

“TRENT LOTT CALLED”

I haven't been covering the Dickie Scruggs case mostly because folo has been covering it very nicely. The short update is the whole thing has exploded as four or five different cases merge into one—and none of it looks good for Scruggs. The Scruggses are due to give a deposition just after the new year in one of these cases, apparently to collect evidence on when they first contracted with two whistleblower-sisters who collected evidence against State Farm and got it into the Scruggses hands.

Lotus posted something today that deserves wider notice. In a post describing Trent Lott's rather hasty retreat from the Senate (both in general, and last night at precisely 10:45 PM), lotus points out that Trent Lott shows up in some of the filings from this time period, in particular the notes of one of the engineers involved in the case. Trent Lott called, the notes begin.



The notes go on and on about Trent's anger at State Farm, ending with a record of just how mad Trent is.



Now, lotus speculates more about what this might mean for Trent, particularly since it appears that the Scruggses tried to get State Farm in legal trouble in hopes it would make their lawsuits easier to win.

Asshole though he be, Trent Lott is not totally stupid (though he may have been for a while stupified by rage at State Farm). He knows that, despite all his long years' effort to the contrary, a large number of Mississippians **can** read and reason and see this trail he's left, and where it's heading. There he is down on paper conferring with the whistleblower (or thief, depending on your standpoint) who worked with Dickie and

Jim Hood to coerce a civil settlement via state-applied – possibly *criminally* state-applied – pressure. Is he the one who hooked them up to the FBI and U.S. Attorney?

But for the moment, I'm interested in this note, which suggests that the sole reason Trent came back this year is so he could legislate his way to revenge against State Farm—or, at the very least, legislate away the insurance companies' ability to collude.



Now, perhaps I'm mis-reading this note. But it seems to reflect Trent's well-publicized contemplation of retirement last year, rather than running for re-election. It seems to provide an explanation for why he decided, in the end, to run for re-election: to get even with State Farm.

Given the explosive mess Trent's brother-in-law is in now, in his efforts to get State Farm, perhaps Trent decided he would no longer be able to accomplish his aim, to "fix" the insurance mess.

I wonder though. If that's true, then how did Trent know, the day before Scruggs got indicted, that it was going to get a lot harder to go after State Farm so quickly?