

Talking Point D: Who Is the Money behind the Attack on Affirmative Action?

95% of anti-affirmative action lobbyist Ward Connerly's funding came from seven individuals in his unsuccessful attempt to pass California's Proposition 54. Connerly raised \$1.6 million for the fight, and—thanks to a complaint filed by California Common Cause, the League of Women Voters of California, the Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Greenlining Institute, Californians for Justice, and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights—was fined \$95,000 for violating campaign finance disclosure laws.

Do you think the University of California's admissions are biased in favor of underrepresented minorities? **John Moores Sr.** does. In 2003, the UC system had barely begun to recover from the enforcement of Proposition 209, which halved its African American and Latino populations. As a member of the UC Board of Regents, Moores commissioned his own private study looking into the alleged bias UC admissions. Chancellor Robert Berdahl wrote a letter accusing Moores of showing "open contempt for reasoned discourse about complex issues." Moores donated \$400,000 to Connerly's Proposition 54, and Connerly has referred to Moores as "my primary ally."

Do you think Fox News furthers the cause of racial justice or employs reporters who are objective in their presentation of news? Fox News head **Rupert Murdoch** was one of Connerly's biggest contributors, with a donation of \$300,000.

Neo-conservative think-tanks, anyone? The late Joseph Coors contributed \$250,000 to Connerly in 2003. Coors was a regular Santa Claus to the right wing, and the conservative Heritage Foundation "wouldn't have been possible without him," according to one mourner. Coors' brother Bill also spoke to his right-wing political beliefs in his obituary: "He was conservative as they come. I mean, he was a little bit right of Attila the Hun."

Fan of social security privatization? Paul Singer, who contributed only \$20,000 to Connerly's Prop 54, contributed a significantly larger amount—\$500,000—to Progress for America, a leader in the battle for social security privatization.

Which side are you on? Connerly endorser **William J. Hume** is the head of the anti-labor Basic American Foods and was a major funder of California's defeated Prop 226, a major 1998 initiative to force unions to get permission from each member before contributing dues to political campaigns. The Jacqueline Hume Foundation, of which William is treasurer, has donated over \$20 million to conservative think-thanks like the Heritage Foundation in the last five years.

Follow the trail of White Nationalism. John Ulmann, who gave \$100,000 to the Prop 209 campaign, is also a major funder of David Horowitz's Center for the Study of Popular Culture, which publishes articles by known white nationalist James Lunbinkas. Lubinkas has contributed racially inflammatory articles to far right publications such as **Chronicles**, **The AIM Report**, **American Renaissance**, **the Social Contract**, **VDARE**, **the Nationalist Times**, and **American Patrol**.