

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

Client: Colorado Independent Ethics Commission

Lawyer: Kyle Dumler

Investigator: Bill McBean

Subject: Gov. John Hickenlooper

William McBean: My name is Bill McBean and I'm an investigator for the Colorado Independent Ethics Commission. It is March 26, 2014. I'm in the office of Governor John Hickenlooper. Governor Hickenlooper, do you understand that this interview is being recorded?

Gov. Hickenlooper: Yes.

William McBean: With me are two of his attorneys, David Spector. David, do you understand that this is being recorded?

David Spector: Yes.

William McBean: And Jack Finlaw. Jack, do you understand that this is being recorded?

Jack Finlaw: Yes.

William McBean: Okay. Uh, Governor Hickenlooper, as simply as you can explain it, what happened up in Aspen during weekend when the, uh, conference, uh, with the Democratic Governors Association, uh, was being held?

Gov. Hickenlooper: So we had a series of, uh, panels basically about specific, uh, policy issues. And we had a number of governors, uh, and then also, uh, leaders, uh, on, uh, around these policy initiatives. So what I remember we had, an example would be, uh, uh, a meeting on public-private partnerships, uh, and, uh, the head of, the president of Sierra Nevada Space Systems, uh, came and kind of talked about how, how they do innovation and how public-private partnerships work in aerospace. So one example. Another one on energy and the environment, and all basically had representatives of wind, solar, oil and gas, uh, and then several governors talking about everything from fracking to, uh, the importance of

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

making sure we have, uh, if we're going to do wind and solar, how do we have better, uh, uh, power, you know, of transportability of the energy.

William McBean: Okay. Um, and, um, what did you do personally to organize and to prepare for this conference?

Gov. Hickenlooper: Well, I didn't do very much, um, I mean, my schedule- I could show you my schedule for today, but I generally have 12 to 14 meetings a day so. I did. They gave me a list of the pol- the policy initiatives that were, uh, going to be there, and, uh, we had a discussion, I remember, about, uh, you know, who would be, who were people that were leaders in the field, or most knowledgeable, that would be, uh, useful, you know, who would be illuminating for, for people.

William McBean: Okay. Right. Um, through what process did you become co-chair of that particular session of DGA?

Gov. Hickenlooper: Vice-chair, I think I was.

William McBean: Oh, you were vice-chair. Okay.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Yeah.

William McBean: Vice-chair.

Gov. Hickenlooper: So that's done, just in a- in a traditional, um, membership that you get all the governors together. There's a, a, a meeting, usually, I think it's in December, um, where the Democratic governors get together, generally in Washington DC, once a year, and then once a year somewhere else, uh, and so you have a whole-

Just like any organization, you have minutes, and you have voting, and someone nominates you, basically. Several of the the, the previous chair and the existing chair came and talked to me, um, the governor of Vermont, who we've got to know even better, but the, uh, he and I had gone to the same college, we went to the same little college, uh, and he thought it would be important to have a western governor, and so he asked me if I'd be willing to, you know, mostly governors, you end up getting asked to do too many things and so you generally

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

try to say “no” any time anybody wants you to do something additional, um, so he leaned on me pretty hard, and I said, “Sure,” I’d be, I’d be willing to do that.

William McBean: Okay. All right. Um, did any of the governors bring in program material, i.e. substantial- substant- discussion material about public policy, or did the Colorado staff supply all the material?

Gov. Hickenlooper: No, I think the- I don’t know about the printed material, I can’t, I can’t speak on that, because I, I wasn’t part of that. But I do know that, that other governors brought their policy staff with them, or a policy staff member, uh, who guided them in terms of making sure- part of what this is, and this is just the way governors work, uh, is you’re always trying to demonstrate to the other governors what your state is doing, and you want to- you want- basically-

See, it’s interesting. I think it’s a great way democracy works, because you, you want other states to copy what you’re doing ‘cause it’s sort of a form of praise, but you also steal their ideas. So you go to these things and you come away with, you know, whether it’s dealing with homelessness, or trying to convince oil companies they should disclose what’s in the composi- components of frack fluid, that kind of stuff. Any of these issues, you want to be kind of on the cutting-edge. Everybody always brings a staff, and usually it’s a senior staff person that is- has specific knowledge about one policy issue or another.

William McBean: Okay. How much time do we have?

David Spector: We’ve got fifteen minutes.

Jack Finlaw: Fifteen minutes.

William McBean: Okay. Uh, when- there’s been a question about when you actually raised the funds for DGA? In other words, was it that weekend? Was it before?

Gov. Hickenlooper: I don’t- I don’t-

William McBean: In your disclosures, you said, you said you raised funds for the-

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

Gov. Hickenlooper: Yeah, I don't- I mean, again, I don't remember making specific calls myself, but the DGA does raise money throughout the year. Uh, they have a great many, many, many, many, uh, corporate memberships and it doesn't-

You know, it's interesting, everyone thinks you- that they get- that if you give at a different level, you get time, you get this face time or that. It really is- When you do these, these, these policy kind of institutes, it's a function of trying to find which company is best reflective of whatever, whatever policy thing you're trying to talk about, so I'll bet DGA probably has, I don't know, five or ten wind companies that are involved, either financing or manufacturing, investors, people like that- five or ten oil and gas, probably ten or fifteen oil and gas companies. So you pick one or two of those companies and that they come, and usually it's because they're doing something- You try to pick the ones are doing something innovative.

William McBean: Mm-hmm.

Gov. Hickenlooper: All right, so you want to pick the oil and gas company that is cutting-edge in terms of their being willing to, to meet with the environmental community, and say "All right, we do need more rigorous regulations. And here's a way that we think may be a process could be created, that would make that happen." At that one, actually, we announced, um, I don't know how many- four weeks ago about methane. I don't know if you saw this, but we're- Colorado is the first state in the country to regulate methane.

William McBean: Hmm.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Which, the big oil and gas companies went, went crazy. It was actually at this meeting in Aspen, uh, where I met with a couple of the large, but Colorado, large operation in Colorado, not like Mobil, Exxon, but-

William McBean: Mm.

Gov. Hickenlooper: -and, you know, discussed with them the possibility that they would be willing to support this, that they would sit down and, if I guaranteed that there would be a

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

fair playing field, would they sit in a room with environmental experts and, and try to figure out, you know, how do we clean our air dramatically, and yet do it for the lowest possible costs. No red tape, but really raise the standard.

Um, and you know, it was actually between two of these panels, just standing in the hall, uh, talking with one these guys, and he said, "You know, you could talk us into that, if you protected us and we knew we weren't going gets stabbed in the back-

William McBean: Mm-hmm.

Gov. Hickenlooper: -we might be willing to do that." And then you go a year later, or maybe it was a year and a couple of months later, all of a sudden we got something done. And that's sort of- that doesn't happen all the time. But that's what the- that's the idea behind bringing these people together is you're trying get better ways of doing stuff.

William McBean: And, and so, am I to understand then, that you, you haven't independently, yourself, raised funds for the DGA?

Gov. Hickenlooper: You know, I know that on occasion- so, uh, if I'm going to be in New York, and I'm meeting somebody, it's a company that, let's say they were a member and they are no longer a member, whatever; uh, I will stop by them and say "Hey, you should be a member again," so I've done that. Uh, that doesn't happen at these institutes, generally, and I-

William McBean: Okay.

Gov. Hickenlooper: -and I have no memory, I have no memory of that happening at this Institute.

William McBean: Okay.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Not to say I couldn't have teased someone about it, or made some, you know, comment, but there was no formal fundraising for the DGA.

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

William McBean: Okay. Um, I just wondered, because Roxane said that she did over the weekend on her own time, um, raise funds for, for, uh-

Gov. Hickenlooper: For DGA, or, or for my re-election?

William McBean: Well, it sounded to me like DGA. Didn't it sound like that to you, David?

Gov. Hickenlooper: Okay.

David Spector: My recollection is that she said, and I've got the notes from the interview, she said that she had raised funds for DGA in advance of the DGA conference, and that there were fundraisers for the governors who came during that weekend, but not related to DGA.

Gov. Hickenlooper: So we did them away, we did, I think, one fundraiser that was away, off the premise. It was an old friend of mine-

William McBean: Yeah.

Gov. Hickenlooper: -and I don't get up to Aspen very-

William McBean: Yeah.

Gov. Hickenlooper: -so we took an hour off and went over there, and he had a bunch of people together.

William McBean: And so, that, that was the fundraiser-

Gov. Hickenlooper: That was for my reelection, I think.

William McBean: For your reelection. Okay. Okay. Good. That was one of my questions.

Gov. Hickenlooper: But it was totally separate and we did not use their phones or have anything to do with them.

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

William McBean: I understand that. Um, and uh, did any of the uh, guys, the private-sector people that were at, um, uh, the uh, Democratic Governors Conference come down to that?

Gov. Hickenlooper: I don't think so. I mean, it was a local guy in Aspen, I'm trying to think, um, I, I can go find out the list, because I know we have it, all my contributions dated- I, I think I can give you a 98% sure, and I will check that and get back to you within a day-

William McBean: Okay.

Gov. Hickenlooper: -to make sure nobody did. But I don't remember anybody coming from, from DGA.

William McBean: All right. Um, uh, Ann. Schroeder, my investigator and I, uh, noticed that there was a, uh, there's a big, uh, gap from one to six on, on Saturday in your schedule there. Was that when this was going on?

Gov. Hickenlooper: Yeah, but that was only an hour. I think that that gap was mostly, um, stuff at, at the DGA that wasn't fundraising. It was, I think- there were several meetings with, uh, companies about- they either had an issue with the national landscape. Sometimes, they'll come to Governors- it's interesting. They'll come to Governors and, and try to persuade us that this is a good national policy, and so that we'll call our senators or call our congress people.

It's interesting. Generally, they don't have issues with your state. Occasionally they do, but, but, generally, these are larger companies that have more national perspectives. So I think I had two or three meetings like that, um, uh, I'm trying to think what else- I might have gone, you know, sometimes they- the only time you can is to steal a nap, we try not to put those on the schedule, it doesn't look good.

William McBean: If you were still in a nap, I understand that is- um, were any of these with contributors?

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

Gov. Hickenlooper: No.

William McBean: Okay.

Gov. Hickenlooper: No. No. To my knowledge, and again I will go and check that for sure, but-

William McBean: Okay.

Gov. Hickenlooper: You- generally, we try to- because it's- it's just bad form if some guy's coming to talk to you for policy, and then you say, "Hey, can you give me a check?" Then the whole thing looks dirty, and feels dirty and so-

William McBean: I, I understand that, but-

Gov. Hickenlooper: You're right, the- no.

William McBean: I, I watch the same movies you do, Governor.

Gov. Hickenlooper: (Laughs) So, I, I, here- here's what I'll tell you. Uh, I will say that there were no, no donations, that there weren't donors either before or after, but I will go back and confirm that.

William McBean: Good enough. Um, I, I heard that every private-sector attendee at the conference was a donor to the Democratic Governors Conference. Do you think that's true?

Gov. Hickenlooper: Ah. By a donor, a member? Yeah. I don't know. That, that can't always be true, because I know that sometimes we've had people that come in that are, you know, that are policy experts, but are big, big-time Republicans.

William McBean: Well, it- no, I don't mean, I don't mean guys that are uh, policy wonks or speakers.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Right.

William McBean: And-

Gov. Hickenlooper: You're talking about corporate representatives.

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

William McBean: Yeah.

Gov. Hickenlooper: You got me. I can check that.

William McBean: Yeah.

Gov. Hickenlooper: I don't- again, that's one of those things- somebody asked me how many, in my appointees, you know, if I'm so nonpartisan, how many, how many Republicans had I appointed. This is about a year and a half ago. I had no idea; I don't- we don't ask! So we did go back and it actually, just as a frame of reference, almost even Democrats, Republicans, and Independents within 10% or so. Just as- I'm not bragging, I'm just saying it's a fact.

William McBean: Which is pretty bizarre.

Gov. Hickenlooper: I know, but you've to, to get the best guy, right? You've got to pick the best people, and, and, politics doesn't- um, that's the five-minute warning, but we can always be a little late. Let me see what my next thing is. These guys want me out here.

William McBean: Like you, we are slaves to your schedule.

Gov. Hickenlooper: I understand that.

William McBean: (Laughs) All right. I'm moving as fast as I can here. All right, so, um. Given that the conference, uh, was a partisan affair, for Mr. Spector and apparently, per you, um, how can use of staff time preparing for that affair be justified under Amendment 41?

Gov. Hickenlooper: So I'm not a lawyer, so I just thought these guys would tell me that, but my understanding, at least the way I look at it, is if they're preparing policy stuff, right, that I'm not using for any political purpose, but policy stuff that I'm using to try and persuade other governors or other, other constituencies' self-interest that this is a better way to uh, uh, uh, address energy development, or this is, you know, that the oil and gas industry has to find common ground with the

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

environmental, and that really it of benefit to both sides, if you can ever get them to sit down with it.

If my policy team is working on that, I don't see that as partisan. And it's interesting, the same people that- almost the exact same policy work goes on for the National Governors Association, of which I'm the vice-chair now- I had resigned the vice-chair in the Democratic Governors because they don't want the appearance of partisanship-

William McBean: Yeah.

Gov. Hickenlooper: -in the National Governors. Uh, and then the Western Governors, which I'm the chair of this year. And so a lot of those- I'm a huge believer of getting governors to work together 'cause Congress is having so much trouble now.

William McBean: Yeah.

Gov. Hickenlooper: So, things like the sage grouse, you know, which is a threatened species, we're trying to get all the western governors, Republicans and Democrats, to all agree to a system by which we're going to protect the bird, right? So that- we don't need Washington coming in and, and clonking us on the head, but we'll do it, and we'll do a better job of it.

And that's what I love about each of these organizations: Western Governors, which has its own geographic constituency, and then the Democratic Governors, I spend- probably wouldn't want this out in print too much, but I spend a fair amount of time thinking that they shouldn't- trying to convince them that they shouldn't be so anti-oil and gas. Right, the natural gas is probably, probably the single most powerful transition fuel we're going to have to a cleaner energy future.

Um, but anyway, each of these groups have different opportunities for you to try and manage the- it's always like herding cats, but it makes it fun. And then the national Governors one, what we're trying to work on now is, how do you get to have, take like we've been doing, like lean programs, of how do you get better

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

performance management, get, get better outcomes from your workforce. Uh, through, you know, what, what business uses all the time in terms of how do you get more efficienc- more efficient use of goals and objectives, and, and making sure that people feel motivated and are happy in their jobs and stuff like that.

Anyway, that's- that's- its- I don't look at it as partisan in any way, it's all policy. It's the only thing, I can guarantee you that no one in this office has ever worked on the political side, because it's not- it never comes up, we don't ask them, we don't, we wouldn't, we wouldn't let them.

William McBean: No summary was provided of your remarks at Saturday night's dinner. Uh-

Gov. Hickenlooper: Say that again, I'm sorry? What?

William McBean: No- no summary was provided of your remarks for the Saturday night dinner.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Right. No.

William McBean: Between eight and ten.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Yup.

William McBean: Which was totally private.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Yup.

William McBean: Um, did you make any?

Gov. Hickenlooper: I did a welcome. I did not have any, any, um, ah, context, other than I think I talked a little bit about uh, the importance of good government, just sort of what I said to you when we first sat down, that I think, whether- what's interesting is, you come to these things, and I guarantee you half of the representatives of the companies are Republicans. Right?

William McBean: Sure. Of course.

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

Gov. Hickenlooper: And so what I try to do is just say, whether you're Republican or Democrat, that has nothing to do with good government, right? And once the election's over, we all share an interest to try and figure out- it's just so that we can, you know, the people don't hate government, we've to figure out some way that we can deliver better results, and that we need your help to do that. We as governors need your support, and, and, and we also need you to help us work together as governors, right?

William McBean: Yeah. Okay. Um, and so, um, were you accompanied by staff on- at the dinner at The Little Nell?

Gov. Hickenlooper: I think I did have, was it- I can't remember who I had. I remember Roxane didn't come, um, generally as the vice-chair, I would have someone there just in case there's logistical stuff and someone- so, I had a staff person there.

Jack Finlaw: Salazar didn't come.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Yeah, Salazar wasn't- didn't come to the meeting, I don't think, did he? Oh no, he was in the meeting, but he didn't come to the dinner.

William McBean: Yeah.

Gov. Hickenlooper: No. Um, Doug Young? I can't-

David Spector: I wasn't there. [inaudible 00:18:29] but I don't know.

Jack Finlaw: You were [inaudible 00:18:29] Laura, perhaps.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Yeah. I don't- I'm not sure.

William McBean: We're interviewing Laura, so um-

Gov. Hickenlooper: She'll- she'll remember better than I will. If it was her, she'll remember.

William McBean: All right. All right.

Gov. Hickenlooper: She's much younger.

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

William McBean: (Laughs) I hear that. Um, and so, um, besides her, can you remember any other Colorado government people being in that room?

Gov. Hickenlooper: No.

William McBean: Okay. And about how many people were there?

Gov. Hickenlooper: There were two tables, two, so maybe sixteen people or twenty people, maybe not that many; probably sixteen people, would be my guess.

William McBean: Okay. And uh, uh, with whom did you sit?

Speaker 5: Excuse me, sorry.

Gov. Hickenlooper: I sat- God, do you really- um, I sat- On one side; I had a guy who was fascinating. He was from British Petroleum, and he had worked on the offshore rig where they had explosion. He worked there, like, a year before they had had the explosion, so he gave me the exact hour-by- hour blow of what happened.

Which was one of the most terrifying- because it was- it's weird. The- the- they made a bunch of mistakes, and he admitted that they had made a bunch of mistakes, but they also had so many redundant safeguards, that you know, several of those redundant safeguards failed. Just the machinery, the technology failed. And then there was human error, but he said to have what happened, you needed a sequence of seven improbable things. Either the- either the machinery or the person failed. Uh, and I just was, I mean, he knew some of the people that died, it was yeah.

That was not a- that was not a dinner that we talked much about politics. He held the whole- our little end of the table in rapt.

William McBean: In his thrall.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Yeah, in thrall.

William McBean: Um, what were the companies represented?

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

Gov. Hickenlooper: Oh, I have no idea. I uh, um, they generally try to have different companies. Part of this is to build a network of businesses that believe that, that- support government, so they generally don't have a bunch of companies from the same industries. So, there probably was an oil company that- usually when they have an oil company, they try to have either a wind company or a solar comp- you know, an alternative energy company. Uh, uh. Usually, there's a software company, a technology company of some sort, I honestly, I could, I could go back and try and figure out who there was there, but if they were trying to make an impression on me, they didn't make a very deep impression.

William McBean: Was it just you, or were all the governors there?

Gov. Hickenlooper: No, the- not all the governors. Um, ah, I think there were three governors at the dinner, maybe.

William McBean: Okay.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Usually- not all the governors can stay. I mean, basically, we all kind of look at this as kind of a, a useful exercise, but also, our lives are so busy, and these are always on a weekend.

William McBean: Okay.

Gov. Hickenlooper: You don't want to take away our work time. Our, our public time. So, those governors who can't bring their families often will leave when the, when the thing is finished Saturday 2:00 or whenever that last roundtable is, or 1:00. Then they'll fly back to Massachusetts or Maryland, or Wisconsin, or wherever they go to.

William McBean: Yeah. I gather they didn't make a very big impression on you, but this is this kind of goes right to the heart of it, of private face time.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Uh-huh.

William McBean: Right. And so that's why I'm, why I'm asking who was there.

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

Gov. Hickenlooper: Got you.

William McBean: And so if you could figure it out, that would be, that would be helpful.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Sure, although I will- I mean I honestly don't remember, I will see-

David Spector: Go ahead and finish and I've got some information for you.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Yeah, I don't know if they keep a record of that or not. I mean, there might be a record somewhere, but it's- uh, well I'll find out, I mean, as best I can.

David Spector: The Commission issued its order today from the prehearing conference, and so we're going to be providing a list of the expected attendees, which has a number of names of people who were expected to be there on it, including people like Rox and [Alan 00:22:34] that didn't end up going, but that should give some idea of who the other attendees were.

Gov. Hickenlooper: For the dinner?

David Spector: Yeah.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Okay. Perfect.

David Spector: Perfect, why did you say that? That could have- Here I am taxing my memory!
(Laughs)

Jack Finlaw: We have a list of who was expected. Not everyone attended, but we can show the Governor the list.

David Spector: You bum!

Jack Finlaw: He can, uh-

Gov. Hickenlooper: Well, I hope that list isn't like 60 people, because it was, it was a small room.

David Spector: Sixteen to twenty. [crosstalk 00:22:53]

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

Jack Finlaw: Sixteen to twenty.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Whew!

David Spector: Pretty good!

Jack Finlaw: You did good!

Gov. Hickenlooper: My old memory!

William McBean: Uh, all right. Uh, we're really getting [air 00:23:00] here. Um, so uh, did people, um, speak to you about Colorado-specific matters in that room?

Gov. Hickenlooper: I don't think so; I'm trying to think of- The only thing, um, that would've come up was this notion, again, and we spent a fair amount of time on it, of trying to convince the oil and gas industry that they should be more open and that they should spend more money, you know, reducing emissions and making sure that there are, that there are not just less, but no spills. And a lot of that's convincing them that they need, they need to support stricter regulation. So I think we probably talked about that in a global sense, but I bet- I bet I came back and we talked about specifically, I would think, Colorado.

William McBean: And, and, and, is BP in the fracking business?

Gov. Hickenlooper: They're an oil company, they're-

William McBean: Yeah.

Gov. Hickenlooper: They're British Petroleum. So they do big, they're a big oil company, and they do have um, ah-

William McBean: Subsidiaries?

Gov. Hickenlooper: No, no, but they have- they operate in the West, on the West slope.

William McBean: Oh.

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

Gov. Hickenlooper: It is interesting, just as a frame of reference, so here I was trying to convince this guy that they should be- they did not support, right, so, despite my best efforts, they did not support the, the, Fugitive Emissions regulations that we just got done, which I am absolutely sure that I talked to them, but the bigger companies- It's funny, the bigger companies are just old-school, and they don't trust the environmental community, and they don't want anything to do with it, and I still go to them. I still try to spend time and still try-

William McBean: Yeah.

Gov. Hickenlooper: -try and bring them along, but it was this the- still huge companies. These are like thirty billion dollar a year companies. But much, much smaller than Exxon or BP, but [Cannon 00:24:58], Darco, and Encana, um, Noble Energy, those are the ones that actually, in the end, we were able to convince them, "Hey, it's going to cost-," I mean, they're going to spend starting as of July 1, they're going to spend about thirty to fifty million dollars a year more to control emissions and things. Which comes right out of their pocket, as they're quick to say, but what I tell him is that this is how you've got to- they've got a rebuild their trust with the public, too, right?

William McBean: Yeah.

Gov. Hickenlooper: And, and, it does- they've got to convince the public that they care as much about clean air and clean water as the public does. And I think at least those companies get it.

William McBean: Yeah. Yeah, yeah. Um-

David Spector: We should wrap it up if we can, Bill.

William McBean: Yeah. I just have, um.

Gov. Hickenlooper: We've got a couple of minutes. I've got a phone call to O'Malley, but it can- I can be a little late.

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

William McBean: Um, okay. One of my questions is totally dependent on whether or not there was staff in the room, and so, I may have to call you up and ask you-

Gov. Hickenlooper: Sure.

William McBean: -a few more questions. If we find that campaign staff was not there, uh, it makes a big difference to me, because um, whether or not you were- whether or not there was a presence of a staffer, I think makes a difference.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Sure. Well, I'm going to guess [inaudible 00:26:14] find out. I will go-

William McBean: There's no point in me asking the question, because it's an obnoxious question.

Gov. Hickenlooper: No, you can ask the obnoxious question. I got- I mean, let's assume that Laura was there. If she was there for the dinner, I guarantee I didn't talk to her, right. Because unless somebody asked me something logistically-

William McBean: Yeah. No, I understand you didn't talk- I'm not interested in whether you talked-

Gov. Hickenlooper: Okay.

William McBean: -to her or not.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Right.

William McBean: Um, the obnoxious question is, do you think your presence, unattended by staff, could be seen as a quid pro quo for the DGA paying for your hotel room? Apart from, uh, all you did to organize the conference. In other words, so, they pay for the hotel room, they get your unattended presence at this, you know, at this, uh, group of, uh-

Gov. Hickenlooper: Oh, I see.

William McBean: -huge companies.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Right.

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

William McBean: Uh, I mean, even though it doesn't matter, apparently it doesn't matter to you at all, and you can't even remember who they are, apart from the BP guy who tells a good yarn, in front of the fact that, you know, you thought you made some progress with the smaller companies to get them to accept the environmental standards-

Gov. Hickenlooper: Although that wasn't at the dinner, that was earlier in the day.

William McBean: Oh, that was earlier in the day. Okay. So.

Gov. Hickenlooper: They weren't at the dinner.

William McBean: All right. So, the obnoxious question is, you just heard it.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Uh huh. Sure. I don't think so, because I think, the way it works is that what we use to get all these people together is a beautiful place, and then serious policy that, that has some bearing on their universe, right?

In other words it's going to- in other words, they may not like what I'm saying about- I guarantee you, most of the oil companies didn't like what I was saying about stricter regulation, however, they want to be there. They want to hear about it, right? They, they want to, you know, be part- they don't want to be absent, right? They want to, they want to learn what the cutting-edge policies are, and we want to have a chance to, to learn what they're doing, right?

That's the- it's really just kind of interplay of, of, whose ideas, who's got the best ideas. So I, I mean, A, I don't think, I don't think that would be, could possibly the quid pro quo, because no one came up and asked me for anything.

William McBean: Well, I'm sure that they want to be there to slap some sense into you.

Gov. Hickenlooper: (Laughs)

William McBean: [crosstalk 00:28:29] but-

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

Gov. Hickenlooper: Well, they must've been very disappointed when they saw our energy regulations.

William McBean: Well, I'm sure that they were very disappointed. But, um, if we were playing hardball here, and I were Chris Matthews, which I'm not, but, I mean, were I, I would say, uh, that the policy was window dressing for uh, for something that's really to get, uh, contributors all around one table so the Governors Conference can get the contributions. And so the, so the contributors can get the face time.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Well, they- yeah. Again, I don't think that's what happens. The only way I could prove that to you or Chris Matthews, um, would be to have, you know, to tape-record one of those meetings and, and, or videotape one of the meetings, and- which we should do, anyway, just to show the world that they are inherently innocuous. That there aren't secret meetings, and that this is, this is no different than when-

You know, when I was in the restaurant business, I'd go to the National Restaurant Association, I'd meet other restaurateurs, and, you know, they'd call us all up and we'd have to pay for the meeting, why, we'd have to pay for the speakers, we'd all have to chip in whatever it is. In those days, we'd chip in a thousand bucks or something, as a, as a restaurant member, and these- I don't know what these guys pay five thousand, I don't- I haven't asked. But whatever they pay, they put- they, they, they end up having to put up- pay to put up the conference.

But I don't think- they certainly don't talk like they're trying to get- they're not asking specific questions or stuff that they want to get from us. Doesn't mean that uh- uh- again, I'm not saying that they're not trying to build relationships.

William McBean: Yeah.

Gov. Hickenlooper: They'd be fools not to.

William McBean: Yeah.

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

Gov. Hickenlooper: Right? But they're- building relationship, I think, is a legitimate thing, I mean, to have, just the same way I want to hear, I want to hear from the environmental community, and we invited people from the environmental community who were there. But I also want to hear the oil- you know, if we're going to get to the right regulation, you kind of have to hear both sides of the, both sides of the story.

William McBean: And, uh, I'm sure that there are a lot of people in Colorado who will take you at your word on this, on this, but when the doors are closed, the doors are closed. And-

Gov. Hickenlooper: Sure.

William McBean: And, and so that means there are some people that, that might not. Um, last question. Um, it was the DGA who decided the doors were going to be closed, right?

Gov. Hickenlooper: Yeah, I mean I, to be honest, I didn't even know the doors were closed. But yeah, I guess the-

William McBean: It was-

Gov. Hickenlooper: -the doors were closed.

William McBean -assembled as a private meeting.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Right.

William McBean: At- at the Little Nell. I mean, the rest that I'm not sure, I'm not sure how many reporters were up there. I don't think any reporters were up there.

Gov. Hickenlooper: No, I think well-

William McBean: From the Aspen Times.

Gov. Hickenlooper: There was, exactly. I was going to say there was one string in the Aspen Times, and they came and sat through a couple of the, of the things. Um-

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

William McBean: Yeah.

Gov. Hickenlooper: I don't know. Often times what, the organizations, we did the same thing with the National Governors Association and the Western Governors Association. We always will have one or two meals or meetings that are completely closed, so that people can really vent. And when people are upset about something, they can feel they've got a safe place to complain, and that's partly- that's how you get stuff done, to a certain extent. You've got to get people, let them speak, if they're really pissed off about something, they've got to be able to speak it.

William McBean: It's a delicate balance, isn't it?

Gov. Hickenlooper: Well it is, and you know, at a certain point, I mean, that's, again, part of the whole challenge of trying to rebuild peoples' trust in government, is to say, you know, we've got these Sunshine Laws, right, and all this transparency, which I think is good, right? You've got- you need to have more, uh- what's she doing in here?

Speaker 5: Sorry! I told her that you were [inaudible 00:32:09].

Gov. Hickenlooper: All right. Tell her I'll just be a couple minutes.

Speaker 5: Okay, no problem.

Gov. Hickenlooper: Um, that there is a delicate balance, 'cause you're always going to need certain things where people are going to yell at you. And they don't want to do it in public. Um, they won't do it in public, actually, if they've got half a brain. Uh, so there's got to be some balance. And I don't know what the solution for that is. You're- I can see you're right. There's going to be suspicions that people have, no matter what you do, if there's anything that's not fully public. But, I mean, that's one fairly small dinner, um, you know, when I do this, I'll wear a wire the next time. I'm serious! (Laughter) The next time I go to one of these things, I'll wear a wire just so that is someone ever-

Jack Finlaw: It's legal in Colorado!

Acclaim Investigations LLC

PO Box 596

Englewood, CO 80113

Gov. Hickenlooper: As long as one person knows, right!

David Spector: That'll reduce suspicion, right?

Gov. Hickenlooper: (Laughs) Sorry. Um, anything else?

William McBean: That ought to do it, thank you.

Proofread by Amber Mooney, Acclaim Investigations LLC 3/28/14 1:14pm