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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION
MAY 10 1991

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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REC'D
FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

April 23, 1991

Mr. John Warren McGarry
Chairman
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20463

AOR
1991-17

Dear Mr. McGarry:

I am requesting an opinion from your office concerning a public service production I have been asked to participate in by the Committee for Citizen's Awareness.

This group wishes to videotape a "day in the life of a Congressman," and record an audio message from me.

This tape, to be narrated by the journalist Howard K. Smith, Sr., will be distributed to schools in my district, for their use.

This production will be subsidized by a corporation from my state. Apparently, the producers wish to film a segment of the videotape including myself with a representative of the company.

There will be no audio accompaniment or "endorsement."

Although the material sent to my office indicates this program has a non-partisan history record of performance, I wish to make sure your office believes this production is proper.

My main concern is: does the corporate subsidy translate into an in-kind or improper donation to my potential reelection campaign?

Enclosed you will find some materials sent to my office. The producers wish to proceed next month, so a timely response would be deeply appreciated.

-2-

If you have any questions, please contact my Director of Communications, Chris Healy at 202-225-7865.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary A. Franks". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G".

Gary A. Franks
Member of Congress

GAF:ch

Committee For Citizen Awareness

1750 New York Avenue N W
Suite 210
Washington D C 20006

(202) 393-8553

Board of Directors

John J Rhodes
Former Republican Leader
of U.S. House of Representatives

Philip M Klutznick
Former Secretary of Commerce

Andrew E Manatos
Former Assistant Secretary of Commerce

Executive Director

Kimberley A Matthews

November 28, 1990

The Honorable Gary Franks
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman:

Do for your high school students what Representatives Barbara Kennelly, former member Bruce Morrison, Christopher Shays, Nancy Johnson and former member John Rowland are doing for theirs -- appear in a free videotape about the workings of the U.S. Congress narrated by Howard K. Smith. It will take 30 minutes of your time (to be videotaped).

80% of your colleagues in the House of Representatives are participating in this good government, nonpartisan videotape project, which is receiving rave reviews from high schools across the country.

Please contact us as soon as possible so that we can begin arranging this project for you.

We will look forward to working with you on this project and others in the years ahead. Congratulations on your election and welcome to Washington.

Sincerely,


Kimberley Matthews Fraser


Andrew E. Manatos

AEM/las
Attachment

NONPARTISAN GOOD GOVERNMENT EFFORT

Members of Congress from both political parties representing all political philosophies are participating in this project in their own Congressional districts

The videotape does not endorse any office holder but includes the Member of Congress (in four live segments) and the Senators (in pictures and names) who officially represent the viewer in the Congressional process

'The videotape is especially effective in educating people about the Congress and I am delighted to participate in this project'
Congressman Hamilton Fish (R NY)

"It is important to our Democracy that the people understand the Congressional process and their role in it"
Congressman Lee Hamilton (D IN)



COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN AWARENESS
1750 NEW YORK AVENUE NW
SUITE 210
WASHINGTON, DC 20006
(202) 393 8553

"THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS AND YOU"

An Educational And Entertaining Videotape
About Your Role
In The World's Greatest Democracy



FEATURING

- YOUR MEMBER OF THE U S CONGRESS
- AN OUTSTANDING PRIVATE SECTOR LEADER FROM YOUR COMMUNITY
- NEWS COMMENTATOR HOWARD K SMITH

PRODUCED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR
CITIZEN AWARENESS

A nonpartisan nonprofit organization

Directors include

JOHN RHODES, Former Republican
Leader of the U S House of Representatives
PHILIP M KLUTZNICK, Former Secretary
of Commerce
ANDREW MANATOS, Former Assistant
Secretary of Commerce

The world's greatest democracy needs our help as patriotic Americans

America's voter turnout rate is now at its lowest point since 1924. In fact, we have the lowest voter participation rate in the world. The only country we traditionally beat in voter turnout, Botswana, did better than we did in recent elections.

The Committee for Citizen Awareness was established to address this serious problem and to encourage good citizenship in our democracy.

**WITH YOUR HELP, OUR CITIZENS WILL
BECOME MORE INVOLVED**

WHAT IS THE VIDEOTAPE?

A twenty minute presentation about behind the scenes activities in the U.S. Congress – how it really works, what role a citizen can play, the role of Congressional staff, and how a bill actually becomes law.

IS THE VIDEOTAPE EFFECTIVE?

- 84% of high school students who viewed the tape said they would recommend it to a friend
- The videotape increased from 20% to 90% the high school students who indicated they understand how the Congress works
- It increased by 40% the number of high school students who said they feel that they know enough to cast a vote



"We believe it is critical that all citizens better understand the legislative process. This videotape is an excellent tool in this regard."

Gene Copeland of Security Life of Denver, private sector representative on the videotape for Congresswoman Pat Schroeder's district.

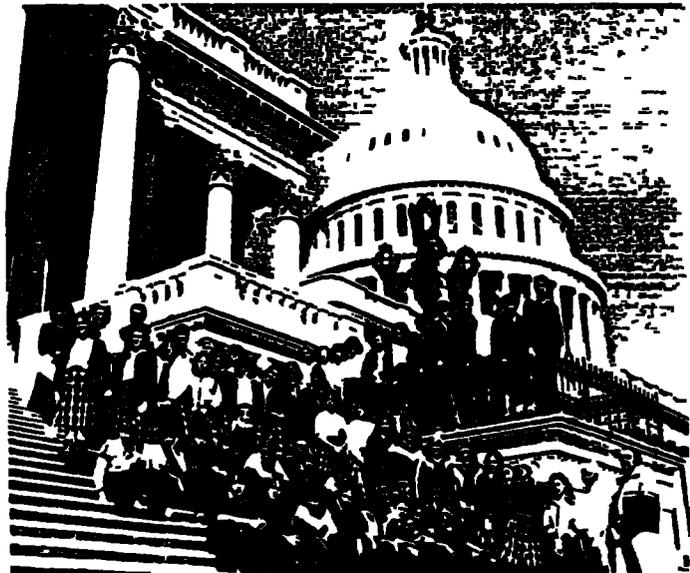
"Government of the people, by the people, and for the people, only works if the people take part."

Howard K. Smith
News Commentator



WHO SEES THE VIDEOTAPE?

- Senior and junior high school students
- Civic and religious groups
- Cable television viewers
- Employees of companies
- Others



WHO DISTRIBUTES THE VIDEOTAPE?

The Committee for Citizen Awareness takes responsibility for assuring that the videotape is seen widely within each Congressional district. Over 95 percent of those organizations offered use of the tape have shown it. The tape is now being viewed in over 90 percent of the states in the nation and the Committee receives numerous communications of appreciation each month from audiences across the country.

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SUGGESTED SCRIPT FOR MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SEGMENT #1 BY REPRESENTATIVE

Hello. My name is _____. I was first elected to the Congress in _____ to represent our area or congressional district. The boundaries of this district are _____. It is called the _____ district of _____.

Congress? Everyone knows something about it. It is in Washington, D.C., the nation's capitol. But do you know specifically how Congress works? Do you know the details of how I, as your member of Congress, go about representing you? This videotape will address these questions.

SEGMENT #2 BY REPRESENTATIVE

(At this point in the tape, the member of Congress has approximately 30 seconds to describe the issue which he or she believes is most pressing within the Congress -- for example, defense spending, the budget deficit, etc.)

SEGMENT #3 BY REPRESENTATIVE

Most members serve on one to three committees. For example, I serve on the _____ Committee. The _____ Committee has _____ subcommittees which each handle a specific subject area. I serve on the _____ Subcommittee. This year we will deal primarily with _____.

SEGMENT #4 BY REPRESENTATIVE

Let me take a moment to comment on my fellow members of Congress. On the whole, they are hardworking people who devote their time and energy to make sure that the opinions of their constituents are represented in Washington.

--2--

The position of a U.S. representative can seem prestigious, yet I am impressed by the number of my colleagues who haven't forgotten where they came from and why they are in Washington. It's an outstanding group of men and women with whom I am proud to serve.

If there is one thing I would like you to learn from this tape, it is that my staff and I are in Washington and the district to hear your views and represent you. So don't hesitate to contact us. All you have to do is address your letter to me at the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. I'll get it without any problem. Or just call information for the telephone number of my office in the district or in Washington. I hope to hear from you.

In between the four statements by the member of Congress, news commentator Howard K. Smith appears live several times on the tape. As well, Smith serves as the narrator over other remaining live footage.

*NOTE: Complete script is available upon request.