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Subject: GrassrootsSeeds/Black's Arrogance & Contempt

GRASSROOTS SEEDS



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Hello All:

I am getting some feedback on the story about illegal immigration. At least one reader thought I was a bit harsh on Donna Martinez. I responded it was a good ribbing and I am sure that she has heard from her conservative friends she says are wrong on the issue. I like Donna but she is wrong on this one, though I am sure she would say I was wrong. Also heard that the situation with the NCSU basketball player is different that I said that he knows he is here illegally and condoning the children in such circumstances could be the same as condoning them living a good life on money their father got from robbing a bank. Others thought I was right on and one school board member brought up the high costs in the schools dealing with illegals. Today we look at Speaker Black and his actions relative to the lottery bill.

Check out www.grassrootsseeds.com for more stories than you get on the emails.

Jim Black Using Power With His Usual Arrogance Again

It seems that **Jim Black** has once again thrown his power into the face of the citizens of North Carolina when writing the lottery bill. **Meredith Norris**, Jim Black's Political Director, has brought the Speaker together with **Scientific Games**, a large lottery vendor seeking the contract for NC's lottery, to help insure that they get the contract to the point that the vendor helped write the bill. Norris who is the unpaid political director for Black was on the payroll of Scientific Games. Among the open access given to the company, Norris arranged a dinner between Black and **Alan Middleton**, Vice President of Scientific Games, at a North Raleigh Steakhouse and helped Middleton arrange a yacht outing for Black and other members of the General Assembly in Seattle (a trip we paid for so the legislators could meet with other legislators from around the country) just a few days before the vote on the lottery bill. Right or wrong (wrong in my view) the dinner and even the outing are pretty much standard operating procedure. A would be vendor writing portions of the bill in a way to limit his competition, if not eliminate it, is not standard procedure and is, once again, a violation of the trust the public puts in elected leaders.

According to the report in the News & Observer, one part of the lottery law written by Scientific Games "requires state officials to 'investigate and compare' the business practices, reputations, civil litigation, criminal records, and other background information of potential lottery vendors". Another section written by the company requires the lottery commissioners to "award the contract to the responsible lottery vendor who submits the best proposal that

maximizes the benefits to the state". While it may seem that this is good it is really designed to limit the competitors of Scientific Games from getting the contract due to weaknesses in their history. (Report from News & Observer October 14, 2005 Pgs. 1 & 15A). Apparently Scientific Games also sent wording for the bill for **Tony Rand** in the Senate but Tony, of course, cannot remember where the language came from. Sound familiar Folks?

In a follow up story in today's News & Observer (Saturday October 15th also a Front page Story), Black defends himself in this whole affair. No surprise to us he would defend himself, as we all know he considers himself above the law and he has the power. According to the story Black said *it is "completely typical and necessary" to have lobbyists and others provide information when laws are drafted, according to a prepared statement.* Speaker Black, of course, declined to be interviewed for the story. The N&O story provides direct quotes from the company that were included in the bill. My guess is this story is being reported in other newspapers across the state.

This is consistent with what I have been saying about the Democrats for some time. Black, Basnight, and Tony Rand are key to this type of power wielding with no regard for the public. These guys have more power than the Governor in NC. They have control and they will use their power and they do not care what anyone else thinks. Secretary of State Elaine Marshall will investigate Norris' use of influence, but I doubt any of you believe anything will happen with that. If anything is done Norris will be made the scapegoat for Black and he will escape untarnished. Welcome to Democrat control in North Carolina, setting new standards for corruption in state government.

Keep in minds folks that this is why we are active and why we work to change things in our state.



God Bless All of You and God Bless America

Bill Carraway

