

# MCCONNELL AND LIEBERMAN

Isikoff and Hosenball tell us what we already know—McConnell is a liar (only the crack headline artists at Newsweek call this "an error"). But here's an odd detail in their story about McConnell's petulant confession.

After questions about his testimony were raised, McConnell called Lieberman to clarify his statements to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, an official said. (A spokeswoman for Lieberman confirmed that McConnell called the senator Tuesday but could not immediately confirm what they spoke about.)

Usually, when someone lies to Congress and "realizes" it, the process for clarifying testimony is simple. You write a written clarification. But that's not what McConnell did. He talked to Lieberman personally, on the phone, leaving no public record of their conversation.

Now here's the original exchange:

MCCONNELL: [The new FISA law] was passed, as you well know, and we're very pleased with that. And we're better prepared now to continue our mission; specifically Germany, significant contributions. It allowed us to see and understand all the connections with "

LIEBERMAN: The newly adopted law facilitated that during August?

MCCONNELL: **Yes, sir, it did.**

Maybe I just have lost all trust in Lieberman, but the original exchange sure seems like a set-up to me. "Hey Joey," McConnell says, "Why don't

you throw me a softball on the FISA program?"  
And then later, "Um, Joey, that softball your  
threw me? Well, I hit a foul ball. How do you  
want to handle it? I don't want to lose the  
benefit of the erroneous claim. But what can I  
do to protect myself, legally?"