

MAYOR-ELECT TOMMY JONES

Commentary by Gene Forte

Published in the Badger Flats Gazette, "Five Card Badger"

November 7, 2006

The following commentary is directed to our Mayor-elect Tommy Jones with questions requesting a public response. A copy will be given to the City Attorney, Mr. Bill Vaughn, for delivery to Mayor-Elect Tommy Jones.

I hope that fellow Los Banosans don't take offense that I am not willing to jump on the, "Right or wrong, he's our mayor and you've got to support him bandwagon." I'm willing to walk to my own tune for now, and I have the best interests of the City at heart.

Additionally, I don't want anyone to think I'm the Pope, and have never sinned or made a mistake. In fact, I am not so sure that the Pope would even claim such.

Also, I suggest that no one tries to hit the, "It's because he's a black man and I'm white" rhetoric. I don't care about the color of a person's skin. You could say that basically I am color blind. That is why my wife is yellow, and one of my best friends is black.....(See Fig. "B" on page 27). I look at the heart not the skin, so don't even go there.

With that said, let's move on.

THE FIVE SWEARS

The Badger made five separate direct attempts to gain an interview with Mayor-elect Tommy Jones. Each time, Tommy swore directly to The Badger's face that he would get back to The Badger to have the interview. It never happened.

Before The Badger bites into Tommy, it is going to document the series of broken sworn promises that were made.

1. First, on September 14th, 2006, Tommy confirmed an appointment. He then called back saying that he could not make the appointment because he was going to be out of town. Tommy said, "I swear to you I will get back to you and do this." Tommy did not call back.

2. About two weeks later, The Badger noticed Tommy putting up a "Vote for Tommy" sign on Ortigalita Road. The Badger stopped and asked him why he hadn't called back. Tommy said he was busy, but quote, "I swear to you, I swear to God, Gene, I am going to call you." The Badger told Tommy it suggested that he not swear to what he was not going to keep. Tommy said, again, that he absolutely was going to call. Tommy did not call back.

3. A couple of weeks after that, The Badger ran into Tommy at a fundraiser for Wiley Nickel. Again, The Badger asked Tommy why he hadn't called, and Tommy swore that he had been busy. Tommy said, "I swear I'm going to get back to you, it is on my list of things to do." The Badger, again, suggested to Tommy not to swear to things he was not going to do. Tommy swore that he was going to call the Badger. Tommy did not call back.

4. After that, The Badger bumped into Tommy at the OLF Casino Night on October 14th, 2006. In the presence of then Councilman Mike McAdam, The Badger asked Tommy why he had not called back. Tommy swore that he wasn't avoiding calling The Badger, but had been very busy. The Badger then asked Mr. McAdam to advise Tommy that he really should call The Badger back and not get the Badger ticked. Everyone laughed, and Tommy said, "I swear I am going to get back to you."

The Badger then took Tommy aside, out of ear shot of Councilman McAdam, and said, "Tommy, if you think I am going to skewer you about the matter of the drugs, you are wrong. I am not. But, please Tommy, quit screwing around telling me you're going to do something and then not doing it. You are going to leave me no choice but to make comments about this later." Tommy said he understood and said, "I swear I will get back to you." Tommy did not call back..

5. After that, The Badger happened to see Tommy at the Tiger's homecoming football game. The Badger had the honor of being asked to drive the soon to be elected King Willie Frederick and Queen Letycia Garcia in the parade to the stadium. While The Badger was parked on the sidelines out of the vision of the crowd, and the King and Queen were in the middle of the field, he saw Tommy beneath the goal posts. I shook my head and smiled.

Tommy then came over to the car and said he knows that he had not called The Badger. Tommy said, "I swear I have been busy, and I swear to God I am going to be calling you." Tommy did not call back.

TOMMY VS. RED

The Badger knows that he is going against what appears to be the popular vote, but based upon the direct personal encounters that The Badger has had with Tommy Jones, The Badger believes there could have not been a worse choice for Mayor than Tommy Jones.

Heck, many of you may remember Mr. Red Hawkins, God rest his soul, running for public office. At least when he said he was going to be there to pump out your cesspool, you knew he would show up. Or, if he missed the first time, he would be there the second. In my book, Red has more credibility than Tommy Jones.

If those that voted for Tommy don't want to subscribe to my newspaper, well, I'm sorry about that. I mean no personal offense to you or your vote. You voted who you personally thought was best. I do not fault or criticize you in any way.

The Badger states without hesitation that it is also entitled to its opinion, and it is not swayed by advertising dollars or political advertising bucks like the big boys. See Fig. 23 (below) of an article published in the Chronicle Sacramento Bureau indicating Lockyer's campaign dollars of minimally \$10 million. In addition, Fig. 12, page 7, shows the numerous Newspaper endorsements Lockyer had, all potential recipients of some portion of that \$10 million advertising dollars.

Getting back to Tommy, I am also stating publicly that there is no defense for what Tommy did in swearing to The Badger on five separate occasions that he was going to do something but did not. If Tommy did not want to do the interview all he had to say was, "No, Gene, I don't want to do the interview." Then all the Badger could say was, Tommy did not want to be interviewed.

So, it's certainly not just the not calling back that is the bone of contention for the Badger. It is the deliberate lies that The Badger was told with a straight face of sincerity by Tommy. Tommy, with his big smile is a very personable guy. That smile combined with the sincere swearing really both charmed and fooled The Badger.

The Badger may be extra sensitive to the matters of people swearing to things due to the Dos Palos mess and an officer swearing to tell the truth that did not. This has caused a whole bunch of trouble for an awful lot of people trying to cover it up.

It has caused a bad moon rising for DA Morse for seemingly letting someone that he apparently knew had committed perjury to get away with it. Now, there's one heck of a good example for Tommy to follow if DA Morse doesn't get called out to explain it.

It appears that Tommy has no fear of telling a lie. He watches big boy politicians do it day in and day out. I assert that Tommy believes himself to be the king of the roost at this time, and I submit the air is awfully thin where his head is at.

Is there any reason for me to believe that when Tommy takes the oath of office and swears to be a good mayor, or whatever, that he really means it? Based upon my direct experience with him, absolutely, positively not.

Why should The Badger?

THE "TOMMY SCANDAL"

When I first was going to interview Tommy, I thought about the matter of the alleged planting of drugs on him a few years ago, and decided I would ask Tommy just a couple of questions to clear the air, and then move on to other matters. I had no intention to print any of it in The Badger, and I had told him that when I saw him at the OLF Casino Night.

But as time wore on without Tommy responding, and the broken, "I swear to you's" continued, I re-thought the issue. Even though The Badger did not want to be accused of disrupting the voting process with a scandalous matter, I now apologize to my readers for what I consider in retrospect, shirking away from controversy, and what should be my duty as a newspaper.

The topic of what I call the "Tommy Scandal" would have been absolutely appropriate to be addressed openly. I had taken a wait and see attitude if McClatchy Newspaper's Los Banos Enterprise was going to say anything about the "Tommy Scandal."

As far as I know, they didn't, but honestly, I don't read their paper, so I am not positive. I will also give a calculated guess in betting that they did not.

Therefore, shame on us both. I will not let it happen again.

I SWEAR THE DRUGS WERE PLANTED!

You know, The Badger has heard a number of stories about the incident concerning crack cocaine, or other type of drugs being planted in Tommy's car. As I understood it, Tommy was saying that someone was out to get him, and he was framed. I can hear Tommy saying, "I swear the drugs were planted."

The long and short of it was that a lawsuit was filed by Tommy, it was settled, and everything went away. Well, you know something, Tommy, that's not good enough for me, and it just isn't your personal business..... and I will tell you why.

You accused what I understand to be Los Banos law enforcement officers of framing you. If that did happen, you should not stop short of outing them publicly. When you stop short of doing such, it endangers me and every good citizen in our city.

Further, it is an insult to good police officers that would never do such a thing. You now left a stigma and black mark on this city – that our officers cannot be trusted and an innocent person can get framed by them.

Don't give me the horse crap about moving on, and letting the matter heal for the City's sake. If you are the person who is now entrusted for the future of our city, then you owe it to our city to let it either prove its officers innocent, or take the responsibility of being guilty of framing you.

In actuality, the city will win both ways, and so will you. The guilty parties will be outed, and the city will be known for not tolerating such conduct. You will be proven forevermore innocent.

Whoever cut this deal when it was happening, or ratified it, and I suspect it may have been Mayor Amabile, made a really bad decision.

The matter should be opened back up.

THE BADGER'S PERSONAL INTEREST

There is another major concern that I personally have. Right now, I am publicly taking on what I consider to be some of the most corrupt judicial/public officials that one can imagine. If a pipe of crack cocaine gets dropped in my car, will I be afforded the same understanding that you received? I think not.

So far, the Good ol' Boys have tried to do things to me they are still spitting teeth out over, i.e., I had to turn in my guns because the Monterey County Counsel said he thought I was going to kidnap and batter him. It was not decided in a courtroom with a hearing. Since such time, the motion calendared to be heard about it has been stalled for over ten months.

Why? Because each judge assigned to hear it disqualifies themselves. Why? Because they are going to have to nail the Monterey County Counsel's tongue to the floor for going into court, without me being present, and getting such order under false pretenses. In fact, a judge didn't even sign the order as required.

In other words, Tommy, if somebody says I did something wrong, that I didn't do, and then tries to frame me to cover their lies, I will pursue them to the end of time. It is precisely why the Good ol' Boys, including Attorney General Bill Lockyer, who I served with a summons and complaint on November 15th, 2006, are in such trouble.

Let me tell you, Tommy, I have not made the sacrifices I made to come back to my home town to get blindsided, or set up. It is where I intend to raise my children and to be

buried. I have no intention of letting the public official corruption, that I have become an expert in spotting and addressing, thrive here.

Therefore, I want to know how you were framed, by who, and why, for my own protection, and for that of every other citizen of Los Banos. If there are people in law enforcement in our city that have not been outed that framed you, then I want to help you expose them.

If you cannot prove that you were framed, or you do not want to address this matter publicly, then I want you out as mayor before you even start. It is as simple as that.

NOTE: Do me a favor Tommy, don't swear you're going to get back to me, just please do. Because you know what, I swear to you that I will not let this matter rest until you do.

END OF STORY