

Letter to the Editor, Times of Wayne County 2/24/10  
By Nan Mazzuco, Ontario, NY Wayne County Democratic Committee State Representative

Dear Editor,

I would think the “Jerk Brigade” of which you speak in your editorial would be a full Army by now. Almost all politicians qualify at some point in time during their career and it doesn’t much matter which side of the political spectrum they are on. By the way you shouldn’t just pick on Schumer, he actually does get many things done for our state. I mean, Nozzolio and Oaks are the “Kings of empty Photo op,” especially now since they are in the minority. The question we should ask ourselves is, why?

The fault my Dear Holdraker is not in the stars, but in our selves. We, the public have become so politically challenged and cynical that no matter what these folks do, we immediately criticize it. If a politician did nothing we would criticize it, so the most they can hope for are photo ops of ribbon cuttings to keep they faces in the public eye. We the people do not do our home work. We charge off and condemn politicians based on our political affiliations and, not on the facts. We listen to talking heads in the media spilling their guts with negative commentary instead of really knowing the facts about each individual Politician. The media (yourself included) pigeon hole politicians into neat little sound bites: Democrats “Socialists” and Republicans “the party of no”. No one reports on the facts anymore and very few press releases of substance (such as signed, sponsored or cosign legislation) are ever published, though I know all of the newspapers receive them from our office holders. We as a society would rather tear down than build up and so we are becoming more and more polarized. We see it in every level of government. Politically it doesn’t pay for the Republicans to work with the Democrats in Congress, it’s so much easier to play the blame game, drag their heels and wait for voters to be so frustrated that they vote the majority out. But why should the voter reward Republicans for inaction?

Another real problem crushing our democracy is the money in politics. The cost to run a campaign is insane and just when you think the money madness has gone too far the Supreme Court drops a real bomb shell. Now corporations have been granted unencumbered political clout by having the same power as individuals. Why should a corporation be able to have the same right to free speech as an individual citizen? I’ve been looking all through the Constitution and I can’t find anything that even mentions corporate rights of free speech. In fact the term corporate is nowhere to be found in our constitution. The Constitution grants states rights and the right of individual people is mentioned numerous times. I could possibly consider a corporation a person if the CEO was democratically voted in by the individuals working at the company, (like unions do), but that’s not the case at all. Yet in their infinite wisdom the Supreme Court has added madness to mayhem. Now, if you own and operate a corporation you not only can rankle elected officials with lobbyist, you can donate gobs of money both corporately and as an individual. I wonder if the average American has gobs of money to donate. Who are our lobbyists’ for the people? Well ironically they are supposed to be our elected officials.

So, if our highest court agrees with the “Right” and money equals free speech, does that mean people with more money have more free speech? Will corporations future disenfranchise even more Americans? To quote a famous Alaskan, “You betcha!”