

June 2, 2015

Orin Kerr, law prof at George Washington University has a comment on the country's political class.

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Yikes.

John Fund says not long after Denny Hastert's thing become public, people started to wonder where he got the cash.

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By the sketchy standards of Illinois politics, that might well have been true. But his fall from grace should prompt other questions about how a former high-school teacher who held elective office from 1981 to 2007 could leave Congress with a fortune estimated at \$4 million to \$17 million. When he entered Congress in 1987, he was worth at most \$275,000. Hastert was the beneficiary of very lucky land deals while in Congress; and since leaving office, he has earned more than \$2 million a year as a lobbyist. That helps explain how he could agree to pay \$3.5 million to a former student to cover up an ancient sex-abuse scandal.

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The NY Times continues to pound the Clintons. This was front page above the fold on Saturday.

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"Clinton, where is the money?" they chanted. "In whose pockets?"

Jonathan Tobin posts on the above NY Times story.

... But the main point to be gleaned from this incident isn't just that Clinton has established a lucrative personal appearance business that beggars anything ever attempted by any other retired public official, let alone a former commander-in-chief. The problem is that Happy Hearts is a real charity that does hands-on good works in the Third World. The Clinton Foundation is, at best, a charitable middleman, that funds events where people talk about charity and how best to strategize its implementation. As we've learned since Schweizer's book appearance, the foundation does relatively little actual charity work on its own. Only ten percent of the vast sums it raises from the wealthy and the powerful around the world is spent on charitable efforts. The rest goes to funding conferences where the Clintons and their donors pose as philanthropists and to pay the salaries and travel expenses of those who work for the foundation. That means the money goes to feather the nests of Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton and, to a lesser extent, does the same for many of their faithful family retainers such as Clinton attack machine hit man Sidney Blumenthal.

So while the large army of Clinton fans and apologists can say that there is nothing illegal going on here, what they aren't saying is that the Clintons don't merely leech off the rich. They also live off of the money they extract from smaller charities that do real good works. That's not merely "distasteful," it's disgraceful and unethical. ...

Jack Kelly has more on Clinton corruption.

... In more than two decades in national politics, Hillary Clinton has succeeded only at peddling influence and orchestrating smear campaigns against women her husband molested. Ms.

Clinton is greedy and corrupt. She has a reckless disregard for the truth and national security. She has a record barren of achievement.

Ms. Clinton is popular with her party despite all this. What that says about Democrats isn't flattering.

Not only does Clinton hardly ever leave her bubble, Jennifer Rubin says when she steps out she takes her bubble with her.

More interesting than Bill Clinton's shell company and the Clinton Foundation's receipt of thousands of dollars from the just-indicted and widely reviled FIFA (but arguably a FIFA beneficiary, Qatar, whom also sent the foundation money, is much worse ethics-wise), is the newest Clinton pretense. Not the Southern accent — the other pretense. The New York Times dutifully tells us (because the Clinton campaign told them!) that she has "immersed herself in dense briefing papers" (yet has no views we can easily discern) and brings snippets of information from her roundtables back to her policy team. This is nearly as bad as taking and passing on Libya analysis from Sid Blumenthal.

Remember these are handpicked participants. So she is getting information from people who the campaign has made certain will not create discord, disagreement or doubt. Aside from the monochromatic composition of the group, she picks up whatever stray phrase one of these participants happen to use. She now wants to call education an "opportunity system" because one of her hand-picked attendees used that pretentious buzz phrase.

It is remarkable that even when she ventures outside her bubble, it is not actually outside the bubble. She brings her bubble with her in the form of a preselected, fully vetted, non-combative audience.

Volokh Conspiracy

If I understand the history correctly...

by Orin Kerr

If I understand the history correctly, in the late 1990s, the President was impeached for lying about a sexual affair by a House of Representatives led by a man who was also then hiding a sexual affair, who was supposed to be replaced by another Congressman who stepped down when forced to reveal that he too was having a sexual affair, which led to the election of a new Speaker of the House who now has been indicted for lying about payments covering up his sexual contact with a boy.

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National Review

How Did Denny Hastert Get Rich Enough to Pay Millions to an Accuser?

by John Fund

Denny Hastert — the former House speaker now indicted for violating regulations on bank withdrawals that were originally meant to snare drug dealers — was a man of integrity according to his former House colleagues.

By the sketchy standards of Illinois politics, that might well have been true. But his fall from grace should prompt other questions about how a former high-school teacher who held elective office from 1981 to 2007 could leave Congress with a fortune estimated at \$4 million to \$17 million. When he entered Congress in 1987, he was worth at most \$275,000. Hastert was the beneficiary of very lucky land deals while in Congress; and since leaving office, he has earned more than \$2 million a year as a lobbyist. That helps explain how he could agree to pay \$3.5 million to a former student to cover up an ancient sex-abuse scandal.

Denny Hastert used to visit the *Wall Street Journal*, where I worked while he was the speaker. He was a bland, utterly conventional supporter of the status quo; his idea of reform was to squelch anyone who disturbed Congress's usual way of doing business. I saw him become passionate only once, when he defended earmarks — the special projects such as Alaska's "Bridge to Nowhere" that members dropped at the last minute into conference reports, deliberately leaving no time to debate or amend them. Earmarks reached the staggering level of 15,000 in 2005, and their stench helped cost the GOP control of Congress the next year.

But Hastert was unbowed. "Who knows best where to put a bridge or a highway or a red light in his district?" I recall him bellowing. I responded that the Illinois Department of Transportation came to mind, and we then agreed to disagree.

It wasn't long after that the Sunlight Foundation reported on just how much Hastert thought himself qualified to steer earmarks back home. The foundation found that Hastert had used a secret trust to join with others and invest in farm land near the proposed route of a new road called the Prairie Parkway. He then helped secure a \$207 million earmark for the road. The land, approximately 138 acres, was bought for about \$2.1 million in 2004 and later sold for almost \$5 million, or a profit of 140 percent. Local land records and congressional disclosure forms never identified Hastert as the co-owner of any of the land in the trust. Hastert turned a \$1.3 million investment (his portion of the land holdings) into a \$1.8 million profit in less than two years.

Hastert claimed at the time that the land deals had nothing to do with the federal earmark he had secured. "[I owned land and I sold it](#), like millions of people do every day," he told the *Washington Post*. Or, as George Washington Plunkitt, the former Tammany Hall leader in New York, once said of someone who made a killing in local land that later became part of a lucrative subway development: "He saw his opportunities and he took 'em." Plunkitt called such "opportunities" a form of "honest graft."

With a federal government so big and so awash in money that anything under \$100,000 is routinely considered a rounding error, it's no surprise that so many of our "public servants," by the time they leave office, have accrued enough wealth to act like lords of the manor. Take another congressional leader, retiring Senate minority leader Harry Reid, who entered Congress the same year Hastert did and who also has become, while a "public servant," a millionaire

worth between \$3 million and \$10 million. In his last re-election campaign, Reid explained his wealth by saying, “I did a very good job investing.”

Perhaps, but using some unusual methods. In 2012, [Betsy Woodruff reported](#) for National Review Online:

In 2004, the senator made \$700,000 off a land deal that was, to say the least, unorthodox. It started in 1998 when he bought a parcel of land with attorney Jay Brown, a close friend whose name has surfaced multiple times in organized-crime investigations and whom one retired FBI agent described as “always a person of interest.” Three years after the purchase, Reid transferred his portion of the property to Patrick Lane LLC, a holding company Brown controlled. But Reid kept putting the property on his financial disclosures, and when the company sold it in 2004, he profited from the deal — a deal on land that he didn’t technically own and that had nearly tripled in value in six years.

Like Hastert, Reid was a king of the congressional earmark process before it was largely shut down amid public outcry in 2011. During the heyday of earmarks, the watchdog group Judicial Watch reported that Reid

sponsored at least [\\$47 million in earmarks](#) that directly benefitted organizations with close ties to one of his sons, Key Reid. . . .

More recently Reid abused his authority to pressure the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to expedite a \$115 million foreign-investor visa deal critical to his son’s casino client. Reid got the DHS to override agency procedures to rush through hundreds of visa applications from foreign nationals who helped fund a Las Vegas hotel and casino that hired Rory Reid to provide legal representation for the project.

All of this self-dealing is a major reason that Americans hold Congress in such low esteem today. It helps explain why GOP presidential candidate Carly Fiorina is bringing audiences to their feet when she cites a recent Rasmussen Reports poll: It’s sad, she says that [“82 percent of the American people now believe that we have a professional political class”](#) that is more focused on preserving its power and privilege than it is on doing the people’s work.”

Denny Hastert is now in the clutches of federal prosecutors, and Harry Reid is riding off into the sunset, his misbegotten fortunes intact. But the current occupants are still tarred by their actions. Public cynicism about our elected officials continues to increase. A contributing factor is that when prosecutors do finally act, it’s too often to prosecute the likes of Dennis Hastert for falling into “a [financial speed trap](#),” as David Smith, the former federal prosecutor who once managed asset-forfeiture litigation for the Department of Justice, recently described Hastert’s indictment. Meanwhile, Paul Ryan, the House Ways and Means chairman, has just written the Justice Department asking why it has not prosecuted anyone involved in the two-year old IRS scandal over the targeting of conservative nonprofit groups, despite abundant evidence of flagrant abuse. Ryan isn’t expecting a timely or responsive answer.

When the Founders established a government they hoped would be guided by a blind Justice, I doubt they had in mind our current situation — in which our Justice Department chooses to be blind to abuses.

NY Times

An Award for Bill Clinton Came With \$500,000 for His Foundation

by Deborah Sontag

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, Petra Nemcova, a Czech model who survived the disaster by clinging to a palm tree, decided to pull out all the stops for the annual fund-raiser of her school-building charity, the [Happy Hearts Fund](#).

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"The Clinton Foundation had rejected the Happy Hearts Fund invitation more than once, until there was a thinly veiled solicitation and then the offer of an honorarium," said the former executive director, Sue Veres Royal, who held that position at the time of the gala and was dismissed a few weeks later amid conflicts over the gala and other issues.



The Czech model Petra Nemcova honored Bill Clinton at her Happy Hearts Fund's gala in New York in June 2014.

Press officers for Ms. Nemcova and the Clinton Foundation said on Thursday that the foundation had not solicited the donation and that the money would be used for projects in Haiti, as yet undetermined.

The Happy Hearts Fund and the Clinton Foundation “have a shared goal of providing meaningful help to Haiti,” the school charity’s spokeswoman said. “We believe that we can create the most impactful change by working together.”

Never publicly disclosed, the episode provides a window into the way the Clinton Foundation relies on the Clintons’ prestige to amass donors large and small, offering the prospect, as described in the foundation’s annual report, of lucrative global connections and participation in a worldwide mission to “unlock human potential” through “the power of creative collaboration.”

Similarly, Ms. Nemcova, like other celebrity philanthropists, uses her fame to promote her charity — which has financed more than 110 schools, mostly kindergartens — just as she uses Happy Hearts to position herself as a model-humanitarian.

“This is primarily a small but telling example of the way the Clintons operate,” said Doug White, who directs the master’s program in fund-raising management at Columbia University. “The model has responsibility; she paid a high price for a feel-good moment with [Bill Clinton](#). But he was riding the back of this small charity for what? A half-million bucks? I find it — what would be the word? — distasteful.”

“My gratitude to you is so strong that should you accept, we will schedule our event commemorating the 10th anniversary around your schedule,” she wrote, speaking of their shared dedication to the survivors of both the tsunami and the 2010 earthquake in Haiti.

When the tsunami [struck](#) in December 2004, Ms. Nemcova, who had been featured on the cover of the Sports Illustrated swimsuit issue the previous year, was vacationing in Thailand with her boyfriend, a fashion photographer named Simon Atlee. They were swept from their beach cottage and separated in the turbulent waters; Mr. Atlee died.

Ms. Nemcova, her pelvis shattered, held fast to a tree for hours until she was rescued, listening impotently to the cries of children, she has said, which later motivated her to found her child-centric charity.

Happy Hearts rebuilt two schools in Thailand while Mr. Clinton was the United Nations’ envoy for tsunami relief and reconstruction. Most of the charity’s building has been in Indonesia after the earthquakes of [2006](#) and [2009](#).

After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Ms. Nemcova turned her attention to that small island nation, where both Mr. Clinton and [Hillary Rodham Clinton](#), as secretary of state, played outsize roles in the earthquake relief effort and the more problem-filled reconstruction. The country had attracted other celebrity benefactors, too, notably the actor Sean Penn, an ex-boyfriend of Ms. Nemcova’s who had created his own relief organization and forged a relationship with Mr. Clinton.

In the fall of 2011, many players in Haiti’s rebuilding effort, including Ms. Nemcova, attended the Clinton Global Initiative’s membership meeting in Manhattan. Members, who must be invited,

pay \$20,000 in annual dues, largely for the yearly gatherings, where charity founders and entrepreneurs get to network with world leaders, corporate executives and wealthy donors.

At the meeting, Ms. Nemcova signed a memorandum of understanding with the president of the Inter-American Development Bank to finance schools in Haiti. The development bank has also donated to the Clinton Foundation — just over \$1 million — and it partnered with Mrs. Clinton's State Department after the earthquake to create an industrial park in northern Haiti.

Almost four years after Happy Hearts and the development bank made their commitment, they have yet to complete a single school, partly because of problems finding suitable land. Five schools are under construction.

Happy Hearts collaborated more expeditiously in Haiti with the Digicel Foundation, whose founder, the Irish billionaire Denis O'Brien, is a multimillion-dollar supporter of the Clinton Foundation and whose parent telecommunications company benefited from grants from Mrs. Clinton's State Department.

Digicel also made a commitment at the 2011 meeting to build schools; it was a formality, though, as Digicel had already taken the lead in Haiti in that realm. It has built 150 schools there over the past seven years; Happy Hearts has built seven, six of them joint or side-by-side ventures with Digicel.

One of those schools, operated by the Haitian group Prodev, was featured in the Clinton Foundation's most recent annual report as "built through a Clinton Global Initiative Commitment to Action." The Clinton Foundation's sole direct contribution to the school was a grant for an [Earth Day](#) celebration and tree-planting activity. In late 2011, Ms. Nemcova dedicated her charity's annual fund-raiser to Haiti, awarding the lifetime achievement honor to Mr. Penn, whom the Haitian government had named an ambassador at large, and giving a speaking platform to Laurent Lamothe, Haiti's foreign minister.

The next year, Ms. Nemcova, too, became an ambassador at large for Haiti. By 2013, she was practically living there, having become romantically involved with Mr. Lamothe, then prime minister. (Mr. Lamothe, no longer prime minister, is now a presidential candidate in Haiti, and the couple have split up.)

Through the years, Ms. Nemcova, 35, has blended her personal and philanthropic lives; her sister replaced Ms. Veres Royal as executive director of Happy Hearts. She has also mingled her celebrity and charity work, both in ways that benefited the charity and in ways that benefited her personally.

In 2011, when she was a contestant on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars," her survival story and charity received ample, positive attention. She brought on Clinique and Chopard as sponsors of the charity, but also accepted personal fees to model their products.

"Ms. Nemcova has a long career as a model in fashion industry for 16 years and has longstanding relationships with many brands," her charity's spokeswoman said. "Happy Hearts Fund is grateful for Chopard's and Clinique's support."

At the 2014 gala, Chopard, a Swiss jeweler that was dedicating partial proceeds from a heart-shaped bracelet to the charity, set up lighted showcases in the cocktail area, Ms. Veres Royal said.

"They were peddling exorbitant jewelry at a gala that was supposed to focus on children who have lost their belongings, homes, and often friends and family members," she said. "It was inappropriate and tacky. Too many people at that event were looking after their own interests first."

Happy Hearts Fund first asked Mr. Clinton to be its honoree in 2011. Trying again in 2013, Ms. Nemcova sent her first formal letter of invitation in July, asking Mr. Clinton to be the primary award recipient at a Happy Hearts gala on Nov. 4, 2013, celebrating Indonesia.

Mr. Clinton's scheduler replied with a cordial rejection — "Regrettably, he is committed to another event out of town that same evening" — in an email copied to Frank Giustra, the Canadian mining financier who is one of the Clinton Foundation's largest donors and also a supporter of Ms. Nemcova.

Ms. Nemcova then met with officers at the Clinton Foundation, Ms. Veres Royal said. Afterward, she said, "Petra called me and said we have to include an honorarium for him — that they don't look at these things unless money is offered, and it has to be \$500,000."

The invitation letter was revised and sent again at the end of August. It moved the gala to 2014, offered to work around Mr. Clinton's schedule, dropped the focus on Indonesia and shifted it to Haiti, and proposed the donation.



Haitians protested outside the gala organized by the Happy Hearts Fund, which has worked with the Clinton Foundation on projects in Haiti

"Understanding the need and commitment to 'rebuilding better,' Happy Hearts Fund would like to also share the proceeds of the event with the Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation, committing at least \$500,000 in partnership on a joint educational project in Haiti, of your

selection,” Ms. Nemcova wrote, ending with her customary sign-off, “Lots of Love, Light and Laughter.”

Unusual Expenditures

When charities select an honoree for their fund-raising events, they generally expect that the award recipient will help them raise money by attracting new donors. But the Happy Hearts Fund raised less money at the gala featuring Mr. Clinton than it did at its previous one.

Further, it is extremely rare for honorees, or their foundations, to be paid from a gala’s proceeds, charity experts said — as it is for the proceeds to be diverted to a different cause.

And while the original invitation letter spoke of a joint educational project, the Clinton Foundation said Thursday that Happy Hearts had agreed that the money could be “split 50/50” between the foundation’s education programs and its economic development and agriculture programs in Haiti.

In the charity gala world, it is considered unacceptable to spend more than a third of gross proceeds on costs, and better to spend considerably less. If the donation to the Clinton Foundation were counted as a cost, Happy Hearts would have spent 34 percent of its announced \$2.5 million in proceeds on its gala.

Its actual expenses — while they might seem extravagant to outsiders, with the total cost of the Cipriani facility alone at almost \$300 a head — were in line with what other charities spend on such events.

In the end, the Happy Hearts Fund’s gala was a star-studded event, with celebrities including Naomi Watts and John Legend and the models Karlie Kloss and Coco Rocha in attendance. The Haitian president, Michel Martelly, a former musician who was Ms. Nemcova’s boyfriend’s boss at the time, was a second honoree, and he performed a couple of numbers with Wyclef Jean.

At the start of the evening, school bells rang and, as the master program dictated, “Petra dressed as schoolteacher” appeared, wearing glasses.

“Good evening, class,” the screen behind her read. She later changed into a sheer red lace gown donated by the designer Naeem Khan, with diamond and ruby jewelry by Chopard.

A video by the Happy Hearts Fund framed the moment she presented the award to Mr. Clinton like this: “Ten years ago, two people were deeply impacted by the 2004 tsunami. They met this year again to inspire ...”

“Petra did not have to devote 10 years of her life to building these schools,” Mr. Clinton told the crowd. “But what she has done is a symbol of what I think we all have to do.”

Outside Cipriani, protesters, mostly Haitian-Americans frustrated with the earthquake reconstruction effort, stood behind barricades holding signs.

“Clinton, where is the money?” they chanted. “In whose pockets?”

Six months after Bill Clinton accepted a lifetime achievement award at the Happy Hearts Fund gala in June 2014, the Clinton Foundation sent this invoice to the charity, run by the model Petra Nemcova. It sought to collect a \$500,000 donation, equal to almost a quarter of the gala's net proceeds

**Happy Hearts Fund**

Petra Nemcova
P.O. Box 725
New York, NY, 10014

INVOICE

DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2014

To: Clinton Foundation
Attn: Gregory Milne
1271 Avenue of the Americas
42nd Floor
New York, NY 10020
(646) 775-9179
Tax ID: [REDACTED]

DESCRIPTION	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
Donation to the Clinton Foundation	N/A	N/A	USD \$500,000
Clinton Foundation Wiring Instructions:			
Beneficiary: Bill, Hillary & Chelsea Clinton Foundation 610 President Clinton Ave., Little Rock, AR 72201			
Bank info: Bank of America 200 W. Capitol Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72201			
Account: [REDACTED]			
Wire routing #: [REDACTED]			
TOTAL			\$500,000

Contentions

The Mercenary Heart of Bill and Hillary Clinton's Charity

by Jonathan S. Tobin

The latest story coming out of the *Clinton Cash* furor doesn't involve the serious charges of a conflict of interest that have been revealed by follow-up investigations since the publication of Peter Schweizer's book. Unlike those shocking instances in which donors to the Clinton Foundation sought and may well have received favors from the Hillary Clinton State Department, [today's New York Times feature](#) about the ex-president's appearance at a far smaller charity's fundraising dinner doesn't involve government action. But it does tell us not only about Bill Clinton's mercenary approach to philanthropy but the way the former First Family's slush fund disguised as a charity has profiteered at the expense of actual charities. There is no "smoking gun" of corruption here. But what it does provide us with is insight into their character and the raging hypocrisy at the core of everything they do.

The story involves Bill Clinton's appearance at the annual dinner of the Happy Hearts Fund in June of last year. Happy Hearts is a relatively small-scale charity — when compared to the billions raised by the Clinton Foundation — that builds schools in Indonesia and Thailand. It was founded by Czech model Petra Nemcova in the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami in which she nearly lost her life. She had tried to get Clinton to appear at her dinner for years, but it was only last year that she succeeded. How did she do it? By writing a check for \$500,000 to the Clinton Foundation.

There's nothing illegal about that. But it is, as a scholar who studies the world of philanthropy told the *Times*, "distasteful."

That's true. But actually it's much worse than that.

Happy Hearts is a celebrity vehicle for Nemcova and the transaction between her and Clinton was pretty straightforward. For a half million dollars, she purchased a few hours of the 42nd president's time and his far greater celebrity appeal. That raised her personal profile and, no doubt, helped make her dinner a greater social and economic success, though it's hard to imagine that Clinton's presence brought in enough contributors to make up for the enormous investment in quid pro quo that Nemcova's contribution to his foundation represents. But it must be admitted that it shows that while the Clinton Foundation is a thinly disguised political slush fund for the Clintons, its fundraising efforts are not based on deception. Donors pay for the privilege of being around the Clintons or having them do favors which can take the form of appearances at charity affairs like that of Nemcova or assisting — or at least not obstructing — [the sale of a uranium mine to Russia](#). None of his big donors are deceived about what they are buying when they give the Clintons money.

But the main point to be gleaned from this incident isn't just that Clinton has established a lucrative personal appearance business that beggars anything ever attempted by any other retired public official, let alone a former commander-in-chief. The problem is that Happy Hearts is a real charity that does hands-on good works in the Third World. The Clinton Foundation is, at best, a charitable middleman, that funds events where people talk about charity and how best to strategize its implementation. As we've learned since Schweizer's book appearance, the foundation does relatively little actual charity work on its own. Only ten percent of the vast sums it raises from the wealthy and the powerful around the world is spent on charitable efforts. The

rest goes to funding conferences where the Clintons and their donors pose as philanthropists and to pay the salaries and travel expenses of those who work for the foundation. That means the money goes to feather the nests of Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton and, to a lesser extent, does the same for many of their faithful family retainers [such as Clinton attack machine hit man Sidney Blumenthal.](#)

So while the large army of Clinton fans and apologists can say that there is nothing illegal going on here, what they aren't saying is that the Clintons don't merely leech off the rich. They also live off of the money they extract from smaller charities that do real good works. That's not merely "distasteful," it's disgraceful and unethical.

It should also be noted that Haitian protesters picketed Clinton's appearance at the Happy Hearts dinner. His questionable conduct in his role as the gatekeeper for rebuilding efforts since a 2010 earthquake in that country has also gained wider notice since *Clinton Cash* was published. That effort has done little good for Haitians but others, such as Clinton Foundation donors and Hillary's brother, have profited from it. As the *Times* notes, the Haitians jeered the ex-president crying, "Clinton, where is the money? In whose pockets?"

Those are good questions.

This story would be discreditable were it to be the case for anyone involved in such a tawdry affair. But if we have come to the point where such behavior is not considered at least an impediment to election to the presidency then we have come a long way down the road to moral decay even since the Clinton family's first exploration of what Bill Bennett called "[The Death of Outrage.](#)"

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

[Clinton's Corruption](#)

by Jack Kelly

The Clinton Foundation "received as much as \$26.4 million in previously undisclosed payments" from corporations, foreign sources and other groups in 2014, The Washington Post reported 10 days ago.

That's in addition to "millions" in foreign donations for the years 2010 to 2013 that were not reported until Reuters asked about them in April. Which were in addition to millions in foreign donations the Clinton Foundation acknowledged after The Washington Post asked about them in February.

Foreign contributions to the Clinton Foundation — and Bill Clinton's speaking fees — jumped while Hillary Clinton was secretary of state, wrote Peter Schweizer in his book "Clinton Cash."

After big donations, the State Department approved arms sales to authoritarian regimes, and Ms. Clinton flip-flopped on human rights in Colombia and nuclear proliferation.

While she was in Foggy Bottom, six of eight winners and 22 of 37 nominees for the Secretary of State's Award for Corporate Excellence were donors, according to the Washington Examiner.

CharityWatch says even a “minimally efficient” foundation spends 60 percent of its budget on programs. In the years 2009-2012, the Clinton Foundation devoted just 15 percent to charitable grants, according to an analysis of IRS filings by The Federalist. That fell to 10 percent in 2013. Forty-five percent was spent on salaries, perks and travel for staff.

Some senior staffers have more experience in politics than in charity work. Sidney Blumenthal was on the Clinton Foundation payroll while he was running a private intelligence service for Ms. Clinton.

The “intelligence” he gave her was mostly the opinions of Libyans with whom Mr. Blumenthal was drumming up business. He didn’t disclose his dealings in extensive correspondence with the secretary of state, an apparent violation of the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

Mr. Blumenthal had no security clearance but exchanged sensitive material, some of which has since been classified. Former CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell is certain Ms. Clinton’s private server was hacked by foreign intelligence services.

“If I had discussed classified missions, on a compromised server, with someone who did not hold a security clearance, the consequences would be harsh and career ending,” wrote soldier Chad Longell for IJReview.

Among 296 emails released in a State Department data dump before the Memorial Day weekend was one in which Ms. Clinton referred to U.S. ambassador Chris Stevens, murdered in Libya, as “Chris Smith.” The secretary of state can be excused for not knowing the names of her ambassadors to Botswana or Paraguay. But Libya was the focal point of administration policy at the time. She should have been talking to Mr. Stevens often enough to remember his name.

The emails Ms. Clinton turned over to State reflect so poorly on her that one wonders what was in the emails she deleted.

Islamist extremists now dominate Libya. Her ballyhooed “reset” of relations with Russia was a catastrophic failure. Supporters couldn’t name a single significant policy success during her tenure at Foggy Bottom.

Ms. Clinton also was an ineffective senator. Her stab at policymaking as first lady — a Rube Goldberg-ish task force on health care reform — was a fiasco.

Ms. Clinton supports the Export-Import Bank, exhibit A for corporate welfare. Clinton Foundation donors are prominent among companies that have received loans.

Ms. Clinton of late has taken no position on President Barack Obama’s Asia trade bill, presumably to avoid offending either “progressives” whose votes she seeks or crony capitalists who pay her exorbitant speaking fees.

In more than two decades in national politics, Hillary Clinton has succeeded only at peddling influence and orchestrating smear campaigns against women her husband molested. Ms. Clinton is greedy and corrupt. She has a reckless disregard for the truth and national security. She has a record barren of achievement.

Ms. Clinton is popular with her party despite all this. What that says about Democrats isn’t flattering.

Right Turn

Hillary Clinton brings her bubble with her

by Jennifer Rubin

More interesting than Bill Clinton's [shell company](#) and the Clinton Foundation's receipt of thousands of dollars from the just-indicted and widely reviled [FIFA](#) (but arguably a FIFA beneficiary, Qatar, whom also sent the foundation money, is [much worse](#) ethics-wise), is the newest Clinton pretense. Not the [Southern accent](#) — the other pretense. [The New York Times](#) dutifully tells us (because the Clinton campaign told them!) that she has "immersed herself in dense briefing papers" (yet has no views we can easily discern) and brings snippets of information from her roundtables back to her policy team. This is nearly as bad as taking and passing on Libya analysis from Sid Blumenthal.

Remember these are handpicked participants. So she is getting information from people who the campaign has made certain will not create discord, disagreement or doubt. Aside from the [monochromatic](#) composition of the group, she picks up whatever stray phrase one of these participants happen to use. She now wants to call education an "opportunity system" because one of her hand-picked attendees used that pretentious buzz phrase.

It is remarkable that even when she ventures outside her bubble, it is not actually outside the bubble. She brings her bubble with her in the form of a preselected, fully vetted, non-combative audience. If she really wanted to find out what people think — as if she is not already polling the electorate to death — she might go to un-screened town halls. She might take questions from, say, the Des Moines Register, which has a pretty good handle on what Iowa voters think. She does none of that because the people she encounters are props, not a valid focus group and not really designed to inform her. No one she has encountered so far, for example, has declared, "*Why don't we repeal Obamacare or really change it dramatically?*" That statement would be representative of a majority of the voters, but believe me there will be no such outburst at a meet-and-greet or the responsible staffer will get booted.

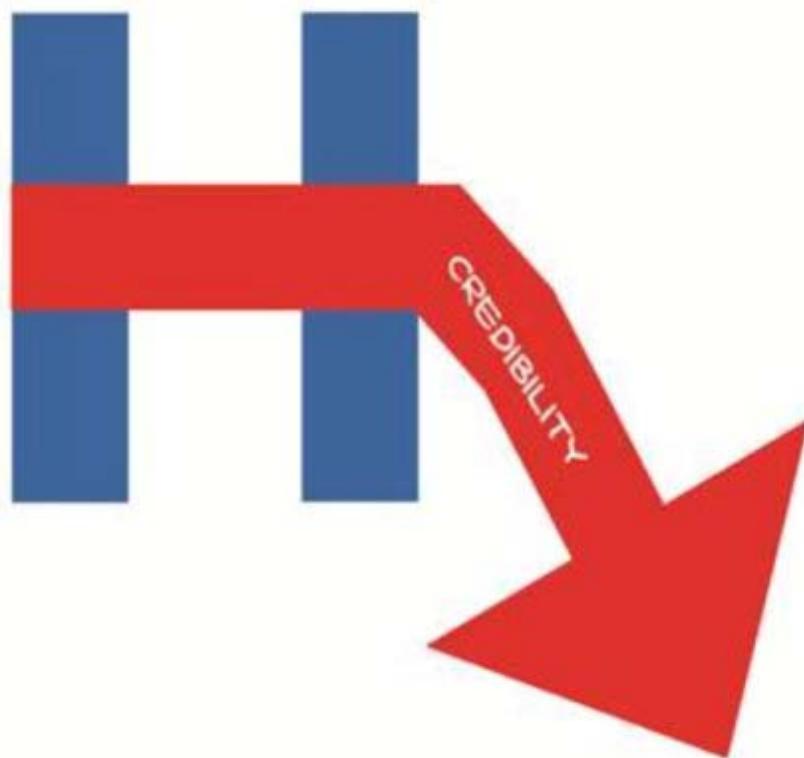
Moreover, by allowing them to talk and her to nod the groups shelter her from the demand to present her own policy ideas. As Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) pointed out, we still don't know her actual position on the trade deal. The roundtables, in essence, are stocked with complacent human shields that protect her from nettlesome questions.

The GOP contenders are making themselves remarkably available in information media scrums, on interview shows, in unfiltered get-togethers and in Q &A sessions with audiences. They actually may be getting a sense of what voters — at least some sub-division of them — think. Moreover, rather than waiting to hear what sycophantic voters think and then recycle the buzz words back, they are offering and defending their own ideas even when the audience objects on everything from ethanol to immigration. Stunning, I know.

Clinton will operate this way unless and until she pays a price at the ballot box beginning next year, flubs a debate and/or sees further, significant decline in her polling numbers. Her low-risk primary tactics in fact become a high-risk proposition when you consider how much more practice the GOP contender will have had in spontaneous and confrontational encounters with real voters and interaction with the media. I bet none of them will use "opportunity system," either.



"ROB BANKS? NAW, WE JUST SHAKE DOWN FOREIGN BILLIONAIRES."





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