

Feb 9 2006 - The Fox Guarding the Hen House:

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DeLay Appointment Demonstrates "A Lack of Commitment to Reform" by Boehner, House Republicans

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Ranking Member of the House Rules Committee commented on yesterday's announcement that indicted former Majority Leader Tom DeLay was rewarded with a plush assignment on the powerful House Appropriations Committee in the Science, State, Justice and Homeland Security Subcommittees.

"Tom DeLay is on trial for money laundering so House Republicans place him on the committee in charge of handing out money...

DeLay was admonished for using federal Homeland Security resources to track political enemies so House Republicans place him on the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee...

Clearly, nothing has changed with the new Republican regime. They have no real intention on cleaning up the corrupt Republican Congress. If they did, Tom DeLay would be as far away from the Appropriations Committee as they could get him."

DELAY FACT CHECK:

DeLay contradicts himself, the record about his Abramoff connections:

"Rep. Tom DeLay...has denied having close ties to former lobbyist Jack Abramoff, writing that it was 'absolutely untrue' that the two were 'close personal friends.'" ["DeLay Makes Plea to Voters," Roll Call, 02/09/06]

TOM DELAY CALLED JACK ABRAMOFF "ONE OF [HIS] CLOSEST AND DEAREST FRIENDS": Tom DeLay claims that he was not "close personal friends" with Jack Abramoff, but "During a trip to Saipan [in the Northern Mariana Islands] over the 1997-98 New Year's break...Mr. DeLay toasted the lobbyist as 'one of my closest and dearest friends.' Mr. Abramoff called the lawmaker 'our biggest supporter on Capitol Hill.'" ["Close ties to Abramoff are dogging DeLay," Dallas Morning News, 1/29/06.]

DELAY TRAVELLED TO SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND ON ABRAMOFF'S DIME: Tom DeLay claims that the National Center for Public Policy Research paid for his trip to Scotland/England in 2000, but in reality, Abramoff paid for much of the trip on his personal credit card. Most of the other costs were covered by Abramoff clients who opposed an anti-gambling bill that DeLay helped to kill soon after the trip. ["DeLay Airfare Was Charged To Lobbyist's Credit Card," Washington Post, 4/24/05; "Gambling Interests Funded DeLay Trip," Washington Post, 3/12/05.]

ABRAMOFF'S RUSSIAN CLIENTS PAID FOR DELAY'S TRIP TO RUSSIA: Tom DeLay claims that the National Center for Public Policy Research paid for his trip to Moscow in 1997, but the Washington Post has confirmed that Russian energy executives, with whom DeLay and Abramoff dined during the trip, indirectly paid for the trip through a Russian-connected Bahamian company which had hired Abramoff as its lobbyist. The Russians also contributed \$1 million to a public advocacy group linked to DeLay, a group which paid hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Alexander Strategy Group, which then paid DeLay's wife more than a hundred thousand dollars as a consultant. ["The DeLay-Abramoff Money Trail," Washington Post, 12/31/05.]

DELAY AIDED ABRAMOFF CLIENTS AFTER RECEIVING DONATIONS: "Former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay tried to pressure the Bush administration into shutting down an Indian-owned casino that lobbyist Jack Abramoff wanted closed - shortly after a tribal client of Abramoff's donated to a DeLay political action committee." ["DeLay Tried, Failed to Aid Abramoff Client," AP, 1/10/06.]

DELAY DEMANDED DONATIONS FROM ABRAMOFF CLIENTS: In an e-mail, Jack Abramoff "told an Indian tribe client that he was being pressured by Representative Tom DeLay for a contribution for a \$25,000-a-table Republican fundraiser and that Mr. DeLay had personally phoned the lobbyist's office in search of the money." ["In Messages, Lobbyist Says DeLay Pressed for Donation," New York Times, 12/15/05.]

ABRAMOFF DONATED HUGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY TO DELAY: "From 1997 through early 2004, Abramoff and his wife personally contributed \$40,000 to DeLay's campaigns and his political action committee, ARMPAC, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Further, at least two of Abramoff's American Indian tribe clients, the Louisiana Coushattas and the Saginaw Chippewas, donated \$38,000 to ARMPAC." ["Abramoff's and DeLay's Foreign Adventures," National Journal, 2/26/05.]