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LETTER: Millions paid, made to delay casino

, , 20

It's a well-known fact that the Blue Chip Casino didn't want Indian casino competition in Southern Michigan and therefore hired former owner Kevin Flynn to delay the Gun Lake Casino. Flynn's contract with Blue Chip paid him almost \$42,000 per month for five years, culminating in December 2004 when Flynn received at least \$5 million for delaying the Gun Lake Casino and two others.

Sound like a sweet deal? Consider that Flynn did not incur any costs. Blue Chip paid the tab for a public relations firm in Chicago, a law firm in Grand Rapids, and a lobbying firm in Lansing. All these high-powered professionals collecting millions to fight the Gun Lake Casino also just happened to be helping Todd Boorsma and Michigan Gambling Opposition (MichGo). Sound like a coincidence? Hardly.

23 is Enough, led by wealthy people like Peter Secchia and Peter Cook, has also paid huge sums of money against the casino. With millions of dollars up for grabs, it makes you wonder where the money is going, and went.

Todd Boorsma got help from Flynn, and now gets 23 is Enough's resources. He "works" for Peter Cook, ostensibly selling cars.

Cook must be an extremely lenient boss because he's given Boorsma a lot of time off for interviews, press conferences or any chance to fight the casino.

We know where opposition funding has come from Grand Rapids and Michigan City. We know the professionals they hired to work with the local opponents.

The moneymen have used Boorsma as the common thread to weave a conglomerate of anti-competition forces together with so-called "moralists." Many people have bought it, so I guess it's been money well spent by Peter Cook and Kevin Flynn.

Susan Sheley,

Gaines Township

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