

DEAR MR. OBAMA

Dear Mr. Obama,

It was truly upsetting to see that you have gone back on your pledge to accept the public funding limits you had previously endorsed for your presidential campaign, and even more upsetting to hear you say that the American people don't believe that the amounts spent on campaigns mean too much.

It is always a bad sign when a potential president goes back on his or her word. Frankly, what it means is that you are really not to be trusted with respect to what you say, and like the many who have come before you, that you are really in the same mold as the rest of the politicians we have seen. Hardly a change.

What is worse, however, is that you downplay the role of money in politics when you know full well that it is the key issue—whether or not the people perceive it to be. You know that money buys media time and that the vague sound bytes thumped endlessly into the brains of the voters lead them to push the levers for the one with the loudest or most frequently heard commercials (as opposed to the most reasoned ideas). In fact, sound bytes are meant to replace ideas with simplistic slogans, and you know that, as well.

With this in mind, it is really laughable that you present yourself as an agent of change. And even if you had turned out to be a knight in shining armor, you know full well that you would have to deal with a Congress which is as controlled by political money and special influence as you and Mr. McCain are.

So what is going to change? How will it change? How can it change when the same puppets are being dangled on the same strings by the same puppeteers? How will we end our presence in Iraq when the military/industrial complex which makes so much money from war keeps buying off our office-holders? How will we deal with terrorism when we do not acknowledge its roots in poverty and desperation? How will Social Security become solvent when the richest do not pay the 6.2% tax? How will we become energy independent when the energy lobbies keep funding Congressional campaigns? How will we solve the illegal immigration problem when both unions and business continue to profit from it? How will we deal with a potential ecological disaster when there is no adequate funding for alternate fuels? How will we prevent the medical lobbies which elect our leaders from blocking bills like HR 676 for universal health care?

You needn't answer, and anyway, how could I believe anything you might say?