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The New York Times

Friday, January 23, 2009

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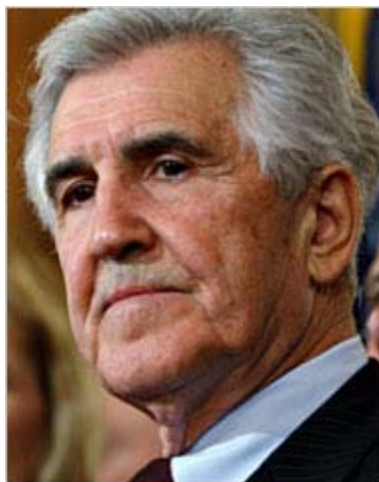
**THE GOD  
WHO WASN'T THERE**

"Irreverently lays out the case  
that Jesus Christ never existed."  
— *Newsweek*

www.TheGodMovie.com

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### Joseph L. Bruno



Jin Lee/Bloomberg News

Joseph L. Bruno, an upstate Republican, was majority leader of the New York State Senate from 1994 to June 2008. During that period, he was one of the "three men in a room," the common phrase for the way virtually all state business is settled in private by the governor and leaders of the Legislature's two houses.

On Jan. 23, 2009, a federal grand jury indicted Mr. Bruno on eight counts including mail and wire fraud. Mr. Bruno was charged with reaping millions of dollars from companies seeking to do business with the state, or from labor unions, capping a long-running

investigation into one of New York's most powerful political figures.

Mr. Bruno has been charged under an anti-corruption law making it a crime to deprive citizens of honest services from their elected officials. Mr. Bruno is accused of collecting more than \$3 million over a 13-year period, beginning in 1993, from a handful of businessmen seeking state contracts and grants, as well as contracts to manage pension fund investments for at least 16 labor unions. Mr. Bruno has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

Back in late 2006, after word leaked that federal authorities were investigating Mr. Bruno's business dealings, his hold on power had seemed threatened. The election of Eliot Spitzer, a tough former prosecutor swept into office with a mandate for ethical reform, also seemed to bode ill for Mr. Bruno. But Mr. Bruno first outmaneuvered Mr. Spitzer to blunt his initiatives, then saw the tables turned when the governor and several of his top aides came under scrutiny in mid-2007 for using state police resources to gather damaging information on Mr.

#### Headlines Around the Web

What's This?

**DAILY KOS**

JANUARY 23, 2009

**Former NY Senate Leader Joe Bruno (R) indicted**

**THE DAILY POLITICS**

JANUARY 23, 2009

**Bruno Defiant, Pleads Not Guilty**

**SPIN CYCLE**

JANUARY 23, 2009

**Bruno indicted**

**CAPITOL CONFIDENTIAL**

JANUARY 23, 2009

**Bad timing for Paterson/Gillibrand?**

**THE NEW YORK OBSERVER**

JANUARY 23, 2009

**Lining Up to Take Gillibrand's Place**

[More at Blogrunner »](#)

#### Joseph L. Bruno Navigator

A list of resources from around the Web about Joseph L. Bruno as selected by researchers and editors of The New York Times.

[Biography](#)

[joebruno.org](http://joebruno.org)

[The Unreformed](#)

New York Magazine, March 1, 2008

[Campaign Finance Data](#)

from the New York State Board of Elections

[New York State Senate Audio and](#)

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A different kind of setback came with the results of a special election in February 2008: a Democrat won a senate seat that had been held by Republicans for a century, cutting Mr. Bruno's majority to one vote. But less than two weeks later Mr. Spitzer's sudden resignation in the wake of revelations about his ties to a prostitution ring seemed to reshuffle the political deck yet again.

In June 2008, though, amid signs that the federal investigation was intensifying, Mr. Bruno announced that he would not seek re-election and relinquished his leadership position. And in July 2008, he resigned from the Senate. He took a job as the chief executive officer of an information-technology company, CMA Consulting Services, that has numerous state contracts. -- Jan. 23, 2009

### Highlights From the Archives

THE EMPIRE ZONE

#### A Furor After Bruno's Role Is Revealed

By DANNY HAKIM

Joseph L. Bruno conceded in an interview with New York magazine that he was paid by a Connecticut investment firm to encourage trustees of union pension funds to do business with the company.

March 3, 2008 | N.Y. / REGION | NEWS

#### Bruno Is Subject of Inquiry by F.B.I.

By MICHAEL COOPER and DANNY HAKIM

The inquiry focuses on how the N.Y. Senate majority leader's business dealings may relate to his position.

December 20, 2006 | N.Y. / REGION | NEWS



#### Bruno's Business Touch Wasn't Always Golden

By MIKE McINTIRE

The mixed business success of the New York State Senate majority leader may have implications for an inquiry.

February 26, 2007 | N.Y. / REGION | NEWS



METROPOLITAN DESK

#### Soul Mate For Pataki

By KEVIN SACK

With the ascension of Joseph L. Bruno as the presumptive majority leader of the State Senate, Governor-elect George E. Pataki has gained a political and philosophical soul mate at the top of state government.

November 26, 1994 | NYREGION | BIOGRAPHY

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