

THE FIRST JESSE JACKSON JR-RELATED BLAGOJEVICH CONTACT WAS BEFORE OCTOBER 31

Here's a detail I just noticed. Earlier, I said the first date in Fitz's Senate Seat Sale timeline was on November 3.

But that's not right. In his discussion of a December 4 conversation Blago had, Fitz wrote:

On December 4, 2008, ROD BLAGOJEVICH spoke to Advisor B and informed Advisor B that he was giving Senate Candidate 5 greater consideration for the Senate seat because, among other reasons, if ROD BLAGOJEVICH ran for re-election Senate Candidate 5 would "raise[] money" for ROD BLAGOJEVICH, although ROD BLAGOJEVICH said he might "get some (money) up front, maybe" from Senate Candidate 5 to insure Senate Candidate 5 kept his promise about raising money for ROD BLAGOJEVICH. (In a recorded conversation on October 31, 2008, ROD BLAGOJEVICH described an earlier approach by an associate of Senate Candidate Five as follows: "We were approached 'pay to play.' That, you know, he'd raise me 500 grand. An emissary came. Then the other guy would raise a million, if I made him (Senate Candidate 5) a Senator.")

In other words, Fitz's Senate Seat Sale chronology actually starts four days earlier than it appears to, on October 31.

The sentence is convoluted, but what I think it says is: On October 31, Blago was recorded saying that he had already been approached by a

Jesse Jackson Jr. associate saying that (and here's where I get lost) the associate would raise half a million—and possibly that someone else would raise a million—if JJJ were named Senator.

This detail is important for several reasons. First, it shows that the chronology that Fitz appears to show us, starting on November 3, leaves out earlier known discussion(s) about selling the seat (which reiterates my point that Fitz is showing us primarily the attempts to deal to Obama—and not any other potential conversations about the seat. It suggests Fitz may have more relating to JJJ's emissaries (certainly, JJJ remained an active candidate to replace Obama between October 31 and today).

This looks even worse for JJJ than the appearance that someone approached Blago more recently—in the last week or so.

But remember—this still does not directly implicate JJJ. It is Blago's representation of what someone associated with JJJ had said. Given JJJ's narrow denial today (that he hadn't authorized anyone to make deals with Blago), it suggests that JJJ insists he did not know of this offer.