

POWER DISCONNECTS LEADERS FROM THE PEOPLE

“The AP reported today that despite the sagging economy, U.S. Corporate CEOs received pay increases,” said Dr. Steven Porter, independent candidate for Congress in the third district of Pennsylvania. “Congress has health care, CEOs are rich, the leadership of the major parties live comfortable lives, and the people of our nation continue to suffer at the gas pump, the supermarket, and the drug store. Our schools cut back on textbooks because school busses eat gas; homes go on the auction block because mortgages can’t be paid. It goes on and on.

“The sale of our government and its leadership to the K Street lobbyists who front for the rich and powerful has achieved much more than the desecration of our democracy. It has created a chasm between the haves and the have-nots which has disconnected the leaders of our nation from the people they are supposed to serve.

“Yesterday, as I was going door-to-door, I met two veterans. One was paralyzed in a wheelchair, unable to speak or move anything but his left arm. The other was dying of Lou Gehrig’s disease and unable to get help from the V.A. Then I met and spoke to a former Erie City committee-man who had left the committee in disgust. He, too, was a vet who told me that he has to fight the V.A. every month for help with prescription drug costs.

“We lamented the disconnect between the powerful and the people. ‘What is wrong with us,’ I asked him, ‘that our government lets our people suffer as they do?’ He had no answer, nor do I, except to say that our leaders seem so wrapped up in their own power that they no longer care about us. If that is true, then we need more than a change of leadership. We need a change of heart.

“We need to care about our fellowman in a way which differs from our current self-absorption. We need to understand that looking out for the other fellow ultimately means looking out for ourselves because, sooner or later, we become the other fellow.

“If we continue to elect the representatives of the Democratic and Republican Parties to office—parties which are owned by the rich and powerful, parties which have demonstrated over and over they are willing to neglect the people for personal gain—then we will continue to fail as a government and as a nation.

“The choice is ours.”