

February 19, 2009 Thursday

Final Edition

**'Thank God for the Sun-Times'**

By Dave McKinney

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SPRINGFIELD-Republicans tore into the No. 2 House Democrat on Wednesday for engaging in a "cover-up" by not immediately disclosing a new affidavit from Sen. Roland Burris that dramatically contradicted earlier testimony he provided about his controversial appointment.

But Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie (D-Chicago) denied the accusation, attributing the document's slow release to a "communications mishap" with staff and to her failure to examine it closely enough when it first arrived.

"Any suggestion that I engaged in a deliberate cover-up, that I purposely delayed distribution of the information, is totally false," said Currie, who chaired the House panel that heard Burris' testimony during hearings on the impeachment of then-Gov. Rod Blagojevich last month.

"Any suggestion that I should do a better job of reading my mail in a timely fashion is a suggestion I enthusiastically -- and more than a little ruefully -- embrace," she said.

House Minority Leader Tom Cross (R-Oswego) criticized Currie for the nine-day turnaround from the point the affidavit was written to when it was first written about in the weekend editions of the Chicago Sun-Times, where impeachment panel members first learned of it.

"Thank God for the Chicago Sun-Times, or we never would have known about this information," Cross said on the House floor.

Cross and Rep. Jim Durkin (R-Western Springs) wrote Currie and House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago) demanding details of any contacts she had with Burris' legal team.

The Republicans also asked for summaries of any conversations House Democrats had with the Sangamon County state's attorney's office regarding a perjury probe of Burris and a timeline for Currie's handling of Burris' revised affidavit.

In the midst of the back-and-forth over an alleged "cover-up," Madigan launched a legislative stink bomb by allowing a resolution to be moved to the floor urging the Sangamon County prosecutor to investigate allegations by Blagojevich that a legislative leader approached him to ask for a job transfer for the secretary of an adulterous state lawmaker.

The resolution, which was sponsored by Rep. Jack Franks (D-Woodstock), appeared directed at Republicans, though no names surfaced publicly.

After causing a stir among Republicans, Franks pulled the resolution, and no vote was cast.