Proposal calls for election refo

by Clay F. Richards
United Press International

WASHINGTON — The explosion of multimillion-dollar campaigns this year and the operations of groups like the National Conservative Political Action Committee has sparked a new round of calls for election reform.

Barred by a 1976 Supreme Court decision that said attempt to put spending limits on congressional campaigns violated free speech, a group of 13 House members last week introduced a constitutional amendment to "solve" the problem.

In simple language, the amendment would allow Congress and state governments to "enact laws regulating the amounts of contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections."

That would mean Congress could say how much could be spent on its elections, and state legislatures on state and local elections.

But the impact would be much greater than that. It would knock out another Supreme Court ruling earlier this year that prohibits regulation of independent expenditure groups like the much-hated NCPAC.

The constitutional amendment was proposed by a group of liberal-to-moderate Democrats and Republicans led by two who are retiring — Jonathan Bingham, D-N.Y., and Millicent Fenwick, R-N.J.

Fenwick, defeated for the Senate in November by Democrat Frank Lautenberg, who spent millions of his personal fortune in the campaign, said reform is "absolutely essential" to the future of Congress.

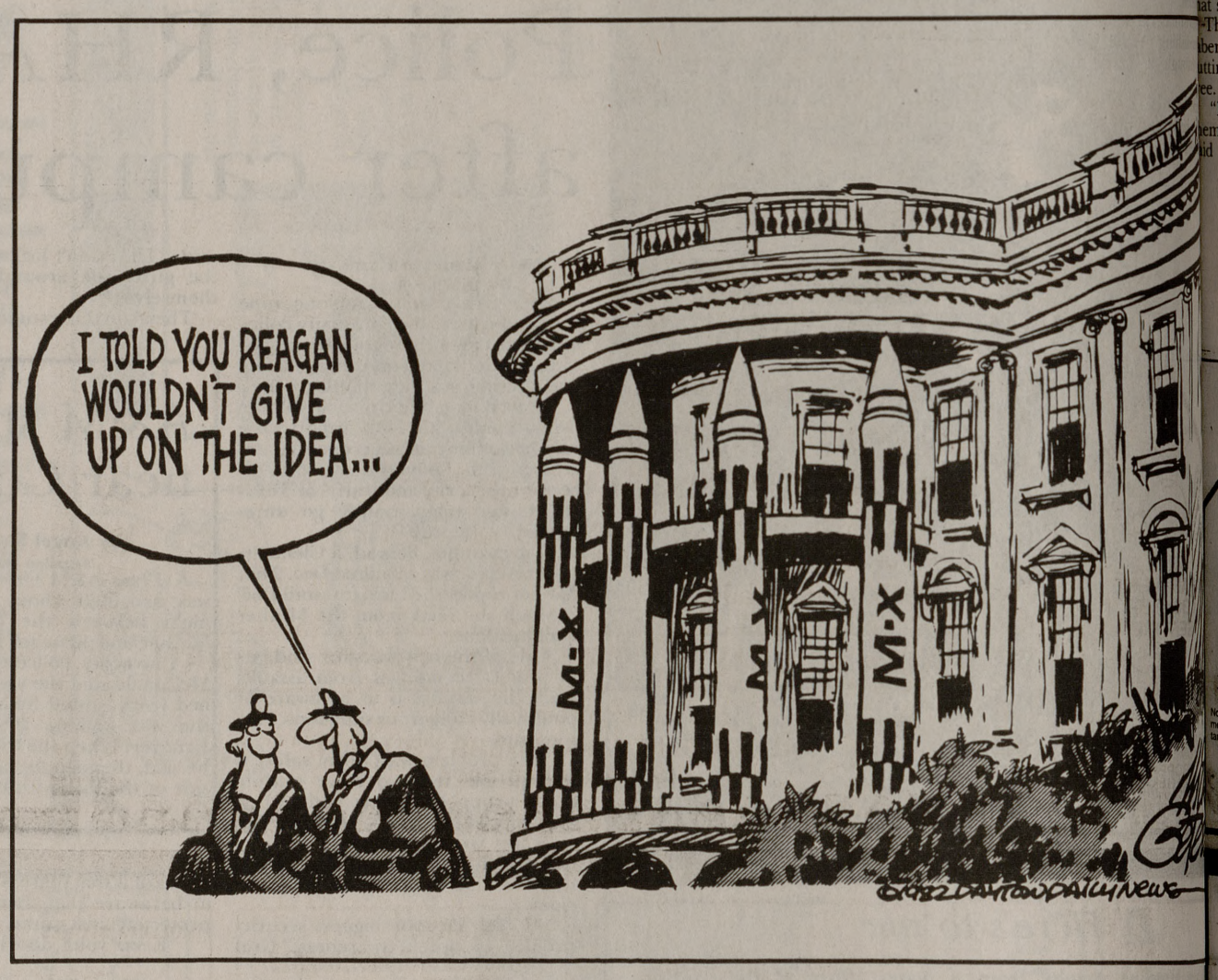
"If we don't do something we're going to end up with a bunch of millionaires and people taking money from wherever it comes from," she argued.

True, Lautenberg used his fortune to come from being an unknown to a senator. But Lewis Lehrman did not become governor of New York and Mark Dayton did not become a senator from Minnesota despite the fact that each is several million dollars poorer his efforts.

And just because they bought their the political spotlight does not mea lionaires are bad public servants. L certainly proved his credibility in Ne and is likely to become a legitimate deal with in the state's Republican years to come.

But the stronger argument agains stitutional amendment is that it goes to would allow an angry Congress NCPAC and other independent group business, and whether you like their or not, they have a right in a democra it out.

There may well be a need to reg huge amounts of money being spent paigns, and cut back the heavy flow of interest money into the war chests of and House members who vote their not at the expense of drastically limiting speech in election campaigns.



Sherrill, football team praised for efforts

Editor:

Mr. Fosberg, it is evident that from your letter that you have no idea what it takes to comprise a winning football team. You cannot judge a team by last year's prospects and hopes which you seem to be disappointed in.

It is also obvious that you were not looking at our teams overall performance, just the final score. We are all aware that the final score does matter and that is what counts, but with Coach Sherrill's help even that will come.

Coach Sherrill is a damn good coach and very motivating. The entire squad is very enthusiastic and impatient for spring practice. I think that Coach Sherrill will be more than willing to allow you to watch a practice session. After you see how he handles his team, I think your opinion of him would change. He has all my respect along with everyone on the team.

So what if he makes a lot of money, he damn well deserves it. For your information, coaching is not something that you do for the hell of it. It is a *job* also, and not a steady one at that. There are no lifetime guarantees that you will have your job the next day, you know *no* job security. The man does have a family to feed. And for him to leave Pittsburg he had to get something in return. Are you not going to sign with the company that offers you more benefits and money? I heard enough about Coach Sherrill's salary. He has it now, why not let him keep it? He deserves it!

Now, about the team. I have been out there and he has top quality people out there; coaches and players. Different than Wilson's system, he has more competition for the positions, which is why he has so many changes in his line-up each week. If he feels you can play you will. Mr. Fosberg, if you can do any better than Coach Sherrill, I suggest you apply for the job.

Rayford O. Irvin '83

Thanks, coach

Editor:

First, we would like to thank Coach Sherrill in his endorsement of the Corps of Cadets. Secondly, we would like to say, if you want to be a member of the Ross Volunteer Company, Fish Drill Team, the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, and The Twelfth Man Kick-Off Team, join the Corps this spring.

Grant H. Gilson '83
John W. Robinson '83

Editors Note: This letter was accompanied by 20 other signatures.

Celebrate success

Editor:

I'm tired of hearing about how bad our football team performed and how Jackie Sherrill is so incompetent and blah, blah, blah, blah. Don't these ignorant people realize that our great that our great Aggie team is far superior to such powerhouses as Alabama and Penn State?

As preposterous as this may sound, there are a few things to take into consideration. First of all, we beat Louisiana Tech 38-27. Louisiana Tech, in turn, knocked off Southern Mississippi and Southern Mississippi beat Alabama. That means we're better than Alabama. Alabama beat Penn State, so that means we're far superior to Penn State. (Penn State beat a lot of teams, so we could go on and on.)

It makes sense to me. It makes sense to my friends. I mean, what could be more logical?

Tonight, me and my buddies are going to celebrate in honor of our great Aggie team; the rest of you deadbeats can sit around and cry over nothing.

Joe Sands '81

Letters: Theft of parking permits

Editor:

I am writing to imform the students of Texas A&M of a problem on campus — namely the theft of current parking permits from cars parked on campus.

This weekend I had my permit stolen from my car which was parked in Lot 24. Although it expires in less than two weeks and therefore is of little use to the person who stole it, I was informed by the University Police that my case is by no means an isolated incident, and that sometimes up to 10 thefts a day have been reported.

I was advised that the best method of prevention is to apply the sticker flat to the car window, rather than using only part of the adhesive surface. With proper application, the sticker is extremely difficult to remove. Also, the theft should be immediately reported to the University Police, in order to avoid being held responsible for tickets that another person has received under the stolen permit number.

Marie Venuto
P.O. Box 8380

Ags should help

Editor:

Howdy Ags, I've got a little story to tell you. Today I was walking across campus, as usual, and had the unfortunate experience of being amongst a crowd of Aggies. The reason it was an unfortunate experience was because a middle-aged handicapped man fell. Before I could even get to him to help, four or five quote "Aggies" simply ignored him and kept on walking.

Being a freshman at Texas A&M, I've been exposed to all the tradition, pride and honor that goes with the title Aggie. On a campus where "HOWDY" is so damn important, the behavior of these people is incomprehensible and disgraceful.

If this is an example of "The Spirit of Aggieland," I'm getting on the next bus to t.u.

Susan Tulinski '86

Free U refunds

Editor:

If you ever have had to get a course refund from the MSC Free University, you will easily comprehend what I am talking about. I understand that my experience with Free U is not at all unique.

In September I had enrolled for a Free U class which was later cancelled due to lack of student enrollment. I promptly filled out a refund request and was informed that the check would be forthcoming in a month or so. N over nine weeks and still I have from them. Repeated trips to the carrel have produced no tangible On the few occasions I managed with someone, I was alternately that "the check was in the mail" cessing was held up." Why does sing or refunds take over two mon something unexpected come shouldn't the students need to be about the delay? Meantime, I hope my refund before the end semester.

Biju M

Berry's World

"I'm afraid you've become a bit too much like our foreign policy — inconsistent, unclear and lacking in steadiness."

The Battalion

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Questions or comments concerning any editorial matter should be directed to the editor.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length, and are subject to being cut if they are longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length, but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must also be signed and show the address and phone number of the writer.

Columns and guest editorials are also welcome, and are not subject to the same length constraints as letters. Address all inquiries and correspondence to: Editor, The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843, or phone (713) 845-2611.

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