

WHO DO WE HAVE TO KICK AROUND ANYMORE?

We already lost Abu Gonzales, Karl Rove, Monica Goodling, Kyle Sampson, Brad Schlozman, and Michael Elston. And now we're losing Pete Domenici.

Veteran Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.) is expected to announce tomorrow that he will retire from the Senate in 2008, according to several informed sources, a decision that further complicates an already difficult playing field for Republicans next November.

Domenici has struggled with health problems over the last several years and has been dogged by questions about the role he may have played in the firing of U.S. Attorney David C. Iglesias in Albuquerque. As a result, he had been long been rumored as a potential retirement. Domenici's Senate office did not return a call this afternoon, but sources close to the senator say he will fly home to New Mexico tomorrow to make the announcement that he is retiring.

[snip]

The Senate ethics committee is investigating Domenici for a phone call he placed to then-federal prosecutor Iglesias last October in a possible attempt to pressure him to indict New Mexico Democrats in a corruption probe just before the November election. Shortly after Iglesias said he rebuffed Domenici, his name appeared on a list of U.S. attorneys to be fired that was compiled by top Justice Department aides. Iglesias was dismissed Dec. 7.

Republican insiders insist that

Domenici's decision to retire
had everything to do with his health and
nothing to do with poll numbers or the
U.S. attorney controversy. More to come
on this opening tomorrow.

David Iglesias, may your champagne tonight taste
sweet.