

Fumo's E-mails from Prison

Here are selected excerpts of Fumo's e-mail correspondence among Fumo and others that include his attorneys and his fiancée.

"A Travesty of Justice"

On June 2, 2011 he wrote to a Philadelphia ninth grader, the child of a family friend with whom he corresponded:

"I never hurt anyone in my life. There were no victims. But because of who I was and the jealousies that swirl around my success and power, I was targeted. In the end I got convicted of technical b- s-. But the press started a feeding frenzy that has still not subsided. So it cost me my career, my pension, all of my cash (in legal fees and fines, etc.) and my freedom.

If that isn't a travesty of justice, I don't know what is???? :-("

Warnings from his fiancée

On the same day, he was cautioned that the contents of his e-mails are recorded by the federal Bureau of Prisons. Fumo's fiancée, **Carolyn Zinni**, wrote:

"Remember what Dennis (Cogan, a Fumo attorney) said last week..... SHH ! No calling ***anyone*** out. Be a good boy. Ok?"

On June 3, 2011, after receiving an e-mail highly critical of state legislators, Zinni added:

"if you cant sensor don't cc me stop will ya????

let them be, to address their own battles...

We have our own problems !!!!!!!! No More opinion

I want you home!!!! do u get that ??

shush up !! PLEASE"

Losing faith in the system

On Aug. 12, 2011, Fumo wrote to Zinni that he despaired over his situation:

"I have totally lost faith in the system. How could I have any confidence in it considering of where I am for what I am alleged to have done! :(Even with the Judge doing to right thing, did I deserve all of the punishment I have so far endured 55 months in prison....., \$2.4 million 6 in fines and restitution, \$3 million in legal fees, loss of my civil rights to ever possess a gun again, being thrown out of every big bank in the country, labeled as a Felon for the rest of my life, getting a new passport with the Scarlet Letter F emblazoned on it, the loss of the pension I worked 35 years for, etc. etc. WTF,..... How is that Justice by any means? Getting found guilty by a jury that was dumb, corrupt and prejudiced? Being hounded forever by evil prosecutors who run amok without any restraint! Then to have the 3rd Circuit treat our appeal as they seem to have. That is all the 'system' and it is corrupt and unjust by its very existence."

Relationship with The Inquirer

His anger extended to *The Inquirer*, which extensively covered Fumo.

On May 23, 2011, he wrote (unclear in court filing whom Fumo is corresponding with):

"The Inky will NEVER print the scenario that I am missed. They put me here and are still trying to keep me here longer. They absolutely HATE me. Its amazing!! But someone once said that you can tell the quality of a man by the nature of his enemies. So I guess I'm proud that they hate me so."

Working on his autobiography

On April 21, former *Inquirer* reporter **Ralph Cipriano**, who is discussing collaborating with Fumo on his autobiography, wrote:

"The basic deal of any book is to show all facets of a fascinating character, like I did with (the late attorney James E. Beasley) only you have many more facets, and

have done even crazier things than he did. People love to read about multi-faceted people who operate on the edge, because the vast majority of us are so boring. So we have to capture you in all your glory. Vince the shy only child, Vince the wonder boy of politics, Vince the power broker, Vince the master politician and deal maker, Vince the sailor, pilot, carpenter, electrician, chef, resauranteer, etc., Vince the crazy and ruthless when he's dealing with enemies, Vince the lover, Vince the statesman, and, at the end of the day, Vince the unrepentant master politician and best legislator the state ever had walking out of Kentucky with his head unbowed.

Fumo replied:

"Thanks Ralph. Sounds right on to me! :) See you soon!"

His post-prison plans

On June 13, 2011 Fumo discussed in an e-mail to an undisclosed recipient helping ex-convicts and enlisting them into a political movement:

"I do intend to try the grass fed meat and organic farming when I get out and I want to hire some ex-offenders and give them room and board and a new start in life! :) In fact I have a few business ideas to help ex-offenders. So I will be doing some good with the last years of my life! ANd I definitely have some idea about starting a political movement among all felons and their families in the US. I think they can be molded into a voting power greater than the NRA. If we can do that then we can bring some sense back to the American Criminal Justice System!"

Life in prison

On July 29, 2011, Fumo described his life in prison in an e-mail to an undisclosed recipient:

"Being in here is mostly relaxing and I have had a lot of time to devote to things that I always had to neglect on the outside. I have read over 100 books so far. A better than 1 book/week average. I've learned how to shoot pool (I get lessons daily). And I've been exercising, albeit not as much as I would like. :) I also found time to take a correspondence course in Boat and Yacht Design from the Westlawn Institute that I always wanted to do. And I am now studying electronics and am preparing to get my HAM Radio License when I get out!"

Appealing for support

He was also organizing supporters for his re-sentencing hearing. **On August 26, 2011**, Fumo wrote to an undisclosed recipient:

"Letters at the right time will definitely help. Last time we got in over 350 (I think) and the Judge read every one of them. We did that by e-mailing people and asking them to send in letters and giving them direction on how to do it. I assume we have the old list and can try and generate even more this time. I will have to ask my son Vincent to look into the old list, etc."

Former State Sen. Vince Fumo and now-fiancée Carolyn Zinni arriving at federal court in 2008.

TOM GRALISH / Staff photographer

