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Final Edition

**'Come clean'; Dems join GOP in calling for more info from Burris: 'We can't have the people thinking their new U.S. senator lied'**

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Staff reporters

SPRINGFIELD-A key Democrat on the House panel that moved to impeach Gov. Blagojevich says Democratic U.S. Sen. Roland Burris should be called back before the committee to explain his "absolutely misleading" testimony about his appointment.

Rep. Jack Franks (D-Woodstock), the first Democrat to call for Burris to be hauled back before the House Special Investigative Committee, also said Monday that the Sangamon County state's attorney should open a perjury probe if Burris refuses to show up. Republicans called for a similar perjury probe over the weekend.

Burris "has an obligation to come clean," Franks said.

Burris' latest version of events leading to his appointment -- outlined in a Feb. 5 affidavit that committee members were not informed of until the Chicago Sun-Times broke the story Saturday -- is not sufficient, Franks said: "You can't cross-examine an affidavit."

Franks said he felt "betrayed" when he learned Burris had dramatically altered his Jan. 8 testimony before the committee.

Other Democrats called Monday for more information from Burris. "We can't have the people of Illinois thinking their new U.S. senator lied under oath," said state Rep. Lou Lang (D-Skokie).

Burris should "make himself available to answer any and all questions," said state Rep. John A. Fritchey (D-Chicago).

Burris made himself available Monday -- for about a minute. He talked outside Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church, 4543 S. Princeton, before cutting off questions and jogging inside.

It was his second attempt in two days to calm a controversy that erupted after the Sun-Times reported about the Feb. 5 affidavit sent to Rep. Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago), head of the impeachment committee.

In the affidavit, Burris acknowledged for the first time that he had contact with five representatives of Blagojevich regarding his appointment to the U.S. Senate.

Burris also said the governor's brother, Robert, solicited him for campaign cash -- up to $10,000. Burris did not donate money and said he made it clear he wouldn't do so.

Burris had first told the committee in writing that he had no contact with anyone from the Blagojevich camp before his surprise appointment. Then, testifying in Springfield, he said he had spoken with longtime Blagojevich friend Lon Monk.

Burris said Monday he never altered his story. His lawyer's review of transcripts prompted a decision to file a separate affidavit "that would show who we talked to and what we said. There was no change," Burris said.

A source close to Burris said Monday that the senator was alerted he could be interviewed by the feds before his House testimony. The source said Burris had contact with feds about the potential interview before and after his testimony. But on Monday, he denied that contact had anything to do with that revised affidavit.

Committee member Rep. Monique Davis (D-Chicago) said the GOP wants the U.S. Senate seat back in play, and she finds it "ludicrous" that some say Burris lied. The committee's questions jumped around, she said, and Burris said during testimony that he would get more information to the members.

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