

The Logo Lowdown, part 1

Who paid for Repubs and Dems in our last election?

THE 2006 ELECTION RESULTS HAVE JUST COME IN! Not the polling results for Congress, of course—we got those last November. I'm talking about the money numbers—the votes cast in cash by major corporations eager to elect Congress critters beholden to them.

The final reports to the Federal Election Commission arrived last month, revealing that a record level of corporate money poured into the corrupt system, with the preponderance of it flowing into the coffers of Republican candidates. It was hardly surprising, as George W and GOP congressional leaders have long since hitched themselves to the corporate wagon, loading it with billions of dollars' worth of special tax breaks, regulatory favors, trade scams, no-bid contracts, subsidies, and other goodies.

Drug makers, for example, got Congress to hand them a multibillion-dollar boondoggle with passage of a Medicare drug bill that was essentially written by their lobbyists.

Computer giants have had Congress holding open the visa gates so they could bring tens of thousands of low-wage engineers and programmers from India and elsewhere to the U.S., knocking down the overall pay scale for these middle-class jobs.

Meat processors fought off consumers demanding action on mad-cow disease, even getting Congress to stall the simple requirement that food products have country-of-origin labeling.

Under GOP control, industry after industry has been porking out. You probably won't be surprised to hear that in order to keep on in the same fashion, corporate America handed out generous campaign donations to its favorites in 2006.

But—which corporations, exactly? Working with the Center for Responsive Politics, our intrepid research director, Laura Ehrlich, has compiled a handy-dandy list of brand-name corporations that were major political players in the '06 elections. We include only those that put \$100,000 or more into candidates' pockets, with at least two thirds of their money going to one particular party. The sums include donations from corporate executives and PACs.

Since these outfits rake in your consumer dollars, then donate a portion to the GOP, which in turn backs the anticonsumer, anti-worker, anti-environment agenda of the corporations, you might want to consult this Lowdowner's Shopping Guide when making future decisions about how to vote with your consumer dollars.

FOOD AND BEVERAGE COMPANIES

<i>Corporation & products</i>	<i>Total contributed</i>	<i>Percentage contributed</i>
Silver Eagle Distributors	\$205,484	100% to GOP
Molson Coors Brewing <i>Coors, Molson, Carling, Killian's Irish Red, Blue Moon, Keystone, Zima, Winterfest.</i>	\$168,597	83% to GOP
Reyes Holdings	\$109,525	100% to GOP
Proctor & Gamble <i>Eukanuba, Folgers, Iams, Metamucil, Millstone, Pringles; see also Consumer Products.</i>	\$356,674	81% to GOP
Altria <i>Kraft products including but not limited to: Maxwell House, General Foods, Sanka, Seattle's Best Coffee, Starbucks, Tazo, Kool-Aid, Baker's Hot Chocolate</i>	\$1,264,435	65% to GOP

Mix, Del Monte juice drinks, Country Time, Crystal Light, Quench, Tang, Capri Sun, Fruit2O, Back to Nature products, Kraft cheese cubes, Breakstone's Cottage Cheese, Knudsen, Light n' Lively, Athenos Hummus, natural cheese (Athenos, Casino, Churny, Cracker Barrel, Delissio, DiGiorno, Handi-Snacks, Harvest Moon, Hoffman's, MacLaren's Imperial), Velveeta, Cheez Whiz, Oscar Mayer, Louis Rich, Taco Bell Dinner Kits, Lunchables, Boca, Tombstone, Bull's-Eye BBQ Sauce, Del Monte canned fruits and vegetables, CarbWell products, Aylmer products, Grey Poupon, Cream of Wheat, Dream Whip, Jell-O Knox Gelatine, Balance products, Ever Fresh, Cool Whip, Barnum's Animals, Biscos, Café Crème, Cameo, Chips Ahoy!, Honeymaid, Lorna Doone, Mallomars, National Arrowroot, Newtons, Nilla, Nutter Butter, Oreo, SnackWells, Teddy Grahams, Air Crisps, Better Cheddars, Cheese Nips, Doo Dad, Flavor Crisps, Harvest Crisps, Ritz, Stoned Wheat Thins, Triscuit, Uneeda, Zwieback, Balance brands, Planters, Corn Nuts, Jet-Puffed Marshmallow Creme, Kraft Caramels, Toblerone, Claussen Pickles, Alpha-Bits, Banana Nut Crunch, Blueberry Morning, Bran Flakes, Cranberry Almond Crunch, Shredded Wheat, Fruit and Fibre, Golden Crisp, Grape-Nuts, Honeycomb, Raisin Bran, Sugar-Crisp, Good Seasons salad dressing, Seven Seas salad dressing, Miracle Whip, AI sauce, Shake 'n Bake.

UST Inc.	\$531,500	86% to GOP
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Wines: Chateau Ste Michelle, Columbia Crest, Col Solare, Conn Creek, Distant Bay, Domaine St Michelle, 14 Hands, Northstar, Red Diamond, Saint M, Snoqualmie, Stimson Estate Cellars, Villa Mt Eden, Boonaroo, Spring Valley Vineyard, Antinori; see also Tobacco Products.

Dean Foods	\$523,400	71% to GOP
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Alta Dena, Barbe's, Barber's, Berkeley Farms, Brown's Dairy, Country Fresh, Creamland, Dairy Ease, Dean's, Gandy's, Garelick Farms, Hershey's Milks and Milkshakes, Horizon Organic, International Delight, LAND O LAKES, Lehigh Valley Dairy Farms, Louis Trauth, Mayfield Dairy, McArthur Dairy, Meadow Brook Dairy, Meadow Gold, Melody Farms, Mountain High Yoghurt, Oak Farms Dairy, Organic Cow of Vermont, PET Dairy, Price's Creameries, Purity Dairies, Rachel's Organic, Reiter Dairy, Robinson Dairy, Schepps Dairy, Silk Soymilk, Stroh's, T.G. Lee Dairy, TofuTown.

PepsiCo	\$376,392	70% to GOP
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Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Pepsi ONE, Mountain Dew, Code Red, LiveWire, MDX, AMP, Mug Root Beer, Mirinda Orange, Sierra Mist, Tropicana drinks and juices, Frappuccino, Starbucks DoubleShot, Aquafina, Lipton, SoBe, Quaker Milk Chillers, Baked!, Cheetos, Cracker Jack, Doritos, Fritos, Funyuns, Gamesa Cookies, Lay's Potato, Oh Boy! Oberta Meat Snacks, Rold Gold Pretzels, Ruffles, Sabritones, Tostitos, Sun Chips, Cap'n Crunch, Life Cereal, Quisp, Mother's Natural Foods, Kretschmer Wheat Germ, Aunt Jemima, Rice-A-Roni.

Pilgrim's Pride	\$351,400	100% to GOP
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Poultry, eggs, deli products.

Flowers Foods	\$182,950	100% to GOP
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Nature's Own, Cobblestone Mill, Sunbeam Bread, Bunny Bread, ButterKrust, European Bakers, BlueBird, Mrs. Freshley's, Mi Casa, Tesoritos.

Smithfield Foods	\$166,360	86% to GOP
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Meats: Smithfield, John Morrell, Kretschmar, E-Z Cut, Dinner Bell, Rath Black Hawk, Rodeo, Hunter, Peyton's, Tobin's First Prize, Farmland, Roegelein, OhSe, Patrick Cudahy, La Abuelita, Pavone, Ember Farms, Cook's, Stefano Foods,

Butterball, Gwaltney.

Swift & Company <i>Beef and pork supplier.</i>	\$138,750	75% to GOP
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ConAgra <i>Act II Popcorn, Andy Capp's, Angela Mia, Award, Banquet, Big Mama Sausage, Blue Bonnet, Brown 'N Serve, Chef Boyardee, Crunch 'n Munch, DAVID, Dennison's, Egg Beaters, Fernando's, Firecracker, Fleischmann's, Gebhardt, Gilardi Foods, Gilroy, Gulden's, Healthy Choice, Hebrew National, Hunt's Snack Pack, J. Hungerford Smith, Jiffy Pop, Kid Cuisine, Knott's Berry Farm, La Choy, Lamb Weston, Lamb Weston Inland Valley, Libby's, Luck's, Manwich, Marie Callender's, Move Over Butter, Orville Redenbacher's, PAM, Parkay, Patio, Pemmican, Penrose, Peter Pan, Ranch Style, Reddi-wip, Ro*Tel, Rosarita, Slim Jim, Squeeze 'N Go, Swiss Miss, The Max, Van Camp's, Wesson, Wolf.</i>	\$123,000	82% to GOP
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A&R Foods	\$119,600	98% to GOP
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HJ Heinz <i>Bagel Bites, Boston Market, Catelli, Classico, Delimex, Farley's, Greenseas, Guloso, Heinz Ketchup, Heinz Vinegar, HP Sauce, Heinz 57, Jack Daniel's Sauces and Marinades, Lea & Perrins, Nancy's, Ne-nerina, Olivine, Ore-Ida, Orlando, Plasmon, Polly Mi Chica, Polly Rice Flour, Smart Ones, tinytums, T.G.I. Friday's, Wattie's, Weight Watchers Foods, Wyler's.</i>	\$105,898	74% to GOP
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United Dairy Farmers <i>Homemade Brand ice cream, Premium Homemade ice cream and yogurt</i>	\$168,400	100% to GOP
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E&J Gallo Winery <i>Gallo wines, Bridlewood Estate, Frei Brothers, Indigo Hills, Louis M. Martini, MacMurray Ranch, Turning Leaf, Bella Sera, Black Swan, DaVinci, Ecco Domani, Red Bicyclette, Whitehaven, Carlo Rossi, Livingston Cellars, Peter Vella, Wild Vines, Burlwood, Copperidge, Liberty Creek, William Wycliff Vineyards.</i>	\$175,120	94% to Dems
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Southern Wine & Spirits	\$176,250	77% to Dems
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Charmer Sunbelt Group	\$110,850	95% to Dems
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Astrale e Terra Winery	\$100,400	100% to Dems
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TOBACCO COMPANIES

<i>Corporation & products</i>	<i>Total contributed</i>	<i>Percentage contributed</i>
Altria Group <i>Philip Morris products: Apollo Soyuz, Bond Street, Caro, Chesterfield, Diana, F 6, L&M, Lark, Longbeach, Marlboro, Merit, Multifilter, Muratti, Optima, Parliament, Peter Jackson, Petra, Philip Morris, Polyot, Red & White, SG, Start, Vatra, Virginia Slims.</i>	\$1,288,703	65% to GOP

Reynolds American <i>Cigarettes: Camel, Kool, Winston, Salem, Doral, Pall Mall, Barclay, Belair, Capri, Carlton, GPC, Lucky Strike, Misty, Monarch, More, Now, Tareyton, Vantage, Viceroy, American Spirit. Smokeless tobacco: H.B. Scott's Private Blend,</i>	\$860,000	86% to GOP
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Morgan's, Levi Garrett, Peachey, Taylor's Pride, Union Workman.

UST Inc. <i>Smokeless Tobacco: Copenhagen, Skoal, Rooster, Red Seal, Husky, Skoal Bandit.</i>	\$575,900	85% to GOP
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Loews Corporation <i>Holding company for: CNA Boardwalk Pipeline Partners, Lorillard, Inc. products (Newport, Kent, True, Maverick, Old Gold), Texas Gas Transmission Company, Gulf South Pipeline, Loews Hotels, Bulova.</i>	\$235,250	87% to GOP
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Vector Group <i>Liggett Select, Eve, Grand Prix, Quest, Jade, Pyramid, USA, Tourney, Tourney</i>	\$110,100	84% to Dems
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BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

<i>Corporation & products</i>	<i>Total contributed</i>	<i>Percentage contributed</i>
National Beer Wholesalers Assn.	\$3,064,250	69% to GOP
Nat'l Fedn of Independent Business	\$897,431	90% to GOP
National Assn of Convenience Stores	\$811,332	78% to GOP
Wine and Spirits Wholesalers	\$665,858	69% to GOP
National Cattleman's Beef Assn.	\$386,294	76% to GOP
Food Marketing Institute	\$343,071	89% to GOP
Internat'l Franchise Assn.	\$338,500	87% to GOP
Hardwood Federation	\$313,969	79% to GOP
U.S. Chamber of Commerce	\$231,440	80% to GOP
American Meat Institute	\$231,234	81% to GOP
American Forest & Paper Assn.	\$218,171	88% to GOP
National Pork Producers Assn.	\$178,801	75% to GOP
Nat'l Assn. of Chain Drugstores	\$175,355	65% to GOP

BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

<i>Corporation & products</i>	<i>Total contributed</i>	<i>Percentage contributed</i>
National Retail Federation	\$211,150	79% to GOP

JCPenney	\$180,650	84% to GOP
Best Buy	\$130,300	88% to GOP
Federated Dept Stores <i>Bloomingdale's, Macy's.</i>	\$103,913	76% to GOP
Walgreen Company	\$125,501	64% to GOP
Gap Inc. <i>Gap, Old Navy, Forth and Towne, Piperlime.</i>	\$216,939	74% to Dems
Costco Wholesale	\$148,396	85% to Dems
Barnes & Noble	\$129,680	81% to Dems

RESTAURANTS

<i>Corporation & products</i>	<i>Total contributed</i>	<i>Percentage contributed</i>
National Restaurant Assn.	\$1,649,546	69% to GOP
Outback Steakhouse <i>Carrabba's, Roy's, Bonefish Grill, Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, Lee Roy Selmon's, Cheeseburger In Paradise, Blue Coral Seafood & Spirits.</i>	\$595,864	95% to GOP
Darden Restaurants <i>Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Smokey Bones, Bahama Breeze.</i>	\$265,629	75% to GOP
Wendy's International	\$241,250	85% to GOP
McDonald's <i>McDonald's, Chipolte Mexican Grill, Aroma Café, Boston Market.</i>	\$229,440	85% to GOP
Brinker International <i>Chili's, On The Border, Maggiano's Little Italy, Romano's Macaroni Grill.</i>	\$124,900	86% to GOP
American Beverage Assn.	\$115,607	78% to GOP
Pizza Hut Fran. Assn.	\$106,500	93% to GOP
Ladex Corp. <i>Canned fruits and vegetables.</i>	\$102,300	66% to GOP
Yum! Brands Inc. <i>Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, KFC, A&W All American Foods.</i>	\$95,550	83% to GOP
Riese Organization <i>Times Square Grill, Lindy's, Martini's, Knot Just Pretzels, Roy Rogers, Nathan's Famous, T.G.I. Friday's, Charley O's.</i>	\$90,300	100% to Dems

AGRIBUSINESS

Total Percentage

<i>Corporation & products</i>	<i>contributed</i>	<i>contributed</i>
Deere & Company <i>Tractors and farm equipment.</i>	\$457,800	84% to GOP
Weyerhaeuser Company	\$452,826	77% to GOP
International Paper <i>Paper brands: Accent, Great White, Hammermill, Springhill, Williamsburg.</i>	\$389,549	89% to GOP
California Dairies, Inc.	\$379,500	82% to GOP
Pfizer, Inc.	\$156,500	65% to GOP
American Proteins, Inc.	\$128,593	100% to GOP
Albertsons	\$225,000	73% to GOP
Syngenta Corporation	\$117,250	71% to GOP
Schnucks	\$143,735	100% to GOP
Scotts Miracle-Gro	\$135,778	98% to GOP
Peace River Citrus Products, Inc.	\$117,560	95% to GOP
Centric Group	\$160,200	100% to GOP
Swift & Company	\$138,750	75% to GOP
Publix Super Markets	\$137,820	88% to GOP
Georgia-Pacific <i>Dixie brand paper products and plastic cutlery, Spectrum paper, Georgia Pacifica and Advantage brand office paper and ink cartridges, various commercial paper products.</i>	\$212,550	70% to GOP
Plum Creek Hollow Farm	\$100,100	93% to Dems
Flo-Sun Inc. <i>Sugar.</i>	\$411,240	65% to Dems
Connell Company <i>Rice and sugar.</i>	\$354,000	97% to Dems
Florida Sugar Cane League	\$211,922	65% to Dems