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The Caucus Click: Washington

By THE NEW YORK TIMES



Chip Somodevilla/Getty Images

Laird Monahan walked up the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, past a banner printed with the preamble of the United States Constitution, during a demonstration against Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission, the Supreme Court decision that ruled that the government may not ban political spending by corporations in candidate elections.



aFD Co-chair Nancy Price and former Co-chair Sue Wheaton organized, fed and housed much of the effort.

photo: Jim Tarbell

Media We Effort to Get Unlin Money Out o

by Jim Tarbell

The *Washington Post* and the *New York Times* both featured the Move to Amend-sponsored welcome to Washington, DC of Laird and Robin Monahan. This was nine months after the Supreme Court announced its decision allowing corporations the unlimited right to contribute to independent political campaigns. The Monahans arrival in DC was the culmination of their 3100 mile trek across country to bring awareness to the American people of the implications of that decision.

The welcoming event took weeks to organize and the untiring dedication of the people involved. It featured a 200-foot Constitution, and two, eight-foot high signs, all put together by the Backbone Campaign. One sign declared that corporations do not equal persons and the other was a huge "For Sale" sign to march around Washington. All of this required organizing during the day and sign building most of the night. Bill Moyer, of the Backbone Campaign, did both and finished his monumental signs as the festivities began.

The all-day public event started with a march from the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia—where the 200-foot Constitution was assembled—across the Memorial Bridge spanning the Potomac River to the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC. There, Park Police were taken by surprise as ralliers quickly took over the famed marble steps and cascaded the 200-foot rendition of the Constitutional Preamble down towards the Reflecting Pool. Before the police could respond, a confident Nancy Price occupied them with the inch-thick demonstration permit that had been approved the day before. As the flabbergasted police puzzled about what to do, the demonstrators carried on with speeches and the distribution of feather-tipped pens for the crowd to use in signing the Constitution. The whole event recalled the location and spirit of Martin Luther King's, "I Have a Dream" speech.

From there, the happy and determined citizens, moved on down the Mall to place their huge "For Sale" sign in front of the Capitol and then at the Supreme Court.

A fun and festive evening reception at Washington's renowned Busboys and Poets culminated the day with a gathering that included some of this country's most dedicated and active citizens determined to bring an end to the devastating power of corporate money in our political system.