

# News Alert

**Rensselaer County Legislature Office of the Minority 270-2892**

Contact: Keith Hammond at 283-3329

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## **At Least You Spelled My Name Right**

Over the past several weeks there have been many letters between Democrats and Republicans about the \$3 million lease of the Raddock Building. I have been accused of being unethical because I believe it should have gone out to open bid. But instead of saying why it shouldn't go out to bid, the Republicans say I'm trying to award a contract to a company owned by Democrats.

I'd like to make three points:

First, the Republicans control the legislature 13 to 6, so awarding of any contract would have to be approved by the Republicans.

Second, they call my letters angry. They're absolutely right. I get very angry when someone lies and spews bigotry and hatred toward people who are less fortunate.

Third, the Republicans claim that because we do not agree with the Commissioner of Social Services on a particular issue that somehow we are insulting him and his ability as commissioner. I think you can ask the commissioner himself and he will tell you that we have disagreed over the years but never once have I claimed he wasn't trying to do what was best for Rensselaer County. I've come to know him personally and I am proud to count him among my friends.

In the future when you write letters about me, please at least have some facts to back up your claims or you will seem misinformed. I thank you for spelling my name right and thank you for making it easy to respond to your letters.

Deputy Minority Leader  
Keith Hammond