

FIRST AMERICANS

LAST TO VOTE, FIRST TO BLAME

I believe that it is essential to understand just how far removed from this scandal Indian tribes are. While a small handful of tribes represented by Mr. Abramoff were victimized by his incredibly shady and cynical manipulation of their funds, the vast majority our nation's 560 tribes and Alaskan Native Villages had nothing to do with him or his practices... I am proud of the support Indian tribes and individual Native Americans have extended to me over the years. We must help restore the American public's faith in good, responsible government and preserve participation by sovereign Indian tribes in our democracy.

- Senator Tim Johnson (D-SD)

I am on the warpath. Believe me I am, ... This is part of my family's history... Tribes should not be blamed for what lobbyists did, ... We don't have an Indian scandal. We don't have a gambling scandal. We have a lobbying scandal.

- Rep Tom Cole (R-OK)

When it comes to scandal in Washington, D.C., Thurber told McCain: "You're the problem, Senator — not you personally," but rather Members of Congress and staffers who contribute to a culture in which government officials solicit campaign contributions and far-flung trips or fancy meals paid for by lobbyists.

- "McCain, Witnesses Weigh 'Indian Loophole' Fix", Roll Call
February 6, 2006

Duke Cunningham, Jack Abramoff, and the ongoing and disgusting saga of abuse of power and public trust are not just made up by the Democrats... Our entire philosophy is at risk because the American people, and even a large percentage of our own supporters think we have been corrupted.

- Rep. Mark Edward Souder (R-Ind.)

[Boehner] doesn't think Native American tribal groups should be dishonored simply for exercising their own political freedom.

- Spokesman Don Seymour

