

ClintObama Inc.

Jon Spitz: February 3, 2008

The big story of the 2008 Democratic Presidential Primary is that neither of the top two contenders is a white man. This is indeed an unprecedented situation in US presidential politics and I think generally deserving of the attention it gets. After all, the very fact of a woman or a black man as president would necessarily bring a fundamentally different perspective to the office than ever seen before. But quite frankly, I think it would be a big mistake to believe that either of these two candidates, Senator Hillary Clinton of New York or Senator Barack Obama of Illinois, really represents any great change from the corporate controlled government we have long suffered.

Much has been made of the small contributors and grass roots organizers for these two candidates, but in fact nearly 80% of the money they raise still comes from big donors which is consistent with other recent presidential elections. The only difference this year is that corporate America anticipates a Democratic victory this fall so they are now giving more money to the Democratic candidates than to the Republicans.

Clinton receives more money by far than any other candidate from the military and energy industries and Obama comes in second. Is it any wonder that both are calling for an increase in the military budget and a permanent US military presence in Iraq in direct contradiction to the increase in domestic social spending and complete troop withdrawal that most Americans want?

Twenty five percent of Clinton's campaign funds come from the health-care-industry and twenty percent of Obama's. Is it any surprise that both of their health insurance proposals are complete sellouts to the for-profit private health insurance industry rather than the not-for-profit single payer plan that most Americans want?

Even though the policy proposals of ClintObama go against the interests of the great majority of the American people, these policies are generally supported by the corporate media. So as long as ClintObama toe the corporate line, the media will present the corporate agenda as the only way and these two candidates as inevitable. The result of such media coverage is a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The token white man among the three so called top tier candidates, former Senator John Edwards of North Carolina, was nowhere near as popular with corporate America as ClintObama. The corporations were naturally repelled by his populist anti-corporate rhetoric, and as a result he raised much less money than his rivals, but Edwards' campaign was still financed mostly by big corporate donors from the financial industry and his policy proposals were still relatively corporate friendly. Despite his corporate backing Edwards was trashed by the corporate media which was taking no chances on his populist appeal, and with no prospect of winning the nomination, he dropped out of the race just days before most Americans even got to vote in the multi-state mega-primary of February 5th.

There was one Democratic hopeful who took no money from corporate America and whose agenda truly reflected the people's interests – Representative Dennis Kucinich of Ohio. Kucinich was the only candidate who called for an immediate and total troop withdrawal from Iraq, a real not-for-profit single payer health insurance plan, a complete US withdrawal from the job killing corporate trade deals of NAFTA and WTO, and the impeachment of Vice President Dick Cheney for his crimes against the Constitution. It is Kucinich's people's agenda that truly represents a change from the soft-sell corporate agendas offered by the other candidates, but with no corporate money to get his message across and with no positive coverage by the corporate media and with no seat at the table of the corporate sponsored debates, Kucinich was also forced to drop out of the race even before most Americans ever got a chance to vote. And that is how our "democracy" works to keep a true representative of the people from ever gaining power.

In a report issued by the media watchdog group "Media Matters", through the first 17 presidential primary debates, out of almost 1,500 questions only one was asked about the Bush regime's illegal use of warrantless wiretaps, and not a single question was asked about the regime's illegal use of torture, extraordinary rendition or indefinite detention. Since the Democratic Congress has failed to hold Bush and Cheney accountable for these high crimes through the constitutionally mandated process of impeachment, these unconstitutional powers that Bush has claimed for the presidency will by default be passed on to the next president; so it would seem that voters might want to know the candidates views on these important issues. But apparently the corporate sponsors of the debates think it is much more important that Americans know whether Kucinich has seen a UFO or whether Clinton prefers diamonds to pearls (I kid you not, these questions were asked). With the "liberal" ClintObama crowd set to take power in Washington, are we simply changing over to the kinder gentler face of fascism?

As for my vote in the Feb. 5th California primary, I changed my party registration from Green to Democrat specifically to vote my heart for Dennis Kucinich, and even though he is no longer officially running I'm going to vote for him anyway as a protest against the merely cosmetic changes being offered by ClintObama Inc.

!!!Election Alert!!! If Bush bombs Iran as is likely, all bets are off that we'll even have an election come November.