

Hudson casino proposal; and, second, DNC finance staffer Adam Crain's efforts to cultivate Indian contributions nationally through contacts with a number of volunteer solicitors.²¹⁵

d. Patrick O'Connor and Larry Kitto Meet with DNC Chairman Fowler on March 15, 1995

O'Connor's efforts to get DNC support for the Hudson opponent tribes began soon after the Minneapolis luncheon he and his wife hosted for Fowler. On March 13, Mercer informed DNC Finance Chairman Truman Arnold and the senior DNC finance staff that Patrick and Evelyn O'Connor would be coming to Washington soon and should meet with Arnold about their role in fund-raising in Minnesota, as a follow-up to their March 5 visit with Fowler. Mercer proposed that Arnold recruit the O'Connors to a "Blue Ribbon Committee" of supporters, or at least that he hold them to "a committed amount for 1995 and 1996."²¹⁶ Arnold responded to this proposal by meeting with the O'Connors and Mercer over lunch on March 16. The participants had no recollections and there is no documentation of the discussion at that gathering, but O'Connor did bill the St. Croix Tribe for attending this meeting.

By March 15, Mercer learned from Patrick O'Connor that O'Connor would be joined in Washington during this trip by his O'Connor & Hannan colleague, Larry Kitto, whom O'Connor wanted to introduce to Fowler. In a briefing memo to Fowler clearly identifying both O'Connor and Kitto as representatives of American Indian interests and labeling Kitto as both a lobbyist and an executive with an American Indian gaming company, Little Six, Inc., Mercer explained two "issues" for this meeting, as he understood them from O'Connor:

²¹⁵The latter course of events is discussed in Section II.J.3., below.

²¹⁶Memorandum from David Mercer to Truman Arnold, Richard Sullivan, Ari Swiller and Jennifer Scully, March 13, 1995.