

ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S SALE

THIS IS THE BIGGEST ONE FOLKS!
We've Got To Move This Inventory...
WHATEVER IT TAKES!!!
We'll Show You
WE'VE GOT THE LOWEST PRICES
IN THE STATE OF KENTUCKY!
DRESS WARM &
BRING YOUR PICKUP!

Buy As Much As
You Want For
7 BIG DAYS!
Dec. 29-31 &
Jan. 1-4



Colliner
BIG DAYS!



Make Us
An Offer...And
We'll Make You
A Believer!

DON'T PAY TILL '98

Absolutely No Payments! No Interest Till June '98

CLEAN UP SALE - EVERYTHING ON SALE!

FINAL SALE OF THE YEAR -

LOTS OF ITEMS SOLD AT COST!

Dress Warm
And Bring Your
Pickup!

Don't Put
Decorating Off
Any Longer...
Now's The Time
To SAVE BIG!



KAREN

We Have Name Brands You're Looking For...
England ★ Corsair ★ Crawford
★ American Drew ★ Stanley

Catnapper

LEXINGTON

Broyhill

GREENE
brothers

American
Lane



JIMMY

Colliner
FURNITURE

Rt. #1 POPLAR PLAINS - Take I-64 to Owingville,
Frenchburg Exit, go left to Owingville. Turn right at light,
then go 1/2 mile to 111 approx. 15 miles to Poplar Plains.

PHONE
606-849-4232



Straight Talk

DEC 25 1997

FROM
CONGRESSMAN
SCOTTY BAESLER
6TH DISTRICT - KENTUCKY

Winter 1997

Political Hardball with Soft Money

\$2.2

billion dollars. That's one estimate of how much money was spent on 1996 federal political campaigns. Other estimates place the amount even higher. Of this estimated \$2.2 billion, \$272 million was the so-called "soft money" spent by the Democratic and Republican parties. "Soft money" is a term that has been repeated thousands of times in the newspapers, on the radio and in television reports over the past year. As you may recall, soft money was the focus of the recent Senate hearing chaired by Senator Fred Thompson. But just what is soft money? "Soft money" simply refers to political contributions funneled to the political parties, that may indirectly influence the outcome of federal elections, but is raised and spent outside the purview of federal election law. This money would be illegal if spent directly in connection with a federal election. It was intended that this money be limited to so-called "party building" activities, like voter registration drives and get-out-the-vote campaigns. Recent experience has seen this loophole widened to Grand Canyon-like proportions as both political parties and a continuous stream of "soft money" financed negative TV attack ads during the 1996 presidential elections.

Where does the money come from? The money comes from just about anywhere, though mostly from wealthy individuals and big businesses where contributions of \$10,000, \$25,000 and even higher are not uncommon. This is particularly noteworthy when compared to limits on individual contributors of only \$1,000 (hard money) per election when given directly to a federal candidate. So the "soft money" loophole has become a way around contribution limits and has resulted

Dear Reader:

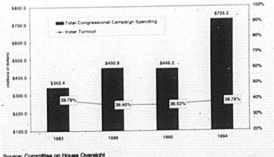
As the new year dawns, this is a time of reflection. This edition of Straight Talk provides you with a chance to reflect on many of the issues confronted by Congress this past year. Many of the articles deal with pocketbook issues ranging from a tax credit for families with children to a reduction in the capital gains tax rate. What's more, you will find news on IRS reform, student loans, and education assistance. There's news for old war veterans and Central Kentuckians visiting the nation's capital.

The lead story deals with campaign finance reform. This year I introduced legislation designed to force the House to take a vote on campaign finance reform. Here's why: 102 bills dealing with campaign finance reform were introduced this year on Congress.

Much to my disappointment, no legislative action occurred prior to Congress' adjournment this November. However, before adjournment Speaker Gingrich announced that the House would take up reform legislation in February or March of 1998, the year yet to come. I'm hopeful that a coalition of reformers, both Democrat and Republican, can develop a consensus on real reform, which will, among other things, end the flow of soft money and force full public disclosure of all money used to influence federal political elections. Stay tuned.

Sincerely,
Scotty Baesler

"If 'Reform Election Spending is Illustrative of Reform Debate,' Then Why is Voter Turnout So Low in Off-Year Elections?"



Source: Committee on House Oversight

in an avalanche of money finding its way into political campaigns, in ways never intended.

"Soft money" has clearly become a "growth industry" for national political party activities. In just an eight year period, between 1988 and 1996 "soft money" expenditures increased 83 percent whereas hard money (money raised subject to limits, with no corporate or union money allowed) increased only 60 percent. Soft money now fully represents 80 percent of all political party campaign spending based on the 1996 election. In 1988 it was only 12 percent of total spending.

With all the increases in campaign spending yielding more TV ads, more speeches, and more special interest political activity, are Americans more informed and motivated to participate in the political process? Like the chart to the left shows, as congressional campaign spending increased, voter turnout has declined in the off-year elections from 1982-94.