

**New York Daily News - <http://www.nydailynews.com>****N.Y. rep caught in scandal's crossfire**

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WASHINGTON - Charges that Republican House campaign boss Tom Reynolds didn't do enough to stop the raunchy online antics of ex-Rep. Mark Foley could cost him his leadership job and even his western New York seat.

Analysts said it depends how the mushrooming scandal over Foley's graphic chats with House pages evolves, and whether Reynolds and other leaders did the right thing in voters' eyes.

"The key is, did it go through proper channels?" said Jim Campbell, a University of Buffalo political scientist who thinks Reynolds likely acted properly. "If he did nothing with it, then I think people would have a right to say he was stonewalling."

Reynolds says he forwarded a complaint about Foley from a page to Speaker Dennis Hastert, who passed it on to the congressman overseeing pages. A Democratic counterpart was not informed.

It ended - until the scandal exploded last week - with Foley being warned to stay away from the boy.

Hastert said he didn't recall the campaign boss telling him about Foley, though he also didn't dispute it.

Democrats said Reynolds is rightly endangered, and that he, Hastert and others should have done more.

"Was there no intellectual curiosity of any sort, that they wouldn't want to talk to these boys, and find out what was going on?" asked Rep. Louise Slaughter, a western New York Democrat. "We gotta clean up that swamp, drain that thing."

Even before the Foley scandal broke, Reynolds was being challenged by self-financing businessman Jack Davis. A recent SurveyUSA poll found Davis trailing by just 2 points.

Now Democrats are turning up the heat, highlighting donations Foley sent to the National Republican Congressional Committee, including \$100,000 after Reynolds became aware of the first e-mails. Democrats from Foley's home state, Florida, say the congressional committee should give the \$100,000 to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

"That money is tainted," said Florida Democratic spokesman Mark Bubrski.

Some skittish Republicans have given Foley money back. But First Lady Laura Bush hasn't dropped plans to do a fund-raiser with Reynolds tomorrow. And Carl Forti, the National Republican Congressional Committee spokesman, said the committee would not give away the cash. He called Democrats hypocrites, saying their campaign committee has "refused to give back money from convicted felons."