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**JUST WHEN YOU THINK IT CAN'T GET WORSE...**

“Just when you think it can’t get worse,” said Dr. Steven Porter, the independent congressional candidate for PA-03, “it does.” Speaking from his home today, Dr. Porter stated that he was referring to the fact that both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama have been contributing money to many of the super delegates who have the power to decide the Democratic Party’s presidential nominee.

“Contributing may be the milder word,” Porter explained. “Perhaps the real phrase is ‘paying off.’ It is bad enough that Congress is already owned lock, stock, and barrel by the lobbyists. Now they have even apparently sunk to ‘political bribery’ of their own. It seems that with each passing election cycle the democracy slips further and further away from the people.

“There is something, of course, which the super delegates might do to restore a measure of decency and statesmanship to the process. They could either return the monies they have gotten from the candidates, or they can recuse themselves from voting on the candidates and have other, non-paid delegates replace them. After all, if this were a legal proceeding and a judge or jury member had gained a financial advantage from one of the litigants, recusal or dismissal would be automatic. Why should the election of the President of the United States not be subject to the same safeguards against bias?

“I would be delighted to see such a solution occur,” concluded Porter, “but I won’t hold my breath. It seems that in the business of electing our government just about any immorality is practiced and, what’s worse, is tolerated by a nation which is truly asleep at the switch.”

(The information about the payments to super delegates was released in a study by the Center for Responsive Politics, and the details of the more than \$890,000 paid to the delegates are available on [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)).