The story was excruciating to write. I agonized over it all week. But your comments have been echoed by others, who feel the same thing—that it was very fair and scrupulously reported. And yes, others—including Kevin—are rankled at that "close ties" line you mention.

First of all, it was not in the headline or dek (unless you are looking at a different story than me). Secondly, based on my reading of the emails, it is arguable whether close ties is the right descriptor. Kevin objects to it and I think it is a fair objection. In my defense, I didn't write that—it was added in the final edits, which we were going through very quickly in the last hours and I was on the road. So I didn't see the final–final draft just before it went online.

You and I should also talk. You are in the emails.

K

On Sat, Aug 8, 2015 at 1:26 PM, Jon Entine <jon@jonentine.com> wrote:

Curious though: Wonder why 'close ties' was used in headline. It's both incorrect and inflammatory. Reflects poorly on what otherwise was first class reporting.