

BURRIS DID NOT REVEAL CONTACTS WITH BLAGOJEVICH

The Sun-Times reports today that Roland Burris was not very forthcoming when he told the State House what contacts he had had with Rod Blagojevich's camp.

Former Gov. Rod Blagojevich's brother solicited U.S. Sen. Roland Burris for up to \$10,000 in campaign cash before Blagojevich named Burris to the coveted post – something Burris initially failed to disclose under oath before an Illinois House impeachment panel, records and interviews show.

Burris acknowledges being hit up for the money in a new affidavit he has sent to the head of the House committee that recommended Blagojevich be removed from office.

[snip]

The affidavit is dated Feb. 5 – three weeks after Burris was sworn in to replace President Obama in the Senate.

Burris – who did not give money to the Blagojevich campaign fund in response to the previously undisclosed solicitation – provided a copy of the sworn statement to the Chicago Sun-Times Friday in response to questions about his contacts with the Blagojevich camp about fund-raising.

Burris acknowledged having three conversations with Robert Blagojevich, who headed the Friends of Blagojevich campaign fund – and one of those was likely recorded by the FBI.

[snip]

In his new affidavit, Burris confirms he also spoke of his interest in the Senate appointment with Blagojevich insiders John Harris, Doug Scofield and John Wyma.

The discussions with Robert Blagojevich about money came after Burris spoke with those people.

So best as I can reconstruct, here are the contacts Burris had with Blago's folks:

July or September: Discussions with Lon Monk about picking up lobbying business to the Governor

Unknown: Conversations with John Harris, Doug Scofield, and John Wyma about seat

October: Conversation with Robert Blagojevich tying money to seat

November: Conversation with Robert Blagojevich tying money to seat

December 26: Conversation with Sam Adam Jr., Blago's maybe Defense Attorney, about appointment

December 28: Conversation with Adam, then Blago, accepting seat

January 5: Roland signs affidavit that does not address contacts with Blago's people, beyond the appointment discussions on December 26 and 28

January 8: In State Legislative hearing, Burris admits to contacts with Lon Monk, but does not mention contacts with four other Blago representatives

January 15: Burris sworn in as Senator

February 5: Burris writes a new affidavit, revealing additional conversations

One of the key details is the genesis of the new

affidavit. Burriss says he sent it after realizing he wasn't forthcoming to the hearing.

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[snip]

Burriss said he sent the new statement to House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago) after he read the transcript of his testimony before the impeachment committee she headed and realized it was incomplete. "There were several facts that I was not given the opportunity to make during my testimony," Burriss said. "I voluntarily submitted an affidavit so everything was transparent."

Uh, right, Burriss. But you didn't review the transcript until after you had been sworn into the Senate?

I'm wondering, too, whether in the interim Burriss didn't have a visit with Patrick Fitzgerald's folks about what got caught on the FBI's tapes?