

PDC Interview with Dino Rossi

by Tony Perkins

October 2, 2007

Kirkland, Washington

Part 1

PERKINS: This is the statement of Dino Rossi in PDC Case 08-001. The time is now 1:32. The date is October 2, 2007. I am Tony Perkins of the Public Disclosure Commission staff. Also present are John White and Jim Bopp, Jr., counsel to the respondent, Kristin Murphy of PDC staff and Bruce Marvin of the Attorney General's Office. This statement is being recorded at law offices of Livengood, Fitzgerald and Alskog in Kirkland, Washington. The oath will be administered by John White and I'll turn it over to John.

WHITE: Mr. Rossi, do you swear or affirm that the testimony you are about to give is true and correct?

ROSSI: Yes I do.

WHITE: I want to get a couple of things on the record here before we get started with questions.

PERKINS: Sounds good.

WHITE: Mr. Rossi is here voluntarily, he's been cooperative but want to make it very clear that we think that this thing should have been dismissed at the very beginning with our responsive letter because there's just nothing to this complaint. The second item that I want to get clarified is that, I guess last night Linda Dalton sent an email that I saw this morning inquiring into Mr. Bopp's status and the applicability of APR 8. At the moment there is as far as I understand, no proceeding before any tribunal regarding Forward

WHITE: I think he has told you what the harm is, that he's perceived a drop off in fund raising for the Foundation. I really don't see it as being a relevant line of inquiry.

PERKINS: So I have to ask you, are you accepting his direction not to answer that question?

ROSSI: I'll take advice of counsel.

PERKINS: Not much more that I wanted to ask but I am wondering did you ever have any conversation with any person starting with members of the Foundation's staff or board about the benefit that your activities with the Foundation could have for an eventual campaign for office?

ROSSI: Benefit?

PERKINS: Yes. Being involved in the Foundation and being out there, the way that that could assist a campaign for office, if you decided to run?

ROSSI: I don't recall having that conversation with anybody.

PERKINS: So I asked first about members of the Foundation staff or board, did you ever have a conversation on that subject with any other person?

ROSSI: Not that I recall.

PERKINS: In any conversation about the Foundation, has that angle been explored?

ROSSI: Not that I recall.

PERKINS: We are close to the end. Kristin, do you have any follow up that you want to...

MURPHY: (Inaudible)

PERKINS: **Did you have an interview recently with David Postman?**

ROSSI: Postman?

PERKINS: Yeah, from the Seattle Times?

ROSSI: Yes, I talked to him when we sent out the email resigning from the Foundation.

PERKINS: I read what he had reported on that interview. In it you were quoted as saying something that prompted a question in my mind about assessing the depth of support in the state for a potential campaign for governor. He asked you what the difference between that and campaign was. And your response was that you are not a declared candidate, so that is a big difference. You are not asking people to vote for you. Tell me about the activity, or how you are going about assessing the depth of support?

ROSSI: If somebody asked me to run, that we think you ought to run, then I say well, do you think—why? I ask the question—why? And listen. It is more about listening to people than anything else.

PERKINS: How long has this conversation been happening? How long have you been soliciting this sort of information?

WHITE: Wait...wait...wait. I'm not sure that anything he said was that he was necessarily soliciting that information from people.

PERKINS: Well having these conversations in response to people's urging, maybe that is a more accurate way to describe it, assessing the depth of support, how long has that been going on?

ROSSI: Probably more over the last few weeks than anything else. The last couple of weeks.

PERKINS: Prior to that?

ROSSI: Not as strongly, I've asked people if you think I should do this or not.

PERKINS: Give me more details, if you would. What do you mean, "do you think I should do this or not?"

ROSSI: I mean, "You encourage me to run, but why, and if so, what do you think?" And then listen.

PERKINS: Those kinds of conversations didn't happen prior to a couple of weeks ago?

ROSSI: I have had other people before that too, yeah, that have asked, and I have asked them, "Well, what do you think?" If they ask me to run, I say "If I do, does it make sense for me to do it, from your standpoint?"

PERKINS: I think that I have exhausted my questions and we are out of time or very close. Do you have anything that you want to add?

ROSSI: No.

PERKINS: Okay. Kristin, anything else from you?

MURPHY: No.

PERKINS: In that case, this recorded statement is now concluded. The time is 3:25 on October 2nd, 2007. I am going to stop the recorder.