



JUNE 16, 2011

O'Malley Asia trip: Trade mission or party junket?

Last week [Drew Greenblatt of Marlin Steel Wire](#) sent me some pix and videos from Gov. Martin O'Malley's trade trip to Asia. Yesterday he followed up to make sure I got them. As I explained in response, people like me take a dim view of politicians galavanting around the globe at taxpayer expense.

Come on, I basically told him. These things are just entertainment junkets for everybody involved. Wouldn't these deals have happened even without the governor's personal visit? Here is Greenblatt's response, which was detailed and persuasive enough that I thought it worth passing on:

I understand what you are saying about politicians and I am sure that occurs in many cases however, not on this trip. Because the [Governor was there](#), I had appointments with [I removed this name because Greenblatt said he signed a confidentiality deal with the company -- JH], GM Korea, Borg Warner Korea, Viste on Korea and Japanese companies that make parts for Komatsu (and others).

I would not have gotten these "ins" if the Governor did not open the door for me. His prestige enabled me to get appointments. It is up to me to close now (I will – you know me). Then I will get orders and hire more Baltimore City Unemployed steel workers. This was not a junket. He worked hard. He worked early in the am till late at night.

For example we had an event at 930pm (start time) for the [American/Korean Women's Chamber of Commerce](#). At that event, I met the owner of the company that does 30% of all the steel work for the GM Korea plant (they make 400k cars a year). I would never have met her if it was not for this program. She would not have come if the Governor was not there. I respect your views (I am very fiscally conservative), but they do not match with this trade mission.

Yes, I understand that Drew has multiple reasons to butter up the governor. But his response and the details are interesting.

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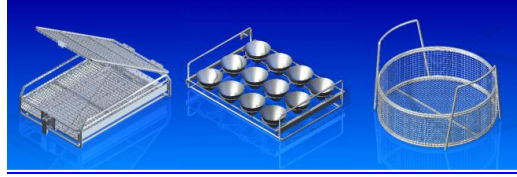
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