

MORE ARCHIVING HEADACHES FOR THE POOR BUSH ADMINISTRATION

This time, with a judge telling them to go look again for those missing White House emails.

The United States District Court for the District of Columbia today **granted** the **National Security Archive's emergency motion** for an extended preservation order to protect missing White House e-mails. With the transition from the Bush Administration to the Obama Administration taking place in six days, and all the records of the Bush White House scheduled for a physical transfer to the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) on that same day, the Court has **directed** the Executive Office of the President (EOP) to search all its computer work stations and has ordered EOP employees to surrender any media in their possession that may contain e-mails from March 2003 to October 2005.

"There is nothing like a deadline to clarify the issues," said Archive Director Tom Blanton. "In six days the Bush Executive Office of the President will be gone and without this order, their records may disappear with them. The White House will complain about the last minute challenge, but this is a records crisis of the White House's own making."

Counsel for the Archive, Sheila Shadmand from **Jones Day** made clear: "The White House has been on notice since we filed our lawsuit a year and a half ago that they would have to retrieve and preserve

their e-mail. Instead of coming clean and telling the public what they have been doing to solve the crisis, they refused to say anything. At this point, it is critical to preserve evidence that can help get to the bottom of the problem and prevent it from happening again."

Magistrate Judge John M. Facciola has scheduled an emergency status conference today at 2 p.m. to consider additional measures that may be necessary to protect the records during the transition. (Courtroom 6 of the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Courthouse)

I can just see them now, the same folks who have been talking about their sacred duty to ~~bury~~ ~~things for 12 years~~ deliver all their documents to the National Archives, trying to explain how it was that they accidentally destroyed Scooter Libby's hard drive and Karl Rove's Blackberry.