

report back to O'Connor after this conversation with Ickes, and that he had no further conversations about the Hudson matter with anyone at the White House or at O'Connor & Hannan.<sup>315</sup>

**e. Ickes's Office Contacts the Interior Department**

At some point in early May 1995, in response to the O'Connor and Fowler communications, Ickes asked Special Assistant to the President Jennifer O'Connor<sup>316</sup> to handle these inquiries about the status of the Hudson casino application. Jennifer O'Connor assisted Ickes in handling substantive issues relating to both policy and political affairs. She and Ickes first worked together in 1991 on the Clinton primary campaign in New York, and by May 1995 Ickes said she enjoyed his implicit trust.

Ickes hired Ms. O'Connor in January 1995. Prior to working for Ickes, she had been Special Assistant to the President for Cabinet Affairs, a position in which she interacted on both policy and political matters with various chiefs of staff of departments and agencies, including DOI Chief of Staff Collier, whom she got to know prior to the Hudson matter. O'Connor also came to know DNC Chairman Fowler, interacting with him frequently throughout 1995 in

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<sup>315</sup>The decision to deny the Hudson casino proposal was made public on July 14, 1995. The night before, July 13, Schneider hosted a fund-raising dinner at his Maryland home for Clinton/Gore '96, which President Clinton and First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton attended, along with scores of campaign contributors and other guests. Neither Secretary Babbitt nor Ickes attended the event. As set out in Section II.G. of this Report, DOI's decision to deny the Hudson casino proposal was made well before the fund-raising dinner at Schneider's home. Indeed, DOI inadvertently disclosed the decision to deny on July 13 to one of the opponent tribes. In any event, there is no evidence that Schneider or anyone else discussed the Hudson casino proposal with President Clinton or any other Administration official at the July 13 event, nor that the decision was influenced in any way by Schneider's hosting of the event.

<sup>316</sup>Jennifer O'Connor is not related to Patrick O'Connor.