

LITCHFIELD Independent Review

Top 1 percent has rigged political system

Sam Feistner, January 16, 2013

The recent editorial concerning the Cato Institute ("What's the deal with Cato?" from Jan. 10) is the reason for this letter to the editor.

The statements below come from a recent Channel 2 TPT program on Independent Lens, which aired on Nov. 17, 2012, and was called "Park Avenue: Money, Power and the American Dream." It's about the top 1 percent of the 1 percent and the rest of us. I called Channel 2 to see if I could get a DVD of the program. They said it was not available, but that I could watch it on the Internet. I had copied most of the program, so I haven't done that.

To me, there are some rather unbelievable things going on concerning the very rich, the economy, politics and our government. The actions make me disappointed for our country and where it seems to be going. I think it would be a very good idea for you to see this program. Below are some examples from that program.

Charles Koch, a billionaire, who founded the libertarian organization, Cato Institute, promotes ideas like a free market economy and deregulation. Americans for Prosperity, a Koch venture (the two Koch brothers, David and Charles, have a wealth of several tens of billions of dollars), advocates a free market economy, government deregulation and greatly decreased taxes.

The Koch brothers have spent more money to influence American politics than any other American. Financially, the Tea Party movement, thought to be a grassroots-funded organization is fed, greatly, by libertarian billionaires, including the Koch brothers. Legislation proposed by Paul Ryan, under the name "The Path to Prosperity," was heavily pushed by the ultra rich. Even though many other ideas were discussed in this program, two of them are: Ayn Rand, her philosophy and book "Atlas Shrugged" and how it relates to the ultra rich and us; also, The Americans for Prosperity Foundation.

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