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June 9, 1994

Mr. Robert L. Bartley
Editor
Wall Street Journal
200 Liberty Street
New York, New York 10281


Dear Mr. Bartley:

The Wall Street Journal editorial of June 3, "Meet the New Barons, A Lot Like the Old...", contained a level of false information and vicious innuendo that was notable even for your editorial page.

In an article which purported to be about Dan Rostenkowski, you alleged that I "extort tens of thousands of dollars in political protection money from business." The Wall Street Journal seems to think that business contributions to members whose views it agrees with are legitimate, but contributions made to a liberal Democrat who fights for the environment and universal health care must be political protection money. No one has ever donated money to me for political protection. If they did, it would be an extremely poor investment.

Equally gratuitous is your allegation that I would point to Dan Rostenkowski as a symbol of what's wrong with Congress. I don't know what he did and I don't know what a jury will ultimately decide about his conduct. I do know he has been a giant as a legislator and time and again this contributed mightily to good public policy in this country.

Sincerely,


HENRY A. WAXMAN
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Health and the Environment