

message to the group. Gingrich spokeswoman Christina Martin said she could not comment on private conversations but made clear how displeased Republicans were with the association's choice of a Democrat.

"Any smart business executive will tell you it is always a good idea to have someone who can walk the walk, talk the talk," Martin said. "When dealing with a Republican-controlled Congress, that means hiring Republicans."

Rep. John Linder (R-Ga.), chairman of the National Republican Campaign Committee, who confirmed that the leadership was sending a message to EIA by postponing a vote implementing two 1996 World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties, said Republicans want to expose the hypocrisy of former Democratic staff members and lawmakers now representing business groups.

"They whisper in the ear of the people who hire them that they're with them, then they go to a Democratic prayer group and meet and pray for a Democratic majority", Linder said.

The unusually public spat, which started Thursday when Gingrich, Majority Leader Richard K. Armey (R-Tex.) and Majority Whip Tom DeLay (D-Tex.) pulled the WIPO bill from the House calendar, marks the latest flare-up in the occasionally tense relationship between GOP leaders and business lobbyists. Every since they captured the majority in 1994, Republicans have complained that lobbyists have failed to give them either the campaign contributions or the respect they are due.

Even Republicans who made the transition from Congress to the private sector say that the lobbying community is still dominated by Democrats who thrived by virtue of their connections to Hill barons of the past.

"There is still a disconnect," said Ed Gillespie, Armey's former press secretary and now president of Policy Impact Communications. "That's a result of Democrats being in control for 40 years and Republicans being in control for four."

In the leadership meeting Friday, Republicans said, lawmakers mused about how powerful trade associations were savvy enough to hire Republicans as consultants but had failed to install GOP stalwarts at the helms of their groups. A slew of recent Democratic appointments has angered leaders, including those of Thomas M. Downs as the National Association of Home Builders' chief executive; John Hillely, who had been White House legislative liaison, as executive vice president for strategic planning at the National Association of Securities Dealers; and Tim Forde, who worked for Rep. Edward J. Markey (D-Mass), as the Investment Company Institute's vice president for strategic analysis.

By appointing Democrats to such prominent posts, argued Mark Rodgers, chief of staff to Sen. Rick Santorum (R-Pa.), trade groups undermine their ability to forge close ties with Republicans.

"At what point can you trust that what you're sharing on inside strategy or tactics aren't going directly back to the Democratic leadership?" Rodgers said.

The EIA says it was only trying to find a leader who combined business and political experience. While some member companies are considering challenging McCurdy's selection when the group's board meets today, outgoing president Peter McCloskey said he was confident McCurdy would win its backing.

"The job is to be a spokesperson for the industry, not so much a lobbyist for the industry," McCloskey said. "I'm not saying there's no political component to the job, but it's not the overriding component."

Some Democrats openly mocked the GOP leaders' strategy. Rep. Barney Frank (D-

Mass.) referred to the incident Monday before the WIPO bill finally passed by saying, "That was not one of the finest hours of this institution when this bill got derailed because of a dispute about a job."

Even some Republicans who believe the lobbying community has to change its approach were leery of this open feuding. Said Rep. Jim Greenwood (R-Pa.). "You can look a little power-hungry at times."

[From Rollcall, Oct. 12, 1998]

GOP FEUDING ABOUT LOBBYIST

BOEHNER, DELAY BLAST EACH OTHER ON MCCURDY JOB

(By Jim VandeHei and John Bresnahan)

House Republican Conference Chairman John Boehner (R-Ohio) and Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Texas) are locked in a bitter feud over the GOP leadership's decision to demand that the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA) dump their incoming President, former Rep. David McCurdy (D-Okla.).

In their latest move to purge Democrats from leadership jobs at prominent trade association and lobbying firms—known internally as the "K Street Strategy"—Republican leaders are pressuring EIA to oust McCurdy, who hasn't formally been installed as EIA's president yet, and hire a Republican to run the group.

While virtually every Republican leader endorsed the hard-line approach, including Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.), Boehner is furious that DeLay's operation has worked behind his back to oust McCurdy in recent days, several sources confirmed. Boehner, the leadership's liaison to K Street and outside business coalitions, was quietly working out a deal to have EIA company CEOs remove McCurdy before DeLay stepped in and started busting heads.

At a raucous leadership meeting Friday afternoon, Boehner blasted DeLay for interfering in his business and striking such a bellicose tone with EIA and its members. DeLay defiantly demanded that Republican leaders, including Boehner, needed to twist arms and play hardball in order to get results, according to sources familiar with the meeting.

The confrontation between Boehner and DeLay, whose animosity toward each other is well known inside GOP leadership circles, followed a scathing e-mail on Thursday from Boehner's chief of staff Barry Jackson to Gingrich blasting the tactics of DeLay's operation, the sources said.

But the internal GOP leadership fight will not derail the coordinated effort to once again send EIA and all of K Street a clear message: Republicans won't deal with trade associations and lobbying groups run by Democrats.

McCurdy, who would not comment, could be the latest victim.

National Republican Congressional Committee Chairman John Linder (R-Ga.) said he and other leaders are pressuring EIA board members and affiliated companies to reject McCurdy as their new president when the board meets this Wednesday in Phoenix.

"We think they ought to look back and see who won the last couple of elections," said Linder, who confirmed that Republican leaders held intellectual property legislation favored by many EIA members hostage to "send a message."

The legislation—which implements copyright changes required for the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) treaties—was scheduled for floor action on Thursday, but Gingrich, Majority Leader Richard Armey (R-Texas), and DeLay decided to block the bill and spread the word on K Street.

Meanwhile, members of the leadership were instructed to call EIA member compa-

nies and demand that McCurdy be removed and a Republican be hired. Rep. Bill Paxon (R-N.Y.), who said he interviewed for the job but was told the companies were not interested in talking to incumbent Members of Congress, has been mentioned as a possibility.

"I will be contacting companies and recommending they do more interviewing before making this decision," GOP Conference Vice Chair Jennifer Dunn (R-Wash.) said.

Linder also has set up what one source called a "phone bank" to help lean on EIA members. Several EIA member companies bowed to the pressure and plan to call for McCurdy's head at the board meeting.

John Palafoutas, director of federal relations at AMP Inc., an EIA company, is unhappy about the selection of McCurdy to lead the organization.

"I'm concerned about the kind of reaction this is getting over on Capitol Hill," said Palafoutas. "Republicans are sensitive to the fact that the high-tech industry has supported President Clinton and the Democrats."

A Republican lobbyist with strong ties to EIA said that some companies want the EIA board to abrogate the contract with McCurdy.

"They have a lot of money," said the lobbyist. "They can do something."

For their part, EIA officials claim that they haven't been contacted by GOP leaders about the issue and argue that they plan to hire an assistant for McCurdy with strong GOP credentials.

"No one has called us," said Mark Rosenker, EIA's vice president of public affairs. "We did not get a single phone call here. I respect Mr. DeLay. But we did not get a single official contact. No official call came . . . to anyone in our leadership from a Member of Congress. That's why I find this so intriguing and puzzling. This man has been out of politics for four years. I just found it incredible."

In a related matter, Linder said he also told the National Association of Home Builders that GOP leaders have less interest in working with their group because they hired a Democrat as CEO. "They came to see me yesterday," Linder said. "I told them I am not going to get to know [new NAHB CEO Tom Down]. So save your time."

"They would be making a terrible mistake to [shut us out]," said current NAHB CEO Kent Colton. "But they are not going to make a big deal about that because it would be too big of a mistake."

Colton said NAHB, which will hand out \$2.4 million total this election cycle, gives a majority of its contributions to Republicans and that he expects the association will continue to have a close working relationship with Republican leaders.

□ 1730

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUTKNECHT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE KURDISH CEASE-FIRE: AN OPPORTUNITY THAT SHOULD NOT BE SQUANDERED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.