
THE HAMMER GETS NAILED!

Tom "The Hammer" DeLay is no stranger to disciplinary action by the House Ethics Committee, but he outdid himself when a grand jury indicted him on a criminal conspiracy charge. The TX grand jury focused on transactions where corporate campaign contributions, illegal in Texas, were laundered through the RNC at the direction of Tom DeLay. The culture of corruption must end.

DeLay's Connection to Nebraska Republican Leadership

Nebraska Representatives Lee Terry and Jeff Fortenberry have taken money from DeLay's Americans for a Republican Majority PAC.

- Fortenberry received a maximum \$10,000 contribution during his election campaign in 2004 and received another \$10,000 earlier this year. [www.opensecrets.org]
- Terry received \$8,308 from DeLay's PAC. [www.houseofscandal.org]

Both Terry and Fortenberry have voted to protect DeLay by weakening Congressional ethics rules.

- Both Fortenberry and Terry voted to:
 - weaken ethics rules [[H Res. 5, Roll Call #6, 1/4/05](#)]
 - repeal weakened ethics rules [[H Res. 241, Roll Call #145, 4/27/05](#)]
 - table Democratic solution [[H. Res. 153, Roll Call #70, 3/15/05](#)]

Not only did they take DeLay's dirty money, but returned the favor by voting in line with him. Fortenberry voted 100% in line with DeLay and Terry voted 92% in line with DeLay. [www.cq.com]

Lee Terry is still supporting DeLay: "Tom DeLay has effectively served his Texas constituents for 11 terms in the Congress and as the Majority Whip and Leader since 1994. Whether this is the result of an overzealous, partisan prosecutor or an overzealous Majority Leader has yet to be determined." [Lee Terry Press Release, September 28, 2005]

DeLay Claims "Partisan Attacks" – But Don't Forget the Money Laundering!

DELAY: "This morning, in an act of blatant political partisanship, a rogue district attorney in Travis County, Texas, named Ronnie Earle charged me with one count of criminal conspiracy: a reckless charge wholly unsupported by the facts. This is one of the weakest, most baseless indictments in American history." [CQ Transcripts, 9/28/05]

Ronnie Earle Has Prosecuted More Democratic Officials than Republicans. While Earle is an elected Democrat, the Houston Chronicle commended his work: "During his long tenure, Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle has prosecuted many more Democratic officials than Republicans. The record does not support allegations that Earle is prone to partisan witch hunts." It is worth noting that some of the prominent Democrats prosecuted by Earle and his Public Integrity Unit are former Texas House Speaker Gib Lewis, former Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox, former State Treasurer Warren Harding and former Texas Supreme Court Justice Don Yarbrough." [[Houston Chronicle, 3/17/04; AP, 12/12/04](#)]

Earle is Careful, Not Partisan. Deliberate in the capital cases he sends to juries, Earle is well known for examining an issue from all angles before acting. "If I have any complaint about Ronnie, it's that he is overly cautious about who he prosecutes," said Jim Marston, a civil lawyer in Austin. "The fact that it has taken two years to investigate Tom DeLay is a sign not of partisanship, but of being completely careful." [[Christian Science Monitor, 12/03/04](#)]

DeLay and the RNC: Money Laundering 101

TRMPAC Laundered \$190,000 of Corporate Money Through the RNC. TRMPAC contributed \$190,000 to the Republican National State Elections Committee on September 20, 2002 that included corporate money. Within two weeks, the RNSEC contributed the same amount back to TRMPAC targeted candidates. [[CQ Weekly](#), 3/20/2004; [San Antonio Express-News](#), 3/15/2004; [Austin American-Statesman](#), 2/26/2004; [FEC](#), 4/8/2004; [Texas Ethics Commission](#), 4/8/2004]

- **RNC Official Terry Nelson Named in DeLay Indictment.** Weeks before the 2002 election, John Colyandro, the Austin-based executive director of Texans for a Republican Majority, sent a blank check to his counterpart in Washington, Jim Ellis. Ellis, who runs DeLay's Americans for a Republican Majority, negotiated an exchange of corporate money for campaign donations with Terry Nelson, the deputy chief of staff for the Republican National Committee, according to the indictments. Two weeks after the corporate check arrived in Washington, an arm of the RNC sent the same amount in campaign donations to seven Texas legislative candidates. [[Austin American-Statesman](#), 9/14/05; [Travis County District Court Bill of Indictment](#), Thomas Dale DeLay, 9/28/05]

RNC Donated \$190,000 To TRMPAC Supported Texas Candidates. The RNC's State Election Committee then transferred \$190,000 to seven TRMPAC supported Texas House candidates. "Three weeks later, the committee sent checks in the equivalent amount that had been raised from individual donors to seven Republican statehouse candidates supported by TRMPAC. Texas law prohibits the use of corporate funds in election campaigns." [[Washington Post](#), 3/4/05]

So Many Allegations and Ethics Violations - Perhaps DeLay Forgot the Ones that He Was Admonished For

DELAY: "As for the charges, I have the facts, the law and the truth on my side, just as I have against every false allegation my opponents have flung at me over the last 10 years." [[CQ Transcripts](#), 9/28/05]

But DeLay Was Admonished by the Ethics Committee Three Times, With A Fourth Charge Pending:

- **ADMONISHMENT 1: DeLay Received Private Admonishment for Continuing with Gingrich's K Street Project.** In 1999, the House Ethics Committee sent a letter to DeLay privately admonishing him for pushing the Electronics Industry Association to hire former Rep. Bill Paxon (R-NY) as a lobbyist instead of former Rep. Dave McCurdy (D-OK). The plan was part of DeLay's push to load K Street power lobbying firms with Republicans, which he re-launched in 2004, despite being admonished for it by the Ethics Committee in 1999. [[Roll Call](#), 5/17/99, 3/12/01, 2/11/04; [National Journal](#), 6/12/99, 5/5/01; [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#), editorial, 7/27/01; [Congressional Quarterly Weekly](#), 5/15/1999]
- **ADMONISHMENT 2: House Ethics Committee Admonished DeLay for Bribes for Votes.** DeLay violated House standard procedure and kept the 15-minute House vote on Medicare open for 3 hours. Later on, the House Ethics Committee conducted an investigation into whether DeLay threatened and bribed representatives into voting for the Medicare law, including a large contribution of "\$100,000-plus" for the campaign of the son of a member of Congress. [[Washington Post](#), 2/6/04, 10/1/04; [New York Times](#), 2/10/04]
- **ADMONISHMENT 3-A: Westar Traded Cash To DeLay in Exchange for "Seat At The Table" During Energy Bill Negotiations.** An energy company, Westar, gave more than \$56,000 in cash to DeLay for a "seat at the table" during energy bill negotiations. As a result, language was added to a bill that specifically benefited Westar. [[Wichita Eagle](#), 5/17/03, [Washington Post](#), 10/7/04, [Lawrence Memo](#), "Suggested Campaign Contributions", 5/17/02]
- **ADMONISHMENT 3-B: DeLay Abused Leadership Position and Used Influence To Track Private Airplane.** DeLay abused his leadership position and used his influence to direct the Department of Homeland Security track a private airplane carrying Democratic members of the Texas legislature who were rebelling against a DeLay-led Texas redistricting plan. [[Washington Post](#), 10/7/04]

- **ADMONISHMENT 4, PENDING: Committee Will Decide Whether to Pursue Action Based on TRMPAC.** The House Ethics Committee deferred action on another complaint dealing with DeLay's fundraising group TRMPAC. A Texas grand jury in September 2004 indicted three of DeLay's political associates on charges of using TRMPAC to illegally collect corporate donations and funnel them to Texas legislative races. The ethics committee said it will take no action on the matter "pending further action" concerning the indictments or the Texas-based investigation that prompted them. [[Washington Post](#), 10/7/04]

FIVE TIMES IS A CHARM: In Order to Prevent DeLay from Being Admonished Again, House Ethics Chairman Replaced By Hastert. Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert released Joel Hefley of his duties as Chairman of the House Ethics Committee and appointed party loyalist Doc Hastings to the post. The House Republican Caucus approved the measure. "It was done because Mr. Hefley's time had run out," said John Feehery, a spokesman for Mr. Hastert. [[New York Times](#), 2/3/05]

Abramoff and Tom DeLay: Because Money Laundering isn't the End of the Story

DELAY TALKING POINTS: "The trip DeLay took to Russia in 1997 and the United Kingdom in 2000 were proper." [DeLay Email to Supporters 4/05]

DeLay Traveled to UK, Golfed at St. Andrews, Had Luxurious Accommodations. In May 2000, DeLay traveled to England and Scotland. According to Time Magazine, DeLay and his group had rooms at London's Four Seasons Hotel, dinners at the best restaurants in town and hard-to-get tickets for The Lion King. DeLay golfed at the legendary St. Andrews Golf Course, where Abramoff has a membership. Abramoff reportedly initially paid for several parts of DeLay's trip, a violation of House rules. [[Washington Post](#), 3/12/05; [Washington Post](#), 4/24/05; [Time](#), 4/25/05]

- **Abramoff Coordinated Trip Paid For By Gambling Interests.** According to DeLay's travel disclosure forms, the National Center for Public Policy paid for his travel to Scotland and the United Kingdom. DeLay traveled with his wife, Abramoff, and aides Tony Rudy and Susan Hirschman. [Member Travel Disclosure Form, 6/30/00; Employee Travel Disclosure Form, 6/30/00]
- **Safavian Arrested In Connection With Abramoff Probe and Similar Trip to UK.** The Bush administration's chief contracting and procurement official at OMB David Safavian was arrested in September of 2005. Safavian was being held on charges of making false statements to an ethics official, making false statements to the General Services Agency's Inspector General, and obstruction of a GSA-IG investigation. [[Washington Post](#), 9/20/05; DOJ Release, 9/19/05]

DeLay Took Russia Trip With Abramoff, Reports that NCPP Paid for Trip. DeLay traveled to Russia with Jack Abramoff in 1997. On his travel disclosure forms, DeLay listed the National Center for Public Policy Research as the trip sponsor. DeLay attended the trip with four of his staff members, and expenses totaled \$57,238. Others attending the trip were Amy Ridenour, the director of NCPP, and her husband, lobbyist Julius Kaplan and James P. Lucier, former staff director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. [[Washington Post](#), 4/6/05]

But Foreign Firm Paid for Trip. According to the [Washington Post](#), the Bahamian registered Chelsea Commercial Enterprise Limited funded the DeLay trip to Russia. Chelsea had paid \$180,000 to Kaplan's lobbying firm and \$260,000 to Abramoff's lobbying firm. According to the [Post](#), Abramoff approached NCPP about sponsoring the trip and the expenses by the center were reimbursed by, "an American trust account affiliated with a law firm." [[Washington Post](#), 4/6/05]