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Senator blames aide for e-mail snafu

The message stated that Sen. Scott Newman would not meet with groups that supported his election opponent.

By MIKE KASZUBA¹, Star Tribune

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A Republican state senator quickly backpedaled Tuesday from a leaked office e-mail that stated he would not meet with groups that had supported his DFL opponent, saying that the message was sent by an inexperienced aide and was "just an error, that's all."

An aide to Sen. Scott Newman, R-Hutchinson, who sits on the influential Senate Health and Human Services Committee, sent an e-mail last week to the Minnesota Nurses Association that said, "Unfortunately, Senator Newman will not see any organizations that donated to/supported his opponent Hal Kimball. After some careful checking, I discovered that the MNA had donated to Kimball's campaign. Your association will be unable to schedule an appointment with Senator Newman." The e-mail was signed by

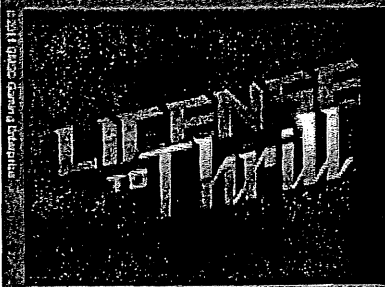
aide Kim Kelley.

Andrea Ledger, a political organizer for the Minnesota Nurses Association, said the organization was surprised to get the e-mail. "I am stunned by this response," Ledger said. "I've never seen anything like it." A check of campaign contributions shows that the association did not make any political donations to Kimball.

Newman said he first learned of the e-mail Tuesday. He is part of the freshman class that helped put the Senate in GOP hands, but he isn't new to the Capitol. Newman, who also serves as vice chair of the Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee, was a House representative from 2004 to 2006 who sat on committees for education finance, transportation, public safety and ethics.

Newman said the e-mail mistakenly resulted from an attempt on his part to limit his meetings with lobbyists, adding that he "literally [felt] besieged" by lobbyists in the opening weeks of the legislation session. Newman said he was unsure whether other organizations that had not supported him gotten similar e-mails. "I certainly hope not, but I don't know," he said.

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"It's clearly my responsibility," he added. "But this is a brand new [legislative assistant]. ... What she put out is not – it is not my policy.


"If this nursing organization wants to see me, they will see me," Newman said.

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Newman: "Just an error, that's all"

By Mike Kaszuba

January 25, 2011

Republican freshman legislator Scott Newman said Tuesday it was all an innocent mistake.

He was referring to an email sent by his office to the Minnesota Nurses Association telling them that Newman "will not see any organizations that donated to/supported his opponent" in the November elections.

"Your association will be unable to schedule an appointment with Senator Newman," the Jan. 20 email from his office stated. The email was signed by Newman's legislative assistant.

Newman, who is from Hutchinson and sits on the influential Senate Health and Human Services Committee, said he had first heard of the email early Tuesday morning. "It's just an error, that's all," he said.

"I've tried to limit the lobbyists that are coming in to see me involving committees I'm on and issues that are important to me," he said. "I literally feel besieged" by lobbyists.

"I don't have time to talk to constituents. I don't have time to get any work done," said Newman.

"It's clearly my responsibility," he added. "But this is a brand new [legislative assistant]. . . what she put out is not – it is not my policy.

"If this nursing organization wants to see me, they will see me," said Newman. He said he was unsure whether similar emails were going to other groups. "I certainly hope not, but I don't know," he said.

Andrea Ledger, a political organizer for the Minnesota Nurses Association, said the organization was surprised to get the email. "I am stunned by this response," she said of the email. "I've never seen anything like it."

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Independent Review

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Senator Scott Newman; it's time to resign.

By Slikweasel
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So as everyone has heard Scott Newman's policy is not to meet with any of his constituents who donated, or even simply professed support for his opponent in the general election Hal Kimball. This was evidenced by a bluntly stated email response to a request to meet by the Minnesota Nurses Association to which many of his constituents belong.

Instead of simply admitting his arrogant and asinine thoughts on representing only part of his constituency he took the low road. He lied, plain and simply lied. He blamed the entire statement in the email on his aide. Anyone with even the most rudimentary knowledge of politics knows that an aide would NEVER draft such a statement unless directly and expressly directed to do so by the Senator himself. What a cop out of responsibility and cowardly shift of blame to a subordinate employee.

Senator Newman is a strict partisan who refuses to represent his whole constituency. This is not a new occurrence, while a State Representative Scott Newman regularly refused to meet or speak with many groups with constituents in his district, even MNSCU the Minnesota State College and University Department. In other words Mr. Newman will never represent the best interest of his district and only serve the few elite special interests he represents.

Senator Newman it's time to step down and stop disgracing the seat which Senator Dille once held and so excellently served his constituency with. You sir, are a disgrace, disappointment, and an albatross around the neck of your constituency.

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(Also note that Mr. Newman has declined to do any interviews with LOCAL MEDIA IN HIS

DISTRICT about this subject, most notably not responding to a popular afternoon talk show on the Litchfield radio station KLFD. This shows that this man has absolutely no integrity or the grit to back up his reprehensible actions.)

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