

**CORPORATE RIGHTS...**

**CORPORATE POWER...**

**CORPORATE RULE...**



***...remain following the elections, as they were before.***

The quest for real democracy continues, despite the election returns. A fundamental impediment to real democracy is the power of business corporations to shape public opinion, mold public policies, and sculpt public officials.

**Constitutional rights of business corporations** and their threat to the security, health, and welfare of our communities and of the natural environment didn't appear this year in very many major candidate stump speeches or debates, paid political advertisements, media stories, or professional pollster surveys. Business corporations currently possess *Constitutional rights* to increasingly do what they want, when they want and wherever they want.

*Should HMO corporations define our access to health care?*

*Should television, cable, and radio corporations determine what is "news?"*

*Should a handful of agricultural corporations decide how much poison to put in food?*

Today, business corporations possess:

- **First Amendment** rights to lobby political candidates and donate (some say "invest") in political campaigns and ballot issues.
- **Fourth Amendment** rights against "unreasonable searches" which have shielded corporations from inspections and other searches that seek to protect health, safety, and welfare.
- **Fourteenth Amendment** rights of due process and equal protection – legal rights originally granted exclusively to benefit freed black slaves.
- Rights granted under the **Commerce and Contracts clauses of the US Constitution** to ship toxic waste anywhere in the country.

Meanwhile, corporate "rights" prevent people from using our own rights to protect our health, our safety, our welfare, and our environment.

**With ELECTING candidates over on November 2, it's now time to return to grassroots EDUCATING and ORGANIZING for democracy and against corporate rule.**

*Educational materials for house meetings & names of groups to work with are available.*

**For more information on this area of AFSC's work, go to**

**[www.afsc.net/corp-dem.htm](http://www.afsc.net/corp-dem.htm)**