

Media Release • Saskatchewan Party Caucus

For immediate release:
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“There was no cover up.”

– Former NDP MLA and Minister Glenn Hagel, CBC News report, April 30, 2007

“A Veil of Secrecy and Deception”

Conflict Commissioner’s Report Confirms Theft Cover-up in NDP Caucus Office

Former NDP Caucus Chief of Staff Jim Fodey and former NDP MLA Glenn Hagel covered up a theft of taxpayers’ money from the NDP Caucus Office in the early 1990s, according to a report prepared by Saskatchewan’s Conflict of Interest Commissioner Gerald Gerrand.

In his report, Gerrand states:

“In 1992, a veil of secrecy and deception was cast over the Ann Lord theft mainly by Mr. Fodey but assisted in part by Mr. Hagel. Mr. Fodey misled the Regina Police Service as to the correct state of financial affairs related to the departure of Ann Lord. He asked (NDP Caucus secretary) Mrs. Fehr to keep secret the existence of the Ann Lord confession letter. He misled the press regarding the true facts surrounding the Ann Lord departure.

“Mr. Hagel played no active role respecting Mr. Fodey’s actions described in the existing paragraph. However, at the General Caucus meeting of the NDP on September 22, 1992, he reported that ‘Ann Lord resigned,’ a factually inaccurate description of events. Further, he took no steps to correct the inaccuracies given by James Fodey to the Leader Post reporters Wyatt and Sutton in November, 1992.” (Paragraphs 79 and 80, Page 29.)

Gerrand concludes his report by saying: ***“Regrettably, those that first learned of it chose to deceive and mislead others about the theft for misguided political purposes.” (Paragraph 127, Page 48.)***

Saskatchewan Party House Leader Rod Gantfoer today questioned the NDP’s recent decision to authorize a \$131,000 taxpayer-funded severance payment to Fodey.

“Why on earth did the NDP Caucus approve this \$131,000 severance payment to Jim Fodey before Mr. Gerrand had even finished his investigation?” Gantfoer said. “This report provides clear reasons Mr. Fodey should have been fired with cause and should have received no severance. Lorne Calvert needs to explain why he was in such a rush to pay off Mr. Fodey.”

Gantfoer said this is the second time the NDP approved a huge taxpayer-funded severance payment to an employee who should have been fired with cause.

“First, the NDP gave Murdoch Carriere \$275,000 after being let go for harassment and convicted of assault, and now they give Jim Fodey \$131,000 taxpayers’ dollars after he covered up theft,” Gantefoer said. “And this latest pay-off happened since the election, so the NDP has learned absolutely nothing from their election defeat.”

Gantefoer also questioned Glenn Hagel’s status within the New Democratic Party, given that he even withheld information about the theft from his own caucus.

“Mr. Hagel was still an NDP candidate in the last election,” Gantefoer said. “Is he going to be allowed to run in future elections, now that it is clear he was part of the cover-up?”

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For further information: Steve Rennick, Saskatchewan Party Caucus, Regina, 787-4300

MEDIA ADVISORY: Rod Gantefoer will be available to speak with reporters on this issue today at 10 am outside his office, Room 312, Legislative Building, Regina.

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