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121st KZGN News Talking Points Editorial

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Clinton is receiving political financial help from people outside of the U.S. Should money from outside the U.S. be allowed to influence our presidential campaigns?

This editorial is going to be filled with questions--questions, for which I have no answers. I will invite others to help enlighten me in this one. Earlier in this news cast, I reported about a group raising funds to help Hillary Clinton run for the White House. That, in itself, is no big deal. This report is of a group in the U.K. raising funds to help Clinton. I’m confused by the report. The group organizing the event is called ["London for Hillary"](http://www.meetup.com/Hillary-Clinton-London/) formed in 2013. The group seeks to build "a formidable and influential group of UK-based American voters who believe she is the right person to lead the democratic party in 2016."

The story calls them a group of UK-based American voters. Why are they UK based? Why aren’t they U.S. based? How will the funds enter the U.S.? How will the funds be spent and accounted for in the U.S.? What do these UK-based American voters gain by making donations in the U.S.? This is really confusing to me. If they care so much about the U.S., why are they basing or living in the UK? Is there some tax benefit for them to live there, instead of in the U.S.? I will assert that we are a free country, and we can live wherever we want. I don’t have a problem with them living in another country, but I do have a problem with them attempting to influence change here, that they are not being subjected as to the results of that change.

They are trying to influence the way of life here, while not living here. To me it would be like a group of people that work for some company, say in Canada, and then they decide to help raise the wages of a competitor company in the U.S. Why should they be allowed to do this? If these supposed UK-based American voters feel the need to change our way of life here, why don’t they just do it over there in the UK? Again, my real complaint is why are they UK-based? Why aren’t they U.S.-based? If they care enough to donate to our presidential campaigns, why don’t they live here? They will be impacted by whomever they support if they win. Instead, they choose to hide and shield themselves from the impacts of U.S. control, by living out of the country.

I don’t know what benefit they get by being Americans living in another country. I’m sure that some may have a pure legitimate reason to be Americans living abroad, whether it be work, health, or whatever, but if they receive some financial gain by living abroad that they wouldn’t get if they resided in the U.S., and are only living abroad to get that financial gain, then I have a problem with them. I question their allegiance to the U.S. If they are living somewhere with the exclusive reason for financial gain, then they should be restricted from sending money into the U.S. to influence our laws. The host of the event owns a home valued at $28 million. That’s a $28 million home in the UK. Why not live in a $28 million home in the U.S.?

This editorial is not to challenge an American’s right to live wherever they want. But it is a challenge that if they are choosing to live outside the U.S., then they shouldn’t then try and meddle in our campaigns by donating millions of dollars, or even offering personal endorsements of a candidate. These are U.S. elections. Heck, we may as well have the queen of England donate and make her endorsement as well. I wonder how these UK-based American voters actually vote. I suppose they could get an absentee ballot and vote that way. Do they actually vote? Or do they just send money to influence change in a country they choose to not even live in? Hey, if they care so much about the U.S., why don’t they just donate to the U.S. directly? Provide those millions of dollars to lower our deficit. That would help the country. It seems our country was founded by us fighting against similar controls by people outside of the U.S. Back then there were loyalists and patriots. Just which category do these UK-based American voters fall into?

In conclusion, I need someone to explain why we have UK-based, American voters. Why aren’t they U.S. based American voters? I am not questioning their right as free American to live wherever they want. I question their choice to be based somewhere outside the U.S., and still want to influence the U.S.

I’m Tom Wiknich, and that’s what I think. I’d like to know what you think. If you have any comments about this editorial, or would like to discuss or recommend a topic, I’d like to hear from you. Please e mail them to info@kzgn.net.