

From: Evans, Randy  
To: Gaffney, Brian  
Sent: Fri May 30 12:03:44 2008  
Subject: RE: Fox News Earmarks program

Brian,

Thanks for the email. It is odd that having been the point person for addressing these issues since they were first raised that I have not heard from any of your folks, (especially since I have been the one to address them in most of the reported stories/blogs). Having reviewed all of the information carefully (and repeatedly), we do not believe there is a story here that involves Speaker Hastert.

Under your characterization of the story, Speaker Hastert could have never supported any legislation or programs that helped his district since he owned property (his home and then the property adjacent to his home) in the district. Following the programs inferences, any member who invests in his own district could never help his district. In the case of Speaker Hastert, to suggest that one prompted the other (owning property prompted his support for the Prairie Parkway Project or his support for the Prairie Parkway Project prompted his ownership of his home and adjacent property) is simply untrue and contradicted by the facts. There is nothing that Speaker Hastert can add to those facts. He supported the Project long before his purchase, and he lived in the district long before he joined Congress. If you would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me, but this is not overly complicated. Any suggestion of improper or illegal conduct, by inference or innuendo, would be false.

Thanks for your consideration and what I know will be a fair and balanced program.

J. Randy Evans

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From: Gaffney, Brian  
Sent: Thursday, May 29, 2008 7:53 PM  
To: Evans, Randy  
Subject: Fox News Earmarks program

Dear Mr. Evans,

As the Executive Producer of the Fox News Documentary Unit, I am overseeing the production of our program on earmarks. One of the producers of the hour, Jason Kopp, forwarded me your e-mail.

Our producers have made repeated requests to interview Speaker Hastert over the last weeks and months. We also tried to contact Speaker Hastert's business partner to request an interview. I have personally tried to telephone Brad Hahn several times to arrange to interview Speaker Hastert on this story.

I believe your e-mail is the first thing we have received that approaches a statement from the Speaker. Though it is coming late in the day, I genuinely appreciate your note and have instructed the producers to re-edit the documentary so we can include a quote from it.

I also want to extend through you one last invitation to Speaker Hastert to sit down and talk with us on camera for this program. Since we are airing Saturday night, we would have to do the interview no later than Friday.

Please contact me as soon as possible -- tonight, preferably -- so I can make arrangements for the interview. E-mail is best; I carry a blackberry.

Very truly yours,

Brian Gaffney  
Executive Producer  
Fox News Documentary Unit