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From: McAllister, William D (GOV)
Sent: Thursday, August 14, 2008 12:23 PM
To: smacdonald@ktuu.com
Cc: Leighow, Sharon W (GOV)
Subject: hi, and a concern

Steve:

Can't seem to reach you on the phone. Did you get my message a few days ago?
JT's voice mail greeting was still on there.

I understand you left a message for Sharon yesterday. You can call me -
269-7446. I will be handling Channel 2 inquiries for the most part.

However, I will pass on a concern from Sharon based on some things that have
happened over the past few weeks, including the time I was out of the
country.

There has been a pattern lately of KTUU crews just showing up here and
staking out the office, hoping to ambush someone.

I've covered seven governors between here and Minnesota, and this is by far
the most open administration I've ever seen. As a reporter, I never before
had the easy access I had with this governor and her staff. I never needed
to do a stakeout to try to get a sound bite or an awkward camera shot.

Apparently, Mike Ross has been the main offender in this regard. However,
Jason did it on Tuesday, concerning reaction to the "witness tampering"
nonsense out of Halcro's blog. Jason was told that we would arrange
something with the attorney general, and apparently he just got impatient
and showed up, without notice.

The situation was this: We were waiting for a deputy in Talis Colberg's office to make it in from Juneau on a flight that was delayed by hours due to fog. This was the guy, Mike Barnhill, who personally had conducted half of the interviews in the Department of Law inquiry, and who had the notes from those interviews. We needed time to review the situation with Colberg and Mike Nizich before having Colberg make a statement. Once that was done, the attorney general was available.

But in the meantime, Jason and Kyle were standing conspicuously in the reception area with a camera, which is not exactly conducive to comfortable office operations.

It was also disappointing when Jason barely made any reference to Branchflower's letter to Nizich asking exactly for the kind of information being sought in the Department of Law inquiry. There was a passing reference in the tag at 5, and nothing at all at 6. It certainly seems relevant if the investigator is asking for the same kind of inquiry that some are calling witness tampering. Jason seems to think Branchflower's request could have been accommodated immediately without any leg work, without talking to anyone, but that's just ridiculous.

Anyway, this press office will continue to strive to be accommodating to Channel 2. But it will be a great improvement if some respect can be shown for the civil servants who work here, even if it's too much to ask that information we provide to you gets some reasonable treatment in the newscasts.

Thanks,

Bill

Cc: Sharon Leighow