

BREAKING: TURDBLOSSOM AND HARRIET TO TESTIFY

And, just as importantly, the notion of Absolute Immunity dies a well-deserved death (via email).

In an agreement reached today between the former Bush Administration and Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-Mich.), Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, **Karl Rove and former White House Counsel Harriet Miers will testify before the House Judiciary Committee in transcribed depositions under penalty of perjury.** The Committee has also reserved the right to have public testimony from Rove and Miers. It was agreed that **invocations of official privileges would be significantly limited.**

In addition, if the Committee uncovers information necessitating his testimony, the Committee will also have the right to depose William Kelley, a former White House lawyer who played a role in the U.S. Attorney firings.

The Committee will also receive Bush White House documents relevant to this inquiry. Under the agreement, **the landmark ruling by Judge John Bates rejecting key Bush White House claims of executive immunity and privilege will be preserved.** If the agreement is breached, the Committee can resume the litigation.

Chairman Conyers issued the following statement:

"I have long said that I would see this matter through to the end and am encouraged that we have finally broken through the Bush Administration's claims of absolute immunity. This is a victory for the separation of powers and

congressional oversight. It is also a vindication of the search for truth. I am determined to have it known whether U.S. Attorneys in the Department of Justice were fired for political reasons, and if so, by whom."

You think maybe Rove's lost his 5 time's a charge charm with perjury?

Update on timing: The Committee is going to get the documents it had requested and read them before they do the interviews with Harriet and Karl. And the interviews will be done by staffers, with the option of doing a public hearing with questions from Congresspersons if that seems useful. So the timing for the moment seems to be driven by how quickly they get documents.

Update: Pelosi does a victory dance for the authority of Article I (via email):

The agreement for Karl Rove and Harriet Miers to testify upholds a fundamental principle: **no one is above the law and Congressional subpoenas must be complied with.**

As public officials, we take an oath of office to uphold the Constitution. **It is the institutional duty of Congress – as an independent branch – to ensure against abuse of power through meaningful oversight over the Executive Branch.** When there are credible allegations about the politicization of law enforcement, the need for Congressional oversight is at its greatest.

In upholding our oaths of office, the House of Representatives was determined to preserve checks and balances – the separation of powers that protects the rule of law. It brought action in court to enforce the Judiciary Committee's subpoenas, and **won a major ruling by**

U.S. District Judge John Bates
dismissing the extreme position of
absolute immunity from Congressional
oversight advocated by the Bush
Administration for former Administration
officials. Under this agreement, the
precedent established by Judge Bates'
historic ruling rejecting this extreme
Bush Administration doctrine will be
preserved.

Today's agreement is a great victory for
the Constitution, the rule of law, and
the separation of powers. I appreciate
the strong leadership of Chairman John
Conyers and the assistance of the Obama
Administration.

Congress now has the opportunity to
uncover the truth and determine whether
improper criteria were used by the Bush
Administration to dismiss and retain
U.S. Attorneys. [my emphasis]

I think Pelosi just got flagged by the ref for
excessive celebration in the end zone.

Not like she didn't deserve it, though.

Update: One more detail on logistics. The
documents and the transcripts will eventually be
made public.