

HOW LONG HAS GILLESPIE BEEN ACTING AS WHITE HOUSE COUNSELOR?

First, a correction. I suggested the other day that Dick was one of the three people who voted not to keep Rummy when Bush took a show of hands on Rummy's fate. But Cheney may not have been among those polled. The WaPo has a review of the book and the incident today, and Cheney is not among those named (though Abramowitz does not identify all of the votes).

For Canning Rummy

Josh Bolten

Andrew Card

Condi Rice

Ed Gillespie

Three more people

Against Canning Rummy

Bush

Rove

Stephen Hadley

One other, probably Cheney

But here's what I'm really struck by. Ed Gillespie, right there among the paid Presidential advisors, casting a "can Rummy" vote.

I've been harping for some time on the problem with a big-time lobbyist entering the White House to take on the Counselor role. After all, when a guy had been lobbying for the telecom industry, a number of front organizations for corporate interests, and those student loan companies that are bankrupting our families, it suggests he might have divided loyalties when he enters the White House.

This anecdote shows that Gillespie had entered the White House in a substantive advisory role

long before he stopped being paid by those corporate interests. Ed Gillespie was taking votes on personnel decisions (which Cheney no doubt promptly overrode) at the same time as he was trying to convince Bush how important it was to give the telecoms immunity for illegally cooperating in domestic spying.