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The Billionaire War Against the White House

Perhaps billionaires who live in glass mansions shouldn't throw stones.

A recent report by the left-leaning Center for American Progress blasts conservative billionaires David and Charles Koch for funding a campaign of "hate" against the White House. It said the Koch's — funded by their oil, gas and timber conglomerate — have spent millions of dollars trying to block President Obama's stimulus package, climate-change policies and health-care reform.

The report said the funding has been channeled through the Cato Institute, Heritage Foundation and Competitive Enterprise Institute.

It's central message: Billionaire ideologues are bad for democracy.

Yet missing from the report was one central fact: The Center for American Progress, itself, [receives support](#) from politically active billionaires, including George Soros and Herbert and Marion Sandler.

As [one conservative blogger](#) pointed out, the Center has "a blind spot where irony is concerned."



Bloomberg News

David Koch

The pundits at the Center for American Progress seem to get mortally offended whenever billionaires meddle in politics. It's a violation of democracy, they say. It's the ultimate triumph of money over votes.

Yet the reality is that billionaire ideologues exist on both sides of the aisle. Perhaps the left-leaning billionaires cancel out (or at least offset) the efforts of the right-leaning billionaires. If that's the way billionaires want to spend their money, they have the right. Whether it's effective is an open question.

Do you think spending by political billionaires from either side have been effective?

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