



Some thoughts on...

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

For the record, my opinion and theory on how and why Todd Boorsma became the leading agitator against a casino in Allegan County was not received graciously by the ex-MichGO leader and “23 is Enough” member ... He told me he has been a resident of Allegan County for 11 years, well before the Gun Lake tribe started their bid for a casino ... You could tell that in his letter to the editor in last week’s issue of the ACN that he was agitated... Boorsma and I met for coffee in Wayland on Wednesday, May 14, and I showed him a state election document indicating that he changed his address from a street in the City of Grand Rapids to one in Allegan County on March 15, 2000 ... I wanted him to know I just did not make up my saying he moved here eight years ago ... Boorsma could not explain why that date was on the record and said he would check it with his township clerk ... He alleges that I was deliberately trying to mislead the voters, which is far from the truth ... Boorsma and I will never agree on the casino issue, and I will never forgive him for depriving our county of those jobs so desperately needed by our unemployed friends and neighbors ... His alliance with Rep. Fulton Sheen and Sen. Patricia Birkholz and the Grand Rapids legislative contingent — who continue yet today to try and sabotage the compact with the Gun Lake tribe negotiated by the governor— renders him completely worthless as a potential state representative for Allegan County ... His priorities would always be directed toward doing what’s best for Grand Rapids ... That being said, Boorsma and I did discover we agreed on some economic initiatives that could lead to positive things happening in Allegan County if they were pursued ... We also agreed that under different circumstances we could possibly like one another ... Our meeting was healthy ... I hope that down the road we can work together for the good of Allegan County ... I just don’t want him to be representing District 88 in Lansing while we’re doing it.



Patty, Patty, Patty ... Your loyalty to the Grand Rapids-area legislative delegation is admirable, and I’m sure you will reap a reward of some kind, somewhere, sometime ... But to continue your efforts to thwart the Gun Lake Indian tribe’s efforts to build a casino, even after a federal appeals court has cleared the way for them to do so, is vindictive ... Sen. Patricia Birkholz has joined four or five other GR area senators in lobbying Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop to not bring the compact with the tribe to a vote ... Bishop wants a vote prior to the summer break ... The House has already

approved the compact and those familiar with the workings of the senate believe the votes are there to approve the compact ... Shame on Sen. Birkholz and her allies for not wanting to see this measure get an up or down vote ... That position illustrates they do not have much confidence in their ability to effect the vote ... One can only hope Bishop remains true to his word and schedules a vote on the compact.