

Spring Hill, Florida (Hernando County), Thursday, October 30, 2014:

State Senator Wilton Simpson was harshly criticized by a caller on a radio talk show this morning, on Radio WWJB Brooksville, hosted by Skip Maheffey, regarding the senator's distribution of political action committee monies that was encouraging negative campaigning.

The caller was Brian Moore, an Independent candidate for Hernando County Commissioner, District 2, facing the incumbent Republican Wayne Dukes and Democratic challenger Jimmy Lodato.

In response to Senator Simpson's own criticism of all the negative campaigning going on in the Florida governor's race, and in other races in the state, Moore called in to accuse the senator of "fostering the same type of negative campaigning" that is fostered in Washington, DC through his distribution of PAC money of \$715,000 (Jobs for Florida PAC) to local candidates. Moore added his opponent, Wayne Dukes, was a recipient of Simpson's PAC money as well as the senator's own \$1,000 donation (not sure if that was PAC money or not), and that Dukes recently mailed a large postcard comparing his candidacy to the Democrat, and negatively criticizing his major party opponent for not having a college degree, and for supporting taxes. That is something that Mr. Dukes has done through his commission vote on a penny sales tax referendum, as well as increasing the property millage rates and voting for significant government spending for promoting tourism and economic development. Moore contends the PAC money for two of the postcards freed up the Dukes campaign to produce the negative piece, while claiming it only came from the campaign itself and not the PAC monies, as Senator Simpson claims as well.

On October 23, 2014, one week ago, Moore sent out a news release criticizing the "Jobs for Florida" PAC and Senator Simpson himself for his

role in accepting and distributing the monies to fellow Republicans. Moore stated on the radio call that this type of contributions, from US Sugar, Disney World, the real estate association, etc. smacked of the same quid pro quo arrangements done in Washington. Moore said Simpson has helped bring the Washington, DC corruption home to local campaigns.

Several days later, Wayne Dukes campaign sent out five or six postcards with several directly funded by the PAC. The negative postcard on Lodato subsequently arrived in peoples' homes several days later. While the negative postcard had a Wayne Dukes campaign return address, several of the other postcards clearly spelled out that they were funded by the "Jobs for Florida" PAC monies. Moore submits that all the monies were co-mingled and therefore were all complicit in the negative piece.