the state's broken politics are partly to blame

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Responding to a story that reported that hundreds of corporations, special interest groups and foreign governments seeking benefits patronized Trump Organization properties in recent years, the president's son argued Sunday that the groups represent a small proportion of their business and that his father has not benefited monetarily from his office.

"We've lost a fortune. My father lost a fortune running for president. He doesn't care, " Eric Trump, an executive vice president with the Trump Organization, said on ABC's "This Week. " "He wanted to do what was right. The last thing I can tell you Donald Trump needs in the world is this job. "The comments come a day after a New York Times story reported that President Trump "transplanted favor-seeking in Washington to his family's hotels and resorts -- and earned millions as a gatekeeper to his own administration. " The article, citing the president's tax records, reports that of the hundreds of individuals and entities seeking favor, "60 customers with interests at stake before the Trump administration brought his family business nearly $12 million during the first two years of his presidency. "

"Almost all saw their interests advanced, in some fashion, by Mr. Trump or his government, " the news story continued.

ABC News has not viewed the president's taxes and cannot confirm the Times' reporting.

On "This Week, " Eric Trump echoed his father's rhetoric calling the story "fake news. " He also implied without evidence that the report -- one of several in the past two weeks concerning the president's finances -- was timed to hurt his reelection campaign. Pressed by ABC News Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl about the president's debt, which the Times reported as more than $400 million, Eric Trump characterized it as commonplace for someone with his level of wealth in the real estate industry. He also misleadingly claimed that all of the president's lenders are publicly known.

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