

Congress justifies these vacations as "government business" or "fact-finding missions" to get taxpayers to pick up the tab. I call them "junkets."

For example, each year, dozens of members of Congress, along with their wives, staff and friends, fly "First Class" to France for the Paris Air Show.

But there's more. While Congress was voting to give Americans a \$167 BILLION tax increase over five years, Congress was also voting to give itself even more luxurious offices by spending -

- >> \$375,000 to renovate the House beauty parlor;

- >> \$25,000 to study the best location for the House gym;

- >> \$2 million to renovate one of the House restaurants;

- >> \$2.5 million for new Senate office furniture;

- >> \$8 million for new Senate elevators;

- >> \$250,000 to study the best placement of television lighting in the Senate Committee room.

Congress is completely out of touch with the people it is supposed to represent. And the main reason for this is that they have stacked the deck to practically guarantee their re-election.

For most members of Congress, this is the best job they have ever had. And they will do anything to keep it. And they do!

Of the 470 House and Senate races in 1990, only 16 incumbents were thrown out by the voters. The re-election rate for sitting members of Congress in 1990 was 96%.

And in 1988, the re-election rate was 98.6%. All told, more members of the 100th Congress died ... than were defeated!

That's because Congress has built a taxpayer-funded re-election machine for itself that has become almost unbeatable.

Congress is able to bombard voters with billions of campaign-style letters and fliers every year at taxpayer expense.

This so-called "free" mail privilege is worth an estimated \$500,000 each election in "free" advertising for every member of Congress - even though it's not counted as a campaign expense.

This "free" mail privilege is not available to challengers.

In addition, Big Banks, Big Corporations and other wealthy special interests dump millions of dollars into the campaign war chests of incumbent Congressmen in exchange for billions of dollars in special favors from Congress.

As a result, incumbent Congressmen were able to spend nine times