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News bulletin: Politicians are corrupt! So end the hearings, and save \$10 million

Congressional fund-raising inquiry is pointless, Libertarians say

WASHINGTON, DC — Want to put an end to political corruption and influence-peddling?

Start by pulling the plug on the Congressional hearings on campaign fund-raising, now going on in Washington, DC, says the Libertarian Party.

“Ending this charade now would have two immediate benefits,” said Steve Dasbach, the party’s national chairman. “First, it would save taxpayers millions of dollars. Second, it would deny politicians the chance to use their past crimes as an excuse to write more bad laws — such as increased taxpayer funding for political campaigns.

“More important, these hearings are pointless because they’re attempting to prove something that a vast majority of Americans already know: That Republicans and Democrats are drowning in a cesspool of corruption.”

The hearings, which continue this week, focus on charges of illegal fund-raising by the White House and Congressional Democrats and Republicans. Sifting through the myriad charges of corruption and influence-peddling will take until year’s end, investigators estimate — and cost taxpayers more than \$10 million.

“Unfortunately, the politicians who are holding these hearings are the same ones who wrote the laws they broke, and who created a lucrative government treasure chest for the special interests to fight over,” said Dasbach. “Counting on politicians to enact reforms is like letting Mike Tyson referee his next boxing match.”

In fact, recent public opinion polls show that voters already know what politicians are spending \$10 million to discover — that “corrupt politician” is a redundancy.

■ By a margin of 45% to 35%, Americans think the country’s foreign policy was for sale during the 1996 elections, according to a new poll from Fox News and Opinion Dynamics.

■ A majority of Americans — 51% — believe that “quite a few people running the government are crooked,” according to a *New York Times* poll taken last November.

So what’s the real solution to cleaning up Washington, DC? “The only way to end political corruption is to strip politicians of their ability to hand out favors at taxpayers’ expense,” Dasbach said. “And that means dramatically *reducing* the size and power of government. After all, the only politician who can’t be bought is one who has nothing to sell.”

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