



ALEC: EXPOSED

Government of the Corporation

Government by the Corporation

Government for the Corporation

WHO STARTED ALEC?

- Paul Weyrich —>
- Political operative who coined the term “moral majority” for Jerry Falwell
- His vision was to bring state legislators together and pursue conservative victories in the states...
- ...after decades of losing battles in Washington, DC



WHAT IS ALEC?

- ALEC is a membership only 501(c)(3) organization — a 'charity'
- ALEC has 214 corporate members who pay thousands to belong
- ALEC has 1,810 state legislators as members
- Private foundations also fund ALEC



ALEC provides a way for corporations
to avoid the democratic process.

"I don't want everybody to vote... as a matter of
fact, our leverage in the elections quite candidly
goes up as the voting populous goes down."

-PAUL WEYRICH, FOUNDER OF ALEC

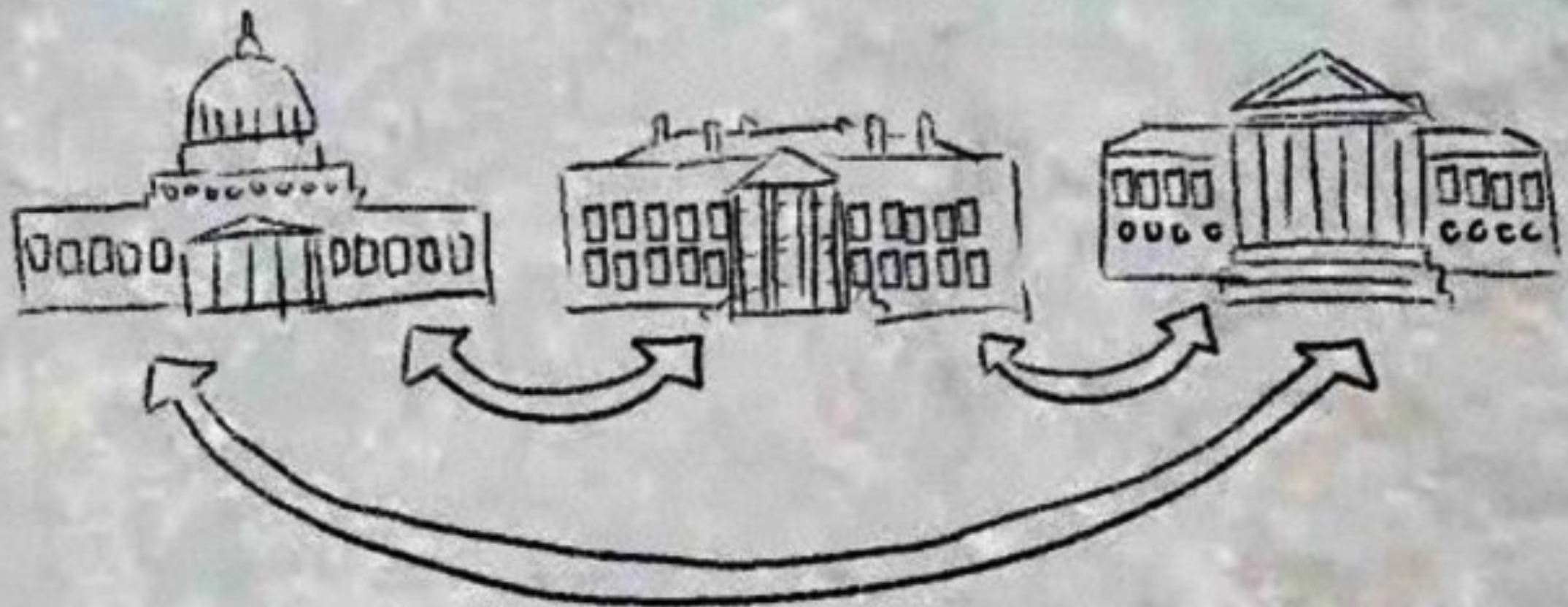
HOW DOES ALEC WORK?

- Corporations profit by removing citizen input from the legislative process
- After purchasing membership, corporations receive a seat on an ALEC task force.
- Each 'task force' writes template/sample legislation for elected officials to take back to their states
- Corporate lobbyists and legislators vote behind closed doors to create template legislation. If the lobbyists don't approve a bill, it doesn't move forward — even if our elected officials do

A BILL BECOMES A LAW...

HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO WORK:

THE THREE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT



A BILL BECOMES A LAW...

THE ALEC METHOD:



**CORPORATE LOBBYISTS WRITE THE LAWS
LEGISLATORS SUBMIT THEM AS IF THEY WERE THEIR OWN
MOST COMMITTEES HAVE VERY LITTLE DEBATE
BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, THE LOBBYIST BILL IS LAW**

THE ALEC AGENDA:

SO-CALLED "RIGHT TO WORK" LAWS

PRIVATIZING ALL GOVT SERVICES: SCHOOLS, PRISONS

DECREASING DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION: VOTER ID

PAST ALEC BILLS IDENTIFIED IN IOWA

RIGHT TO WORK PARENT TRIGGER, FLAT TAX, ANTI-CLIMATE CHANGE, STAND YOUR GROUND, 10TH AMENDMENT REAFFIRMATION, VOTER ID

“One of the most interesting documents is a proposed job description for the legislators designated to head up their state delegations. Along with striving to increase membership in ALEC by 10 percent a year and informing the group of all public information requests that include ALEC documents, it was proposed that state chairs take a loyalty oath: ‘I will act with care and loyalty and put the interests of the organization first.’”

“What? These are elected officials. They are to put the interests of their states and constituents first.”

-KANSAS CITY STAR, DECEMBER 3, 2013

ALEC: WHO BENEFITS?



**CORPORATIONS WHO WRITE THE LAWS PROFIT BY:
PRIVATIZING OUR SCHOOLS, PRISONS, GOVT SERVICES
SHIFTING OUR TAX DOLLARS TO THEIR POCKETS
THOSE DOLLARS FUND ALEC & POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS**

ALEC

American
Legislative
Exchange
Council

**MODEL
LEGISLATION**

AWARDS and
HONORARY TITLES

**ACCESS
MEDIATION**
EXPENSES PAID
PARTIES AND TRAVEL

**ACCESS TO
INDUSTRY LEADERS
and
POTENTIAL
CORPORATE DONORS**

**ACCESS TO
LEGISLATORS**

**DONATIONS
and
MEMBERSHIP
DUES**



LEGISLATORS

**CAMPAIGN
CONTRIBUTIONS
and
PRIVATE SECTOR
JOBS**

**PROFITS
FROM LEGISLATION
MADE LAW**



CORPORATE
LOBBYISTS and ATTORNEYS

ALEC: EXPOSED IN IOWA

- ALEC Claims 100% of Iowa Legislators are Members (largest number of Legislative Members nationwide)
- OUR tax dollars pay for Legislative Memberships!
- Statehouse Democrats all publicly demanded ALEC stop considering them members in January 2014



ALEC: EXPOSED IN IOWA

- Legislative Open Records Exemption for lawmakers means ALEC can operate in the shadows
- We can track bills: 0 ALEC bills in 2014 as of Feb. 1
- House Joint Resolution 1, the so-called "Right to Work" law defeated in 2013



ALEC: EXPOSED IN IOWA

Gov. Terry Branstad

- Founding ALEC Member as State Legislator in 1973
- Received ALEC 'Pioneer Award' in 1996
- Has received more than \$410,900 in donations from ALEC members
- Education 'reform' last year largely ALEC-modeled



ALEC: EXPOSED IN IOWA

Rep. Linda Upmeyer

- National Chairwoman, ALEC Board of Directors
- Has received more than \$136,500 in donations from ALEC members
- On Board discussing proposed 'pledge' for ALEC State Chairs
- ALEC 'Legislator of the Year' in 2010



ALEC: EXPOSED IN IOWA

Rep. Greg Forristall

- Chair, ALEC Education Task Force
- Has received more than \$4,500 in donations from ALEC members
- Task Force Proposals:
 - Online Learning Clearinghouse Act
 - Parental Choice Scholarship Program Act



ALEC: EXPOSED IN IOWA

Rep. Dawn Pettengill

- Chair, ALEC Commerce, Insurance, & Economic Development Task Force
- Has received more than \$25,200 in donations from ALEC members
- Task Force Proposals:
 - 'Right to Work'
 - 'Regulatory Flexibility' Act



ALEC: EXPOSED IN IOWA

Rep. Linda Miller

- Iowa State Co-Chair,
House of Representatives
- Has received more than
\$18,000 in donations from
ALEC members
- ALEC 'Legislator of the
Year' in 2012



ALEC: EXPOSED IN IOWA

Senator Bill Dix

- Iowa State Co-Chair,
Senate
- Has received more than
\$23,500 in donations from
ALEC members



TAKING THE FIGHT TO ALEC

ALEC LOSING CLOUT?



ALEC FACED CONTROVERSY AFTER TRAYVON MARTIN SCANDAL
PRIVATE MEMBERS IN 2011: 280. IN 2013: 214
PUBLIC MEMBERS IN 2011: 2,200. IN 2013: 1,810
CREATED 'PRODIGAL SON' PROJECT TO RECRUIT CORPS BACK

“The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) was exposed for shamelessly peddling right-wing measures, including the “stand your ground” laws implicated in the killing of Trayvon Martin and legislation, financed by the fossil fuel industry, that requires science teachers to present preposterous rebuttals of climate change. ALEC has since lost a reported 400 state legislators, 60 corporations and about a third of its projected income. More importantly, legislators can no longer feign ignorance about the council’s right-wing roots.”

-WASHINGTON POST, JANUARY 7, 2014

TAKING THE FIGHT TO ALEC

WHAT CAN WE DO?

MONITOR BILLS — ARE THEY ALEC LEGISLATION??

CALL ON LEGISLATORS/CORPORATIONS TO DROP MEMBERSHIPS

SUPPORT THOSE WHO DO DROP OUT!

WRITE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, MAKE CALLS, STAY ENGAGED!



ALEC: EXPOSED

For additional information:
Matt Sinovic, Progress Iowa
(515) 423-0530
matt@progressiowa.org

Sources:
alecexposed.org
progressiowa.org
bit.ly/aleciniowa
[https://www.documentcloud.org/
documents/841593-alec-docs.html](https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/841593-alec-docs.html)

THANK YOU!