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| Author | Topic: Criminal Class:The US Congress |
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| <p>Scott Buccaneer</p> <p>Posts: 181 From: Palm Springs, CA Registered: Aug 2001</p> | <div data-bbox="386 856 451 919"></div> <p data-bbox="451 888 836 919">posted 07 August 2001 11:58 AM</p> <div data-bbox="873 877 922 919"></div> profile <div data-bbox="1008 877 1057 919"></div> mail <div data-bbox="1127 877 1175 919"></div> edit <div data-bbox="1235 877 1284 919"></div> quote <hr/> <p data-bbox="386 940 1398 1010">Great Article, I would like to share with you guys. For the complete series:</p> <p data-bbox="386 1035 1357 1066">http://chblue.com/Aug1999/081699/criminalclass1-081699.htm</p> <p data-bbox="386 1104 1024 1136">----- Congress: America's Criminal Class: Part I</p> <p data-bbox="386 1163 1430 1232">America, Mark Twain once said, is a nation without a distinct criminal class "with the possible exception of Congress."</p> <p data-bbox="386 1257 1455 1327">If anything, the Congress of today is even worse than it was in Twain's time more than a century ago.</p> <p data-bbox="386 1352 1471 1476">The 535 men and women who make up the House and Senate of the United States include, at best, a collection of rogues, con artists, scofflaws and bad check artists. At worst, they comprise, as Twain once observed, a distinct criminal class.</p> <p data-bbox="386 1501 1495 1696">Over the past several months, researchers for Capitol Hill Blue have checked public records, past newspaper articles, civil court cases and criminal records of both current and recent members of the United States Congress (since 1992). We have talked with former associates and business partners who have been left out in the cold by people they thought were friends.</p> <p data-bbox="386 1722 1487 1854">Using a scoring system developed by American Express, we ran credit checks on members and applied the financial and criminal record scoring procedures used by the Department of Defense to determine eligibility for a Top Secret security clearance.</p> <p data-bbox="386 1879 1463 1976">All checks were made through public records. Our researchers were not allowed to break any laws or misrepresent themselves to obtain this information.</p> |

What emerges from this examination is a disturbing portrait of a group of elected officials who routinely avoid payment of debts, write bad checks, abuse their spouses, assault people and openly violate the law.

They include current Rep. Corrine Brown (D-Fla), whose trail of bad debts, lies to Congress and misstatements to the Internal Revenue Service have spawned a number of investigations. Then there is Rep. James Moran (D-Va) whose wife has charged him with abuse, who has assaulted other members of Congress on the floor of the House and is a former stockbroker whose judgment in trades is so bad he is broke from poor investments. The list also includes Joe Waldholtz, a con man and husband of former Rep. Enid Greene Waldholtz (R-UT) who kited more than a million dollars in bad checks and ended up in prison.

Others, like former Ohio Senator John Glenn, have driven creditors into bankruptcy because of unpaid debts left over from aborted Presidential campaigns. Even millionaire Senator Ted Kennedy has left a trail of unpaid debts from past campaigns.

In recent years, members of Congress have gone to jail for child molestation, fraud and other charges.

Our research found 117 current and recent members of the House and Senate who have run at least two businesses each that went bankrupt, often leaving business partners and creditors holding the bag. Seventy-one of them have credit reports so bad they can't get an American Express card on their own (but as members of Congress, they get a government-issued Amex card without a credit check).




Fifty-three have personal and financial problems so serious they would be denied security clearances by the Department of Defense or the Department of Energy if they had to apply through normal channels (but, again, as members of Congress they get such clearances simply because they fooled enough people to get elected).

Twenty-nine members of current and recent Congresses have been accused of spousal abuse in either criminal or civil proceedings. Twenty-seven have driving while intoxicated arrests on their driving records. Twenty-one are current defendants in various lawsuits, ranging from bad debts, disputes with business partners or other civil matters.

Nineteen members of current and recent Congresses have been accused of writing bad checks, even after the scandal several years ago, which resulted in closure of the informal House bank that routinely allowed members to overdraw their accounts without penalty. Fourteen have drug-related arrests in their background, eight were arrested for shoplifting, seven for fraud, four for theft, three for assault and one for criminal trespass.

Over the next five days, Capitol Hill Blue will take a closer look at some of the more notorious members of America's Criminal Class - the Congress of the United States. We will not run lists of every member who has written a bad check, punched somebody out or been charged with slapping a spouse. Rather, we will examine those whose pattern of behavior suggests a blatant disregard for both law and propriety.

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| <p>alaskandevil Buccaneer</p> <p>Posts: 349 From: Kenai,Alaska Registered: Nov 2000</p> | <p> posted 07 August 2001 04:56 PM profile mail edit quote</p> <hr/> <p>Good article.....thanks for digging it up for us.</p> <p>----- "We are the people your parents warned you about" J. Buffett</p> <p style="text-align: right;">IP: Logged</p> |
| <p>Fotograf Buccaneer</p> <p>Posts: 196 From: Seattle, WA Registered: Jun 2001</p> | <p> posted 07 August 2001 08:49 PM profile edit quote</p> <hr/> <p>Someone once said, "Nobody's life, liberty or property is safe while Congress is in session."</p> <p>Tom</p> <p style="text-align: right;">IP: Logged</p> |
| <p>Cherry Kelly Swashbuckler</p> <p>Posts: 3452 From: Belton, MO USA Registered: Jul 2000</p> | <p> posted 08 August 2001 08:46 AM profile mail edit quote</p> <hr/> <p>Now if they'd only NAME the names -- of all and what such checks show up....</p> <p style="text-align: right;">IP: Logged</p> |

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