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“Democracy
dies in
broad daylight”

Citizens push back against AIPAC dominance

Tracking lobby’s million dollar club

By Russell Mokhiber

In April 2024 Congress overwhelmingly passed and President Biden signed a military aid bill that provides \$95 billion in war aid – including \$61 billion to Ukraine, \$8 billion to Taiwan and \$26 billion to Israel – in effect a genocide tax on the American people.

And only a handful of members of the House and Senate voted against the genocide tax.

“The pleasure in the vote shared by the White House and Congress, and the mainstream press’s enthusiasm, were more than a little off-putting to those with memories of past wars,” wrote Pulitzer Prize winning reporter Seymour Hersh. “Billions of American taxpayer dollars are going to support a war in Ukraine that many believe cannot be won, and perhaps could easily be settled, with

more billions going to support the war in Gaza that could cost Biden thousands of votes in contested states where there is intense opposition to the ongoing Israeli attacks.”

But out of the ashes of the Gaza slaughter and ongoing war in Ukraine is growing a new anti-war movement, with a special focus on the most powerful political force driving the U.S. support of the Gaza genocide – the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

The new anti-AIPAC movement is building on increasing discontent in the American electorate with Israel’s assault on Gaza and its people.

A March Gallup poll found that after narrowly backing Israel’s military action in Gaza in November, Americans now oppose the campaign by a solid margin. Fifty-five percent cur-

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Biden’s bombs

November 4, 2023. Khan Yunis, Gaza Strip – “A child’s feet were all that were visible from the rubble. The little girl was killed along with three of her brothers by an Israeli air strike in Khan Yunis market. The mother, she lived, but was hopeful for hours that they would be pulled out alive by the paramedics, from the rubble where her home once stood.”

“We share these images with the outside world, hoping to convey the reality of our experiences. Yet, we understand that those who view our work may never fully comprehend the depth of our pain, the constant threat to our safety, and the psychological toll of living amidst conflict and uncertainty.”

— Photo and text: Mohammed Zaanoun

(See An Open Letter to President Biden, page 37)

Pentagon’s eyes and ears in Congress

Military Fellows
on Capitol Hill

By Jay Waxse

In the basement of the Rayburn House Office Building are offices of the Department of Defense legislative fellowship program – for the Air Force, the Army, the Navy, and the Marines.

The purpose of these offices?

According to the Pentagon – “to provide select service members and civilian employees with valuable legislative experience and the Department of Defense with an understanding of how congressional actions affect the Pentagon’s budget, roles and missions, force structure, military projects, and quality of life.”

Translated – eyes and ears on the ground to make sure multi-billion dollar military industrial complex budgets make their way through Congress.

Look at them like the offices of the military industrial complex embedded in Congress.

No other lobby or government agency that we know of has that kind of on the ground access in Congress.

The minimum number of legislative fellows assigned to Congressional offices each

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Greatest bargain ever: Buy back your Congress. Here’s how

By Ralph Nader

What is, by far, hands down, no contest, corporate America’s most lucrative investment?

Members of Congress.

A few billions of dollars of corporate money brings in trillions of dollars in return.

Open Secrets reported last year that business interests

made \$3.5 billion in federal political contributions during the 2022 cycle – up from \$3.3 billion, adjusted for inflation, spent during the 2018 mid-term election cycle.

And what are some of the rewards these companies and their bosses receive from this rancid system of cash register politics?

Corporate welfare. Hundreds of billions of dollars in

corporate welfare – subsidies, giveaways, handouts, bailouts and other freebies.

Let us count some of the ways.

Tax evasions and avoidances. Untold billions of dollars are lost to the public (and gained by corporations and the wealthy) through huge escapes from the tax laws combined with Congressionally starved IRS enforcement budgets. The

federal corporate income tax, as a percentage of total federal government revenues, is at the lowest level ever.

Tiny law enforcement budgets. Deliberately tiny law enforcement budgets take cops off the corporate crime beat leading to open sesame for business fraud on the government, including massive frauds on Medicare, Medicaid and the

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