



# Stan Pate says he's behind banner ad urging Gov. Bob Riley's impeachment

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This banner ad urging the impeachment of Gov. Bob Riley has been flying around Pasadena before the Rose Bowl. Tuscaloosa developer and Gov. Bob Riley nemesis Stan Pate said this afternoon he paid for a banner calling for Riley's impeachment that is currently flying in the skies of Pasadena, Calif, home of tonight's national college football championship.



Mark Almond

"I take responsibility for that banner and the words on it and I mean every word on it," Pate said as he made his way in traffic toward the Rose Bowl, site of tonight's game. "This guy has been in office almost eight years and he's one of the most corrupt governors in my life. I hope he sees that banner and takes every word of it to heart because I mean every word in it."

Pate, who once numbered among Riley's supporters, turned against the Republican governor after Riley in 2003 pushed to raise taxes.

"Bob Riley told us he was against taxes and once in office sought to raise them by the highest amount in state history. That's how much you can trust this guy," Pate said.

Pate would not answer if an aborted raid on a Dothan casino Wednesday led him to pay for the ad.

"Look, this guy is trying to shut down businesses that employ thousands of hard-working Alabamians while he's out here for a football game on the taxpayer dollar," Pate said. "I think what this guy tried to do in Dothan Wednesday was an act aimed at putting Alabamians out of work, and somebody has to hold him accountable and that's

what that banner is doing.”

The banner, which has been flying over the site of tonight game since shortly after 2 p.m. Central time and will stay in the skies until about 6 p.m., says in seven-foot tall letters, “Impeach Corrupt Alabama Governor Bob Riley.”

Arnold Aerial Advertising, headquartered in New York, organized the flyover.

“Nobody will be able to miss it, I promise you,” said Zim Barstein, who is in marketing with Arnold. “It will circle over the area at a thousand feet for almost four hours, and if you’re in that town or caught in traffic or on your way to the Rose Bowl, you will see the banner. Seven-foot black letters at just a thousand feet get your attention.”

The fly-over takes place a day after Riley’s Task Force on Illegal Gambling was forced to call off a raid on a new electronic bingo casino and entertainment complex just south of Dothan. A restraining order signed by a judge in the early morning hours Wednesday stopped the scheduled pre-dawn raid on the Country Crossing casino.

Country Crossing spokesman Doug Rainer said earlier in the day that the entertainment and casino complex was not behind the banner.

“We didn’t do it and, frankly, it’s unfortunate that someone did,” Rainer said. Riley press secretary Todd Stacy said he assumed the ad was contracted by someone who does not like the governor’s stance on gambling. “Gambling thugs assassinated Albert Patterson in Phenix City 50 years ago, so we should not really be surprised by character assassination from this generation of casino bosses,” he said.