



Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee

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TO: Interested Parties
FR: Katherine Miller, DSCC Research
RE: DSCC Right-wing 3rd Party Resource Book

Enclosed is your copy of a DSCC Resource book titled "WHO'S CONTROLS THE GOP HOUSE & SENATE." This book is being provided to Democrats and members of the progressive community around the country to help educate the public about the influence that these groups had during the 1996 election cycle and as background information for campaigns and the press when these groups (and their offspring) start their stealth activities in 1998.

Fight for Priorities

In 1996, right-wing groups like **Citizens for Reform**, **Child Protection Fund** and **Citizens for the Republic Education Fund**, spent nearly \$100 million on television ads, phone banks, direct mail and voter guides to help elect conservative Republican members of Congress. Their activities during the 1996 cycle were influential in maintaining a House and Senate majority that is stridently pro-business, pro-gun and anti-public education, anti-choice, and anti-working family.

Organized labor tried to match their Republican counterparts with ads and organizing activities of their own, but the airwaves were awash with false, misleading advertising created and funded by GOP-activists like **Grover Norquist**, **Ralph Reed**, **David and Charles Koch** and **Richard Mellon Scaife**. Together these men, and their friends, took a look at the country and poured millions of dollars into targeted states to guarantee their conservative agenda would live on.

At the beginning of the 1998 election cycle, the DSCC (with the help of the other Democratic committees) decided it was time to unmask these groups and their principals, especially if we're to have a chance to return control of the House and Senate back to reasonable members to promote legislation and priorities that are not about division but about helping working families and their children. That is what this project is all about.

More Than 30 Groups Covered

In this first volume of "WHO CONTROLS THE GOP," we have profiled more than 30 groups, many of which may be new to you. The groups included here range from members of the wise-use or property rights movement to key anti-public education groups to opponents of common-sense health care reform to proponents of controversial ideas such as a flat tax or national sales tax. We've done our best to include information about poorly-defined groups such as **Steve Forbes' Americans for Hope**, **Growth and Opportunity** and **Pat Buchanan's The American Cause**.

We've done this for one reason: in the past these groups were able to go into communities, run divisive advertisements and escape before anyone even knew who they were. We need to define them early and raise awareness about their activities to the level of such groups as the National Rifle Association or National Right to Life. **In the coming weeks, the DSCC will continue to add to this book and will include profiles of more widely known groups.**

Mission, Principals, Activities

Each chapter of 'WHO CONTROLS THE GOP' is divided into four sections. The first portion is a brief overview of the group, their mission statement, organizational structure and tax-status. This is followed by a section outlining the group's funding, principals and supporters. Next is a look at what

*brief letter and
copy of Anti-
Dingell
sent to
Katherine
8-20-98*

types of activities the group was involved in during previous election cycles. Finally, the latest contact information for each group is listed at the end of each summary.

Only a few of the group profiles are more than 2 pages long. If one of these groups starts popping up, these short sections can be quickly distributed to editorial boards, political reporters and progressive surrogates. Additional information (news articles, ad transcripts, press releases, etc.) on the individual groups is included in the back of each section.

Give Them Away

We encourage you to make copies of this book and distribute them to members of your local progressive organizations. This tool was conceived as one to be shared by Democrats and distributed as widely as possible. We suggest holding press briefings in you states early, as a way to define these groups before they begin their activities. Feel free to distribute copies to the political press.

Contact Us

This project is not finished. We need your help to continue to gather and distribute information on these groups. If you hear or see any activity by these groups or other like-minded groups, gather as much information as you can about what the group is doing and then call us.

If a new group pops up, one that isn't profiled here, let us know. Many of these groups are intertwined and operated by the same small group of conservative activists. We have access to information and tools that can help to identify these new groups quickly in order to help you respond to their attacks.

If you have any questions about "WHO CONTROLS THE GOP," need additional information, or would like to report third party activity in your area, please feel free to call. I can be reached at (202) 485-3109 or via email at <miller@dsc.org>.

Please take the time to read this book thoroughly, learn about their destructive activities and their extremist agenda. Then pass it on to as many people as possible. Our Party must work to educate more people about these groups that are controlling the GOP agenda. And we have to do whatever we can to counter their negative attacks.

Thank you for your support of this project and your cooperation in stopping these groups and their attack on Democratic values.