

Another propaganda-piece from the Anchorage Daily News;

Kohring will plead guilty to conspiracy

10/18/11

NO NEW TRIAL: Ex-legislator will admit to single count and be sentenced Friday.

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Former Rep. Vic Kohring said Monday that he will plead guilty to a federal extortion-conspiracy charge, forestalling the lone trial still pending from the huge FBI corruption investigation into Alaska politics.

— We know it was a corruption investigation.

In a notice filed in U.S. District Court, Kohring said he would plead guilty to the first count in his three-count indictment. That charge accuses him of participating in a multi-year conspiracy to squeeze money out of the oil-field contractor Veco Inc. in return for special treatment on oil legislation.



Kohring

The corruption investigation, begun in 2004 when a Juneau-based FBI agent got tips that private prison advocates were bribing legislators, now appears destined to go out with a whimper.

It has a name; Operation Polar-pen

Over the course of the investigation, which surfaced in 2006 with coordinated raids on legislative offices in Anchorage, Juneau and the Mat-Su valley area, several defendants and a judge turned the tables on prosecutors and accused them of misconduct. Jury verdicts of guilty in three cases were thrown out and no charges were brought at all against other elected officials accused in documentary evidence and by witnesses of taking illegal payments.

Two of the blown cases involved Kohring and former House Speaker Pete Kott, a contemporary who last week agreed to plead guilty to bribery to also avoid an upcoming retrial.

Both are scheduled to enter their guilty pleas Friday and Kohring will also be sentenced. Prosecutors have not yet filed their sentencing recommendations.

Kohring was a Republican legislator elected seven times from Wasilla. He resigned from office in July 2007,