

Demoted DeLay vows to stay active in House

WASHINGTON (AP) - A defiant Tom DeLay, removed as House majority leader because of a criminal indictment, said Sunday he can do his job even without the title and pledged to continue his close partnership with House Speaker Dennis Hastert in pushing the GOP's agenda.

The Texas Republican known for keeping colleagues in line and raising prodigious amounts of cash to help elect GOP candidates said he is only guilty of working to defeat Democrats. "But that's not illegal," he said.

Yet some House Republi-

cans said the fundraising conspiracy case in Texas has plunged DeLay back into the GOP pack.

"He's lost his office. He's lost his staff. And he's now basically a rank-and-file member who has a lot of friends and will still have influence," said Connecticut Rep. Christopher Shays, a moderate Republican.

Shays acknowledged he has not been comfortable with DeLay as the No. 2 House GOP leader, citing "continual acts that border and go sometimes beyond the ethical edge. They may not be illegal, but he's always

pushing that ethical edge to the limit."

Democrats said their party stands to gain if DeLay asserts himself in the Republican leadership and the GOP embraces him. "I hope they continue to let him go out and say just what he's saying," said Democratic Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, who joined Shays on CNN's "Late Edition."

DeLay was charged last week with conspiring with two political associates to use corporate donations to support Texas legislative candidates. House rules require any member of the elected

leadership to step down temporarily if indicted.

He has said he has done nothing wrong, called the indictment "a sham," and denounced the Democratic prosecutor who pursued the case as a "partisan fanatic."

DeLay told "Fox News Sunday" he expected to dispense quickly with the charges and will serve as a close adviser to Hastert, R-Ill., in promoting an agenda that includes lowering gas prices, cutting taxes and enforcing immigration laws.

"I get to continue my partnership with the speaker," DeLay said.

"The speaker and I have been leading the House for what, eight years now. It's because we get along together, we think the same. We are simpatico," DeLay said.

Asked whether he would return to the GOP leadership, DeLay said, "Well, I hope so. I can do my job with or without the title. That doesn't concern me."

But GOP Rep. David Dreier of California, the House Rules Committee chairman initially recommended to take over many of DeLay's duties, said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that

DeLay "knows he's not going to run things."

The indictment from a grand jury in Austin, Texas, charged that conspirators carried out a fundraising scheme by having the DeLay-founded Texans for a Republican Majority Political Action Committee send corporate money to the Republican National Committee in Washington. The RNC then sent back a like amount — \$190,000 — to distribute to Texas candidates.

DeLay said he allowed his name to be used for fundraisers and participated (See DeLay, Page 14)

Tribute

(Continued from Page 1)

timeline of her gaming and entrepreneurial treks: "It is from the time when I was first in business, in Hawthorne, Nev. I had a casino there from 1951-1957, and I had a non-restricted gaming license there, my first time. I opened several things when I got here to Las Vegas: a chain



Lou Ragland is the producer of a documentary chronicling the accomplishments of gaming pioneer Sarann Knight Preddy.

of cleaners, and a dress shop and other businesses. After that, I opened People's Choice [a restaurant lounge and casino] and it was doing great... When the city bought that whole land [on West Owens]...then I opened the Moulin Rouge and stayed there until late the 80s."

The Moulin Rouge is the same historic landmark property that opened in 1955 to fanfare, hosting top-flight entertainers of all races and stealing some thunder from Strip casinos. Six months later, it was closed.

It was also the location of the signing of the desegregation pact between city fathers, city officials and civil rights leaders.

Immediately following the documentary premiere, there will be a variety of entertainment by Lou Ragland's Ink Spots, the Cunninghams, Nathan Tanouye Big Band, Marcia Robinson, Lindell Blake, LaBlaque, Dawn Williams, and China Hudson.

Ragland said he has future plans to get the documentary about Preddy aired on public television starting with WGHB in Boston, then on local stations. He also hopes to have it distributed throughout the libraries, schools and universities across the nation.

"It's a chronicle... She has owned a minimum of three casinos," Ragland said proudly. "To see what a woman of color can do..." is what Ragland and Sarann hope to share with everyone.

Preddy's greatest impact on the local community is that she provided more jobs to more local residents than anyone else did during her many years of operating casinos and businesses in the Historic Westside area.

KLAS Channel 8 weatherman Kevin Jannison will host the tribute, with entertainer James Payton serving as emcee. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the Coast Casino box office and doors open at 5 p.m. for meet and gre. The documentary will be shown at 6 p.m. Admission starts at \$25. For ticket and event information, please call (702) 365-7075.

Tourists warned on Florida deadly force law

MIAMI (AP) - Clark Ramm sees shades of the Wild West in Florida's new law giving greater legal protections to people who shoot or use other deadly force when threatened or attacked.

"It seems like everybody ought to be packing a piece," said Ramm, a visitor from Ukiah, Calif., who found out about the law Monday from a gun control group handing out leaflets at Miami International Airport. "I don't know if that's the right thing to do."

The leaflets begin with the words "An Important Notice to Florida Visitors" in bold red type by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

"Do not argue unnecessary with local people," it says.

"If someone appears to be angry with you, maintain to the best of your ability a positive attitude, and do not shout or make threatening gestures."

Florida's "stand your ground" law, which took effect Saturday, removes a duty on the part of citizens to retreat in the face of an attack as long as they are in a place they have a legal right to be, including a public street or their place of business.

It also gives immunity from criminal or civil charges to a shooter as long as the person shot is not a police officer.

Proponents of the measure, pushed by the National

Rifle Association, say it will make Florida a safer place, not more dangerous. Gov. Jeb Bush has repeatedly pointed to a 34-year low in state crime statistics to demonstrate that Florida is not a haven for violence.

"It's pure, unadulterated politics," Bush said.

The Florida tourism industry, however, is taking the campaign seriously, with Visit Florida — the state's official tourism marketing arm — issuing a statement calling Florida "a very safe and secure destination that excels in caring for its visitors."

"We believe that Americans and international visitors are smart enough to understand that the Brady Cam-

paign is one group's political agenda and not a real safety issue," the statement said.

Florida hosts more than 1 million visitors on any given day, with nearly 80 million tourists visiting the state in 2004, according to Visit Florida.

The Brady Campaign leaflets, which the group intends to hand out for about a month at the Miami and Orlando airports, call the measure the "Shoot First" law and urge visitors to "take sensible precautions"

"There is no other state in the nation... that has a law like this," said Brady flak Peter Hamm. "It could cause the most aggressive people in society to overreact."

THE FREDERICK DOUGLASS EDUCATIONAL FUND
12TH ANNUAL GALA DINNER & AWARDS BANQUET

Friday, October 14, 2005
 6:00 p.m. NO HOST COCKTAILS • 7:00 p.m. DINNER IS SERVED

THE VENETIAN RESORT HOTEL
 3355 SOUTH LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
 TICKETS \$150/\$100 PER PERSON • TABLES OF 10 \$1,000

TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CALL (702) 631-8084
 947 W. LAKE MEAD BOULEVARD • LAS VEGAS, NV 89106

HONOREE
GOVERNOR KENNY GUINN

GUEST SPEAKER
MR. BILL COSBY