

meeting between O'Connor and Ickes. There is no evidence indicating that Ickes ever met or spoke with O'Connor. O'Connor also tried other means to get his message through to Ickes.³⁰⁸

d. Thomas Schneider's Contacts With Ickes

On May 9, 1995, O'Connor enlisted the help of his O'Connor & Hannan colleague, Thomas Schneider, in the effort to get the opponents' message across to the White House. Schneider, who is an attorney, was a partner at O'Connor & Hannan until sometime in 1995, and has remained "Of Counsel" to the firm since that time, while operating separately his own consulting business. O'Connor and Corcoran sought Schneider's assistance because he is a close personal friend of President Clinton with good access to White House officials. According to his billing records, O'Connor spoke with Schneider by phone on May 9, briefed him on the "problem" relating to the St. Croix matter, and then faxed him material.³⁰⁹

³⁰⁸O'Connor's daytimer and St. Croix billing records suggest that one of those means may have been through the Office of the Vice President, but the evidence does not support that conclusion. O'Connor states that he and his wife have a close and longstanding relationship with Vice President Gore. On May 24, 1995, O'Connor billed the St. Croix for "Dinner with Al Gore; Conference with Peter Knight and David M. Strauss regarding Indian problem regarding Hudson dog track." At that time, Strauss was the Vice President's Deputy Chief of Staff, while Knight had been Gore's Chief of Staff when the Vice President earlier served in the House of Representatives and the Senate. A week later, O'Connor also faxed to Strauss a news clipping and note regarding the precedential impact of the Hudson case, which O'Connor sent to several White House, DNC and DOI officials.

As O'Connor later acknowledged, the May 24 event was a large political reception, not a private dinner, as the billing record might suggest. O'Connor testified before the Burton Committee that he did not discuss the Hudson matter with the Vice President, and that in speaking with Knight and Strauss, O'Connor merely mentioned his involvement in the matter, without asking for anything. Strauss had no recollection of any such conversation, and there is no further evidence to suggest that the Vice President's office had any contacts or communications relating to the Hudson matter.

³⁰⁹This fax has not been located through document searches or interviews.