



THE NATIONAL DRUMBEAT CONTINUES: REPUBLICANS ARE CALLED OUT FOR ABUSING THEIR POWER AND THE ETHICS PROCESS

- **CHICAGO TRIBUNE**: “But [Hastings’s offer] was, in effect, a GOP effort to negotiate the terms of an ethics investigation. The ethical standards and expectations of the House should not be subject to dealmaking. Republicans still haven’t come to grips with that.” [4/22/05]
- **ROANOKE TIMES AND WORLD NEWS (Roanoke, VA)**: “With the fate of the House ethics committee at stake, Republican leaders are acting like devious villains in an old Western movie serial...The message is clear: Don’t expect a bipartisan sheriff to ride herd on the House anymore. The Republican leadership dictates the law now.” [4/22/05]
- **THE NEWS TRIBUNE (Tacoma, Washington)**: “Hastings, the Republican from Pasco, called a press conference to announce that he and fellow GOP ethics committee members would begin an investigation into Tom DeLay’s overseas travel - with one caveat. Democrats would have to drop their opposition to new ethics rules they contend would hamstring any meaningful inquiry. In other words, Dems get to choose between a meaningless investigation or no investigation. What a deal.” [4/22/05]
- **WASHINGTON POST**: “Were the Democrats to accept [Rep. Hastings’] offer -- and they’ve said they won’t -- the panel would be operating, now and in future Congresses, under the flawed rules imposed unilaterally on the Democratic minority. Even if Mr. Hastings’s proposal were perfect, it would just amount to an informal and temporary understanding; it wouldn’t bind any future chairmen. Ethics chairmen come and go; just ask Rep. Joel Hefley (R-Colo.), who was ousted after the committee, under his leadership, repeatedly admonished Mr. DeLay for ethical missteps. That’s why it’s important to have the right rules in place, and to get them in place the right way.” [4/21/05]
- **USA TODAY**: “House leaders ousted the chairman and two other members who had dared to admonish DeLay last year for repeated abuses of power. They were replaced by staunch DeLay supporters. House leaders also re-wrote the rules to make it all but impossible to investigate alleged infractions. Charges brought by Democrats now die unless at least one Republican on the committee agrees, and vice versa.” [4/17/05]
- **CINCINNATI POST**: “Privately, some of his Republican colleagues are pressing House Speaker Dennis Hastert to rescind the changes to the ethics rules that the leadership rammed through in January. GOP critics of the changes, part of a larger plan to protect House Republican Tom DeLay, say the changes are making the party look bad. And for good reason: The changes were bad.” [4/22/05]
- **WINSTON-SALEM JOURNAL (NC)**: “Congress should not write its ethics rules to help or hinder any one individual. That’s why House Democrats are absolutely correct in rejecting a deal to investigate their nemesis, the Republican House majority leader, Rep. Tom DeLay of Texas.” [2/35/05]
- **ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH**: “There are questions that deserve answers, particularly about Mr. DeLay’s curious inability to separate public from political and private interests. The ethics committee’s rules should revert to status quo ante -- what they were before Mr. DeLay gutted them -- and serious work should begin.” [4/25/05]