

Sept 30 2005 - DELAY FACT CHECK #5

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Partisan Witch-Hunt? Grand Jury Foreman Praises DeLay

THE MYTH: The central pillar of Tom DeLay's defense is that Travis County prosecutor Ronnie Earle is an "unabashed partisan," and that DeLay is being targeted because of his political success.

THE FACTS: Ronnie Earle didn't issue the indictment against Tom DeLay. A grand jury did. And as it turns out, the jury foreman William Gibson is a former sheriff's deputy who praises DeLay specifically for his "aggressiveness." [LINK](#)

He did his duty and that bound him to look at Tom Delay as just another Texan accused of criminal conspiracy, [Gibson] said.

"I like his aggressiveness and everything, and I had nothing against the House majority man, but I felt that we had enough evidence, not only me, but the other grand jury members," Gibson said.

The grand jury foreman also takes great exception to accusations that he and 11 other grand jury members followed the lead of Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle instead of following the evidence.

"It was not a rubber stamp deal. It was not an overnight deal. If we needed extra information, it was provided to us," Gibson said. ...

Gibson thinks there is enough evidence to convict Delay.

"We would not have handed down an indictment. We would have no-billed the man, if we didn't feel there was sufficient evidence," said Gibson.

Data collected by Center for American Progress.