

DID “THE FAMILY” FORCE SANFORD TO DITCH HIS MISTRESS?

As Citizen92 pointed out, Governor Mark Sanford mentioned the "C Street" group in his press conference today (TPMM picked up on it too). Now, I'm not positive that the "C Street" group is the Family, but if so, then it makes two Family members in just over a week admitting their infidelities.

Which makes me particularly interested in the context of Sanford's reference to the group—following on his statement that his wife knew of the affair.

Did your wife and your family know about the affair before the trip to Argentina?

Yeah. We've been working through this thing for about the last five months. I've been to a lot of different—I was part of a group called C Street when I was in Washington, it was a Christian Bible study of some folks that ask Members of Congress hard questions that I think were very very important. I've been working with them.

[snip]

It was discovered five months ago.

He suggests the affair was discovered and he spent much of the last five months since it was discovered getting counseling, first and foremost, from the C Street group (he also names someone, Cubby Culbertson, who attended the press conference). Suggesting that the Family—if it is indeed the same thing as C Street—has known about Sanford's affair for at least some of the last five months.

So consider the timing.

June 11: Doug Hampton sends letter to Fox

June 15: Doug Hampton emails letter to Fox

June 16: Ensign admits affair

June 18: Sanford disappears to Buenos Aires (telling his staff he might be hiking in the Appalachian trail)

June 19: Publication of letter suggests ties to the Family

Now, Sanford's wife released a statement saying that she threw him out two weeks ago. But she also makes it clear she had no idea where he went.

I believe wholeheartedly in the sanctity, dignity and importance of the institution of marriage. I believe that has been consistently reflected in my actions. When I found out about my husband's infidelity I worked immediately to first seek reconciliation through forgiveness, and then to work diligently to repair our marriage. We reached a point where I felt it was important to look my sons in the eyes and maintain my dignity, self-respect, and my basic sense of right and wrong. I therefore asked my husband to leave two weeks ago.

This trial separation was agreed to with the goal of ultimately strengthening our marriage. During this short separation it was agreed that Mark would not contact us. I kept this separation quiet out of respect of his public office and reputation, and in hopes of keeping our children from just this type of public exposure. Because of this separation, I did not know where he was in the past week.

So what was it that made Sanford decide Thursday was the day to fly to Argentina and bawl with his lover for five days (and ultimately, he said, to end the affair, though it's clear he still loves her)?

Frankly, I think it was Tom Davis—the friend he let down—who may have told he him he had to ditch the Argentine mistress. But I do wonder if the Family is trying to get ahead of another looming adultery scandal.

Sort of makes you wonder whether anyone else is going to be having teary press conferences in the coming days?