

SHORTER TERWILLIGER: DON'T EXTEND THE INVESTIGATION PAST JANUARY 20

We interrupt the focus on the auto industry to look briefly at the subpoenas Nora Dannehy—the special prosecutor investigating the US Attorney firings—has sent out.

A prosecutor who is investigating the dismissals of nine U.S. attorneys has been meeting with defense lawyers, dispatching subpoenas and seeking information about the events, according to legal sources familiar with the case.

[snip]

Dannehy, a longtime assistant U.S. attorney in Connecticut, in recent weeks has met with lawyers and government officials involved in the case. A grand jury in the District has issued subpoenas, the sources said.

There are two worthwhile details here. First, the news that Kyle Sampson has taken a leave from his law firm.

D. Kyle Sampson, who served as the chief of staff to Gonzales until his March 2007 resignation, recently took a leave from his job as a partner at the law firm Hunton & Williams while the investigation proceeds. A spokeswoman for the law firm said he is on leave "pending admission to the D.C. bar."

I can see how a swank firm wouldn't want one of its partners indicted on its payroll.

The other, amusing, tidbit comes from George

Terwilliger, Alberto Gonzales' lawyer, making a pathetic case that the investigation—at least as it pertains to Gonzales—should end now.

George J. Terwilliger III, an attorney for Gonzales, said that his client had engaged in no wrongdoing, "making it patently unfair and unwarranted to prolong an investigation that has no substantive justification. By the department's own standards, this matter should be closed now as to Judge Gonzales."

You don't suppose he wants this to end yesterday because an Obama Administration might be less willing to shield Gonzales' role by sustaining Bush's executive privilege claim, do you?