

# THEN AGAIN...

Perhaps it was just a confluence of events that convinced Trent now was the time to quit.

After Senate Minority Whip Trent Lott (R-MS) announced his resignation this week, it was widely speculated that Lott was quitting in order to dodge Senate ethics standards that take effect next year. The new rules require senators to wait two years before entering "the lucrative world" of lobbying Congress. Lott denied the rumor at a press conference, saying the new law "didn't have a big role" in his decision.

At the same press conference, Lott was also asked about Senate ethics rules regarding "negotiating with a future employer," to which he replied that he "is not really involved in negotiation," but that "there are some opportunities out there" that he wants "to be able to consider":

QUESTION: Senator, I understand there's a rule in the Senate that if you're negotiating with a future employer, that you must register with the Ethics Committee. Have you been down to that committee yet?

LOTT: Well, I have not yet, but I'm not really involved in negotiation. I've tried to stay away from that. There are some opportunities out there that I want to be able to consider, but I have nothing that we've agreed to or lined up.

One of the "opportunities" that Lott is considering, according to his son,

Chester Lott “ who is also a lobbyist  
” is “a partnership” with former  
Sen. John Breaux (D-LA), who until  
today, was the senior counsel at a  
powerhouse lobbying firm. But just this  
afternoon, Breaux announced that he was  
leaving Patton Boggs in order “to form  
his own firm with his son, John Jr.”

I can imagine the conversation now (note, this  
is **purely a fictional creation**):

Lott: Breauzie, it looks like we’re  
going to have to accelerate our little  
plan to get rich.

Breaux: Whaysthat, Trent? I thought we  
were good to do it in December.

Lott: Dickie’s in trouble again, and  
with all the ruckus about the US  
Attorney firings, I can’t afford to help  
him out this time.

Breaux: Ah, I see. What’s the time  
frame?

Lott: Well, Karl’s on this kick to make  
sure everyone resigns before scandal  
hits. So I’m thinking maybe in about 20  
minutes.

There’s a longer version of this, where I add in  
Trent’s concerns about Larry Flynt’s pictures of  
him with a boy for hire. But so far, that’s not  
materializing. Yet.