mind.

As previously stated, both parties to the greatest extent possible have re-drawn the 435 U.S. Congressional Districts through blatant, partisan redistricting to all but assure their re-elections. As I heard one news commentator put it, “the congressmen are picking their voters rather than the voters picking their congressmen.”

Incumbents increasingly run campaigns that are well-funded by key industry and other Special Interest dollars, aimed at *crushing* their opponent in the other party — and may well have done the same thing in a primary race against someone of their own party.

I clearly remember watching the evening news some decades ago, as a Congressman stood up on the floor of the Congress and very indignantly stated that he and no one else he knew in Congress was swayed in their legislative decisions by lobbyists' influence! Today, how many would dare (could honestly) stand-up and make that statement?

The blatant and direct impact of big business and other self-interested lobbies is brutally obvious to us all now and it has been far worse during the Bush II years. Again, the ratio that is currently getting kicked around is that there are on average 63 lobbyists for each member of Congress that equates as $63 \times 535 = 33,705$! It would get pretty crowded under that lovely Dome, if the Congress was ever there! They only managed to have **97 days** in session in a recent Congressional year.

It is hard to realize how totally dysfunctional to the Common Good the Congress has factually become. For the Many of us to prudently confront those perpetuating the current and growing mess on both the domestic and foreign fronts, it will demand far *more common sense and collective commitment* than was required 230 years ago to birth our nation!

Therefore, We the People must now join together and let our alleged national leadership know of our Common Disgust with their counter-productive performance — that our electoral patience has been fully violated. That, *We the People*, are mad as hell and we are not going to take it anymore...

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Calling Our Leadership to Task

Again and again and again — it is the responsibility of the members of the U.S. Congress to confront and resolve the problems of the American people that generally cannot be resolved at the local, county, and state levels. Unfortunately and obviously, and in too many areas of importance to the Common Good, the Congress is simply not getting the job done over the last few *decades*, and both of our political parties share equally in the blame.

It is more and more obvious to the American public (and to the world) that the Congress is far more concerned with serving the wants and desires of Special Interest entities and doing whatever it takes to hold unto their precious positions of public power — as opposed to fulfilling their proper responsibilities in addressing the needs of the American public and our Common Good.

It is for the U.S. Congress to oversee the Big Picture of American society and the National System for the People's benefit — not to the benefit of the Special Interested Few which is clearly their preference. And only to make things worse, as each election cycle passes the politicians are also becoming even more interested and focused upon their political party winning — rather than the average American.

And as I have shared with some of my fellow Baby Boomers, the conditions in of America today are simply not the way it was supposed to be when we grew up. The domestic chaos is almost unimaginable to the majority of us.

From a purely objective perspective the U.S. Congress has become more of a problem management and perpetuation entity, rather than the public problem-solving force it was conceived, designed, and so needs to be. This is not the way things are supposed to work in American Democracy!

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At the bottom line, it is most important for We the Electorate to remember, that our elected officials – national to local — only continue to serve as a result of our votes cast to re-elect them.

We the People, do bear part of the responsibility for the on-going problems and it is time for us to claim our obligation to each other and take corrective action. Yes, We are partly to blame by letting them continue to have the opportunity to do a bad job!

Therefore, We must claim our Constitutional Right and the Obligation to each other to replace our elected politicians (at all levels of government) that of their own free will — choose not to attend to our Common Good.

And that my fellow Americans, is our job as laid down by the Founders!

Now is the time. This is our moment in time, for We the People to be about the nation's work, and to define and control our nation's future.

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