

existed in that Deer was an enrolled member of a Wisconsin tribe and was a good friend of Chairman gaiashkibos.<sup>131</sup>

Finally, McCarthy outlined “a few key political issues to keep in mind and to point out to the Secretary”:

- Chairman gaiashkibos, a “key” player for the applicant tribes, is a Republican and “will no doubt work hard against Bill Clinton in the next two years.” McCarthy noted, “We also need to point out to the Secretary that it would not be in his best interest to in any way help the Republicans erode any additional Indian votes or Indian political contributions.”

- “The Governor of Wisconsin, Tommy Thompson, is also a Republican.”

McCarthy testified later there were rumors that Thompson was interested in running for president, and McCarthy surmised that “if in fact this dog track went through, that would generate a pocket for the Republicans to defeat the President” and “the Republicans then would have more access to funds.”<sup>132</sup>

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<sup>131</sup>According to McCarthy, the Minnesota tribes “couldn’t figure out” why the BIA “wasn’t paying a lot of attention to our position,” and there was “some thought that it was because Ada Deer had influenced in some fashion their decision to move forward with it rather than to consider both sides.” McCarthy G.J. Test., Jan. 29, 1999, at 35. Yet, for reasons that remain unclear, the Minnesota tribes never did try to lobby Ada Deer, even though Ducheneaux, their Washington lobbyist, had known her on a personal level for more than 25 years and was clearly aware that, under the regulations, she would have made the formal decision to approve or disapprove the Hudson application. BlueDog recalled that there were efforts to meet with Deer on the Hudson matter, but that she was not receptive to a meeting with the opponent tribes.

It also appears that the opponents never directly petitioned Interior for Deer’s removal from the matter. Kitto conceded that the lobbyists had plans to try to remove Deer through a conflict, “but we never had to do that. She removed herself.” Kitto *Four Feathers* Dep., April 17, 1997, at 277-78.

<sup>132</sup>McCarthy G.J. Test., Jan. 19, 1999, at 38.