

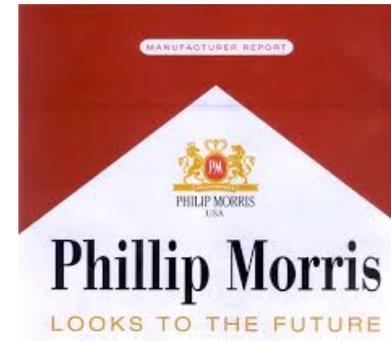
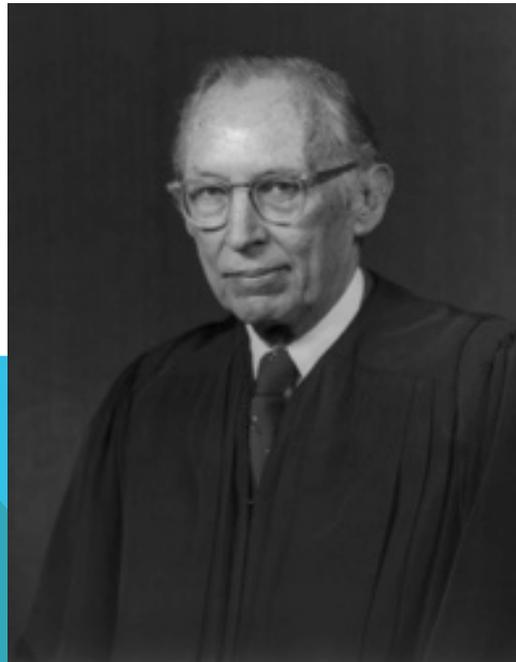
**FORGET ABOUT WHAT YOU  
LEARNED IN CIVICS**

HOW WE GOT TO WHERE WE ARE NOW

# THERE WERE *TWO* ATTACKS ON DEMOCRACY IN THE 70S

- Nixon's attack was caught so his attack failed – the Watergate scandal  
But
- The Chamber of Commerce launched the second attack, using a battle plan specified by big tobacco lawyer Lewis Powell's memo "Attack of American Free Enterprise System"

*Lewis Powell*  
*The founder of modern*  
*American*  
*government...*



# POWELL'S MEMO CALLED FOR ATTACKING ON THREE FRONTS

He said business needs to:

1. Develop a credible case for itself; recruit scholars

Led to “think tanks” such as American Enterprise Institute, Heritage Foundation, Cato Institute, etc., etc., etc...

2. Become more aggressive politically

Led to increased lobbying and political spending

3. Monitor what's said in academia and the press; be sure they present pro-business information

Led to controlled mass media that infotains instead of informs – lapdog, not watchdog



# CHRONOLOGY

- Powell's 1971 memo written to Eugene Syndor, head of US Chamber of Commerce
- Circulated in America's executive suites after that
- Implementation meeting held in 1973, implementation oversight task group included ABC and CBS
- Nixon's antics led to Federal Election Campaign Act amendments in 1974 to control campaign contributions,  
But
- The Supreme Court was there protecting big business...



# THE SUPREME COURT TURNED POWELL'S DREAM INTO REALITY IN THE 1970S

The *Citizens United* and *McCutcheon* decisions are NOTHING NEW!

- Lewis Powell became Associate Supreme Court justice at the behest of Nixon and AG John Mitchell in 1971, joining William Rehnquist as a Nixon appointee
- In the 1974 *Miami Herald Publishing Co. v. Tornillo* case, the Supreme Court declared that newspapers can withhold news

Media have the right to censor news they don't want you to see

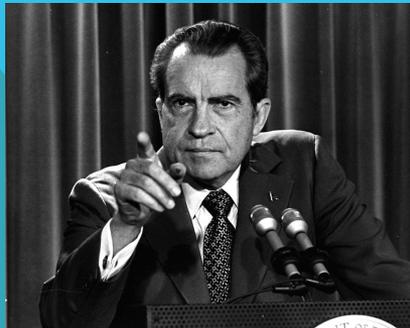
- The campaign limits of the Federal Election Campaign Act were struck down in the 1976 *Buckley v. Valeo* decision, Lewis Powell siding with the majority in this *per curiam* decision

Money counts as speech protected by the First Amendment – “Money is speech!”

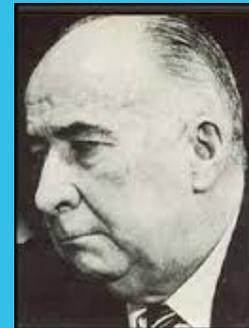
- In 1978, Powell wrote the majority opinion in the 5-4 *First National Bank of Boston v. Bellotti* that struck down decades of state anti-corruption laws

Money quietly inundated our political system.

*Richard Nixon*



*Attorney General  
John Mitchell*



# SO *CITIZENS UNITED* SHOULDN'T BE A SURPRISE!

- The 1970s decisions allowed big business and the controlled press to fully implement Powell's memo!
- And they had bi-partisan help:
  - Repealing the 1949 Fairness Doctrine – 1987 (Reagan)
  - Allowing media consolidation – 1996 Telecommunications Act (Clinton)

Forget what you learned in Civics!

Big business is served by all three branches of government – not us

RESULT - We have the shell of democracy – it's up to us to get angry, active, and bring it back to life!

