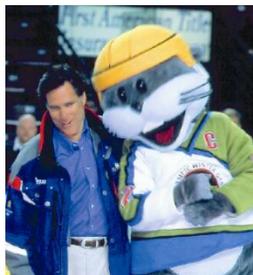


GOVERNOR MITT ROMNEY

08-WATCH DECEMBER 2005



IN FOCUS:

Romney Flew On Corporate Jet to RGA Event, May Have Violated

Massachusetts Ethics Laws. While on his way to California for the Republican Governor Association's meeting, Romney flew on a jet owned by the Pfizer Corporation. At the time, Romney and the Massachusetts State Legislature were considering health insurance legislation. Romney's response was, "Individuals from both parties fly on corporate aircrafts, that will continue to happen in Republican and Democratic circles - Sen. (Edward) Kennedy, Sen. (John) Kerry, myself, and

others fly on corporate aircrafts, and they disclose that." [AP, 12/6/05; Boston Herald, 12/8/05]

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

HE'S JUST SO DARNED GOOD, THEY DON'T NEED HIM ANYMORE

"I love the job, but there's no reason to stay once you've gotten the job done you set out to do." Romney, on why he won't run for governor again [New York Sun, 12/15/05]

BUZZ WATCH:

Romney Announced He Would Not Run for Governor Again. Romney announced on December 14 that he would not seek a second term as governor, an announcement widely interpreted to mean that he will run for president in 2008. Although Romney has appeared to be positioning himself for a presidential run for much of the past year, at the announcement he would only say, "I'm keeping my options open." [New York Times, 12/15/05]

Romney Is Holding A Confab Of His Top Political Advisers. On Friday, December 16, 2005, Romney's political team, including those expected to advise him in any bid for the White House, is scheduled to take place in Boston. The meeting is to include Romney's California-based chief political adviser, Michael E. Murphy, and a veteran GOP operative, Philip A. Musser, Romney's new executive director at the Republican Governors Association. [Boston Globe, 12/14/05]

Romney Elected Head of Republican Governor's Association, A Job That "Pays Dividends" to Presidential Candidates. In December, Romney assumed the chairmanship of the Republican Governors Association, which will allow him to travel the country next year, dispersing cash to candidates in 36 gubernatorial races. The AP wrote, "It's the kind of job that can pay dividends to a presidential candidate, and it's not one that just fell to Romney. He lined himself up in 2004 when he became RGA vice chairman, knowing that person always ascends to the chairmanship." [AP, 12/9/05]

RHETORIC WATCH:

Romney Managed A Shot At McCain While Announcing He Wouldn't Run For Governor.

Announcing he wouldn't run for Governor again, Romney managed to get a dig at potential rival, Senator McCain. "John McCain said that he thinks about being president every day in the shower," the Romney said. "I guess I'd turn instead to the words of 'Star Wars,' which is, 'It's in a galaxy far, far away.' That's

down the road. It's a lifetime away in the world of politics." Romney declined to say what he does think about in the shower. [[New York Times](#), 12/15/05]

DAY JOB:

Boston Globe: Romney's Disinterest Means He Should Resign. The [Boston Globe](#) wrote in an editorial after Romney's announced departure, "Our New Year's wish: a governor who wouldn't rather be elsewhere. By thumbing his nose at Massachusetts after less than three-quarters of one term as its chief executive, Mitt Romney, yesterday surrendered his clout and squandered his legitimacy. If, as it appears, his heart and mind are no longer in Massachusetts, he should resign." [[Boston Globe](#), editorial, 12/15/05]

Romney Flip-Flopped on Emergency Contraception Law. "Governor Mitt Romney reversed course on the state's new emergency contraception law, saying that all hospitals in the state will be obligated to provide the morning-after pill to rape victims. The decision overturns a ruling made public this week by the state Department of Public Health that privately run hospitals could opt out of the requirement if they objected on moral or religious grounds. Romney had initially supported that interpretation, but said that he had changed direction after his legal counsel concluded that the new law supersedes a preexisting statute that says private hospitals cannot be forced to provide abortions or contraception." [[Boston Globe](#), 12/9/05]

Romney Death Penalty Rejected By Massachusetts Legislature. "House lawmakers rejected Romney's death penalty bill, dashing the governor's hopes of establishing a national 'gold standard' for capital punishment in Massachusetts. Romney had touted the bill as foolproof, saying it would have strict safeguards and seek executions in 'very, very rare circumstances,' such as terrorism, serial killing or murdering police officers or other public servants." [[Boston Globe](#), 11/16/05]

Romney Proposed Scaling Back Massachusetts Environmental Regulations. "Romney proposed changes to the State's clean air regulations and which are being criticized by environmental specialists who say the changes would let owners of the filthiest power plants buy their way out of cleaning up their smokestacks. They said the proposal will further jeopardize Massachusetts' participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a nine-state compact designed to dramatically cut emissions of pollutants blamed for global warming. Romney has not signed on to that initiative." [[AP](#), 12/7/05]

Former Attorney General Harshbarger Resigned From Prison Reform Panel Due to Neglect By Romney. "Former Attorney General Scott Harshbarger resigned as head of a panel formed by Romney to reform the state's prison system, saying the governor has neglected the issue and failed to support the Department of Corrections in its reform efforts. ... 'I can feel it this fall: There has not been a sense of urgency,' Harshbarger told The [Boston Globe](#). 'I don't see it in the executive. I don't see it in the Legislature. I don't see it in the agencies. I don't see the focus.' ... Romney might be avoiding prison reform to avoid the risk of alienating conservative voters and to look tough on crime as he ponders a run for president, some prison reform advocates said." [[AP](#), 12/8/05]

MONEY UPDATE:

Romney Has Little Cash On Hand, But A Vast Fundraising Network. According to the most recent filing, June 30, Romney's Commonwealth PAC had \$8,066 cash on hand. However, a recent analysis in [National Journal](#) noted that, "Romney, by dint of his background, is the field's most natural fundraiser. For starters, he inherited a network of Michigan donors loyal to his late father, former Gov. George Romney. As a businessman, Mitt Romney founded the Bain Capital consulting firm and invested in

dozens of large companies. Romney's gubernatorial campaign attracted millions from Massachusetts' technology and finance corridors. And his stewardship of the 2002 Winter Olympics had already widened his circle of corporate contacts... [Romney] sees potential donors at his homes in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. In Michigan, his chief fundraiser is John Rakolta, who heads a huge construction company.” [tray.com; [National Journal](#), 12/17/05]

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SCHEDULE RECAP:

12/10/05—IA: Romney was in Iowa for a pair of fund-raisers with Iowa Congressman Tom Latham and a state senator. [AP, 12/6/05]

12/9/05—New York, NY: Romney attended a fund-raiser in New York. [AP, 12/6/05]

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12/7/05—NH: Romney was the special guest at Manchester’s Republican Committee Holiday Celebration at the Wayfarer Inn. [New Hampshire Republican Party]

12/6/05—Washington, DC: Romney was in Washington DC to attend a federal homeland security meeting [AP, 12/3/05]

12/1/05—Carlsbad, CA: Romney spoke at the State Dinner of the 2005 Republican Governors Association Annual Conference. [RGA.org]

11/11/05—Cedar Rapids, IA: Romney appeared at the Cedar Rapids Country Club for the Linn County Republican Woman—Honoring Rep. Jeff Elgin event. [Iowa GOP]

11/10/05—Washington, DC: Romney addressed the Federalist Society’s Annual Lawyers Convention. [[National Journal](#), 11/8/05]

11/4/05—Miami, FL: Jeb Bush hosted the Republican Governors Association for the 2005 Florida Governors Forum in Miami, which Romney attended. [RGA.com]