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## Byrne says more to be caught in scandal

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The head of Alabama's community college system said Thursday he thinks more public figures will be caught up in the widening scandal centering around former Chancellor Roy Johnson.

Bradley Byrne, the current two-year chancellor, made his comments during a meeting with the editorial board of the Opelika-Auburn News.

"I think you will see other people in public life who are caught up in this," Byrne said.

Byrne said the scandal could involve other statewide institutions but he said he did not think it would involve Paul Hubbert, executive secretary of the powerful Alabama Education Association.

Byrne said despite scandal in the two-year system and the felony convictions of former governors Guy Hunt and Don Siegelman, he did not think there was a culture of corruption in Alabama politics.

"There have been some people in public life who have betrayed the public trust," he said. But most Alabamians are good, decent hard-working people, he said.

Byrne likened the the clean-up of the system as being akin to cutting out a cancer.

"The truth in Alabama is we're just bringing the scoundrels to justice finally," he said.

Byrne said there was a growing sentiment for reform in the state.

"I think what we are going through is a very healthy righting of the system," he said.

The chancellor's visit to Opelika came on a day when U.S. Attorney Alice Martin announced that Joanne Jordan, the former interim president of Southern Union State Community College, had agreed to plead guilty to federal obstruction of justice charges in connection with the Johnson probe.

Earlier this month, Johnson agreed to plead guilty to 15 federal charges ranging from bribery to money laundering to witness tampering.

At least 10 other people have been charged, pleaded guilty or agreed to plead guilty to federal charges in connection with the Johnson case.