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Our Opinion: Burriss owes answers on IFDA dealings

THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Posted Apr 06, 2009 @ 12:05 AM

Last update Apr 06, 2009 @ 07:04 AM

U.S. SEN. ROLAND BURRIS is set to do a three-day "Main Street" economic tour of southern Illinois starting today.

While he's out talking to the public, it's time for Burriss to stop hiding behind his press spokesmen and finally discuss his role in the Illinois Funeral Directors Association pre-need trust fiasco.

To date, Burriss' representatives have prattled on about his role being 30 years in the past and dismissed the fact that as comptroller, Burriss initiated the plan allowing IFDA to handle the trust and its funds.

His successor, current state Comptroller Dan Hynes, stripped the IFDA of its role and believes the IFDA should never have had this role. And don't forget that when Hynes started pursuing the problems with the fund, IFDA hired Burriss as a lobbyist.

HERE ARE SOME questions Burriss must answer:

* As comptroller, why did he think it was a good idea to allow the IFDA control of the fund?

* How did he monitor the group? Did he ask questions about its administration? Did he know that it would be backed by life insurance policies on IFDA leaders and members?

* When he became a lobbyist for the IFDA in 2007, what solutions did he envision?

Burriss' constituents already know he did not give them the whole story about how he begged former Gov. Rod Blagojevich for Illinois' vacant Senate seat when he testified before the Illinois House impeachment committee. His refusal thus far to talk about whether he had a role in allowing a \$300 million fund **to dwindle to \$59 million** does not bolster his claim to being honest and forthright.

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