

# Free Democracy

"If you love wealth more than liberty, the tranquility of servitude better than the animating contest of freedom, depart from us in peace. We ask not your counsel nor your arms. Crouch down and lick the hand that feeds you. May your chains rest lightly upon you and may posterity forget that you were our countrymen." Samuel Adams, (1722-1803)

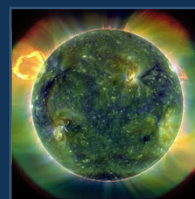
Saturday, October 23, 2010

## Right-Wing 'Journalists' At Secret Koch Meeting Make A Living Defending Unlimited Corporate Political Money

THINK PROGRESS

Earlier this week, ThinkProgress revealed documents pertaining to a secret election-planning meeting convened by the right-wing billionaires David and Charles Koch of the \$120 billion dollar conglomerate Koch Industries. The Koch Meeting included powerful executives from the health insurance, coal, manufacturing, banking, and pharmaceutical industry, as well as the top lobbyist from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, which represents large corporations like AIG and Wal-Mart. One of the most startling revelations about the June 2010 event, as Salon's Joe Conason noted, was the fact that conservative media stars "Krauthammer, Ponnuru, Barone, Moore and Beck were flown out to Aspen, lodged in luxury accommodations, and presumably paid a handsome

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honorarium by Koch to entertain and enlighten the would-be saviors of the Republic." Conason asked, "So where are the guardians of media integrity, who made so much noise about the innocuous jawing of the liberals on Journalist?"

Not only did Koch invite many prominent right-wing media stars, he also invited supposedly objective journalists to his political strategy confab. Many of the journalists at the Koch Meeting have actually made a living for themselves accepting large sums of money from Koch Meeting participants, then parroting talking points promoting corporate control of American democracy:

#### "Journalist" Michael Barone

– **Barone's Koch Meeting Money:** Barone is a Resident Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute — a think tank/trade association well represented at the Koch Meeting — which according to its 990 tax forms, compensates fellows in the \$100,000-range. Right-wing billionaire Phil Anschutz, a Koch Meeting participant, owns and subsidizes the Washington Examiner, where Barone is a paid contributor. Earlier this year, Barone was given the "Bradley Prize," a \$250,000 no-strings-attached gift just for being a loyal conservative.

Several Koch Meeting businessmen are active with the Bradley Foundation, and Koch Meeting participant

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- Cybrarian
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- HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
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- EAGLE-CAM
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Dennis Kuester, a retired bank executive, helped select Barone for the gift. The Bradley Foundation, managed by former Republican National Committee counsel Michael Grebe, is endowed with nearly \$500 million dollars from the wealth of deceased industrialist Harry Bradley, a proud John Birch Society member who came under fire for systematically discriminating against African Americans and women in his factories.

#### – **Barone's Reflexive Defense Of Koch, Secret**

**Corporate Money:** Barone enjoys wide distribution of his views through a paid punditry position at Fox News and a syndicated column through Human Events, the Washington Examiner, National Review, and other publications. And Barone has used his media platform to willingly distort ThinkProgress' investigation of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce's foreign fundraising, while also praising the influence of secret corporate money in the 2010 elections. Dismissing the influence of secret corporate cash (like his own), Barone scoffed at "Obamaites" for conjuring a "19th-century caricatures of fat cats." Barone often uses his columns to mock the poor, and assists his benefactors by sliming financial and clean energy reform.

- Devilfinder Search Engine
- Technorati
- Democratic Underground
- Kick! Making Politics Fun
- Funny or Die
- The Skunk
- Fake News Network
- THE DAILY SQUIB - UK
- The Onion
- The Spoof
- CAP NEWS
- Stuff God Hates
- The Satirical Political Report
- HUMORFEED
- The Post-Times-Sun-Dispatch
- JOE CONASON
- TRUE/SLANT
- BBC Radio
- C-SPAN Video Streams
- C-SPAN Democrats
- C-SPAN Capitol News
- C-SPAN BOOKTV
- World largest online Library
- The Devil's Dictionary

"Journalist" Tim Carney

– **Carney’s Koch Meeting Money:** Carney, a “libertarian” writer who defends the right of the fossil fuel industry to emit carbon pollution for free, has attacked ThinkProgress for highlighting his role at the Koch Meeting. In a piece this week, Carney gave full “disclosure” that he only occasionally speaks at Koch-funded dinners at the Koch-funded Institute for Humane Studies, and that his presence at the Koch Meeting was merely to scold the corporate executives about America’s bailout culture. In fact, in addition to being gainfully employed by billionaire Koch Meeting industrialist Phil Anschutz, Carney has received \$50,000 from the Koch-funded ISI Enterprise Award, \$50,000 from the Koch-funded Phillips Foundation, and was previously a fellow at the Koch-funded Competitive Enterprise Institute, an aggressive front group that defends polluters.

– **Carney’s Reflexive Defense Of Koch, Secret Corporate Money:** Carney has vigorously defended Koch’s political giving, and the right for corporations to exploit *Citizens United* for unlimited, undisclosed political contributions. Although he postures as an enemy of bailouts and government subsidies, Carney ignores the fact that his Koch Industries benefactors used their conservative “movement” donations to

- Urban Dictionary
- (LTR) Liberal Talk Radio
- KILL RADIO
- This is Hell
- The Rock Show
- Democracy Now Radio
- The Sam Seder Show
- Nova M Radio
- The Jesus Christ Show (Sunday 6-9AM Pacific)
- Radio For Revolutionaries
- The Politcal Graveyard
- U.S. House of Representatives
- House Oversight Committee
- House Judiciary Committee
- The U.S. Senate
- Open Congress (Track Bills)
- Republican Sex Offenders.Com
- NEW NEO-CON FREAKS SITE
- Reporting On Truth, Justice And The American Way Of War
- The U.S. Supreme Court
- Bills in Congress
- Iraq Govenment(English Version)

encourage the Bush Justice Department to largely dismiss \$350 million in fines for leaking carcinogenic benzene, or that Koch leveraged its relationship with the Bush administration to take control of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, or that Koch begged the Alaskan government for a bailout of one of its refineries.


### "Journalist" Stephen Moore

– **Moore's Koch Meeting Money:** Moore is subsidized through "fellowships" and "senior fellow" positions at a number of Koch-funded groups, including the Cato Institute and the Goldwater Institute, while actually leading Koch Meeting-aligned groups like the Free Enterprise Fund. In an interview with Charles Koch for the Wall Street Journal, Moore disclosed that Koch has underwritten organizations Moore is involved in, although he did not specify which ones.

– **Moore's Reflexive Defense Of Koch, Secret Corporate Money:** Moore, who also serves as a pundit on CNBC and Fox News, is best known for his role as an editorial board member of the Wall Street Journal. The Wall Street Journal editorial board has been a constant defender of Koch Industries and of unlimited, secret corporate money in American elections.

- Alsumaria Iraqi Satellite TV Network
- IraqSlogger
- United Nations
- US Department of Defense
- Congresspedia
- Political Wire
- Iraq violence, in figures
- RINF.COM
- TVNEWSLIES.ORG
- McClatchy Newspapers
- Words of Power
- Antiwar.Com
- Government and Public Libraries
- Catalog of U.S. Government Publications
- Fed World
- News Hounds
- WayBackMachine
- Journalists Against Bush's B.S. (JABBS)
- Political Moneyline
- Independent World Television
- Government Contracts

Other journalists at the meeting are also on the Koch Meeting payroll. The Washington Post's Charles Krauthammer — who spoke at the Koch Meeting's mountaintop dinner on "What's Ahead for America?" — is also a recipient of the \$250,000 Bradley Prize gift and sits on the board of other groups funded by the Koch Meeting network. While no one outside the 9/12 "movement" views hate-talker and Koch Meeting participant Glenn Beck as a serious journalist, will the media scrutinize the ties of Barone, Moore, or Carney to their corporate benefactors?

posted by See You On The Other Side at 8:18 PM 

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