

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THOSE GOP APPOINTEES AND THEIR EMAIL COMPUTER FILES?

In the latest episode in the ongoing saga of disappearing GOP emails, the WSJ reports that Scott Bloch, the head of the Office of Special Counsel, invited Geeks on Call in last year, apparently to delete a bunch of ~~emails~~ computer files.

The head of the federal agency investigating Karl Rove's White House political operation is facing allegations that he improperly deleted computer files during another probe, using a private computer-help company, Geeks on Call.

[snip]

Recently, investigators learned that Mr. Bloch erased all the files on his office personal computer late last year. They are now trying to determine whether the deletions were improper or part of a cover-up, lawyers close to the case said.

Bypassing his agency's computer technicians, Mr. Bloch phoned 1-800-905-GEEKS for Geeks on Call, the mobile PC-help service. It dispatched a technician in one of its signature PT Cruiser wagons. In an interview, the 49-year-old former labor-law litigator from Lawrence, Kan., confirmed that he contacted Geeks on Call but said he was trying to eradicate a virus that had seized control of his computer.

Now, this happened last year, well before Bloch incurred the wrath of Ranking Member on the

House Oversight Committee, Tom Davis, for being mean to Lurita Doan (Bloch's meanness started in January, according to Davis). But it is, perhaps, worth noting that as of August, Davis was demanding all of Bloch's emails pertaining to Doan—or to any Member of Congress.

It's not unreasonable to imagine that someone in OSC is leaking this material to try to incriminate Davis himself. After all, Davis is conducting a campaign against Scott Bloch, demanding all of Bloch's political emails.

Davis previously had been a Bloch defender and had praised the OSC for dramatically cutting back its backlog of personnel cases. But at the hearing, the congressman blew up at the witness, explaining that he'd obtained a personal e-mail by Bloch describing Davis as "acting like Doan's defense counsel" when she testified before the Oversight committee.

Davis then promised to wage what might be called a Blochian crusade: *He announced his intention to corral all politically sensitive e-mails Bloch may have sent from his personal account that referred in any manner to Doan or other federal lawmakers.*

Davis's chief of staff, David Marin, says his boss will punish any failure to comply by urging the committee to pursue contempt-of-Congress charges. In other words, Scott Bloch, the Bush administration's in-house Hatch Act enforcer in the U.S. attorneys scandal, could wind up facing the same charges now confronting the high-profile

noncompliant congressional witnesses in the case, White House Chief of Staff Joshua B. Bolten and former White House counsel Harriet Miers.

As I point out in [this post](#), Davis' demand for Bloch's email—including any emails that reference federal lawmakers—would net emails that refer **in any manner** to Davis himself. Even if those emails referring to Davis as part of Bloch's investigation into Rove's asset deployment teams!!! If the WaPo story came from leaks from Bloch, the leaks may have been an effort to get Waxman—or someone else—to pick up an investigation stymied by Davis' collection of Bloch's emails.

There's no reason to think these two are related. But there is a good deal of interest in Scott Bloch's personal ~~email account~~ computer files.