EMPTYWHEEL'S FAMOUS FOOTBALL TRASH TALK THREAD – HOLIDAY EDITION

The weekend is upon us, which means it is time for some trashing and burning (Note: not for you folks working for Cheney at his "ceremonial" office, you have trashed and burned quite enough this week). Here is the lineup for this week. Who and what do you have on the burner? Trash it up!

THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE

Top of the morning to one and all. As Marcy and family hit the road on their much delayed Christmas expedition, it occurs to me that it is time to grease the wheels of justice and get them rolling down the road of accountability. EW and Mad Dog are right about the implications of the new AP article.

DATES

The AP has a story out that seems to clear all the White House lawyers of supporting the destruction of the torture tapes. All of them, that is, except David Addington.

But it also raises still more questions about timing, focusing (as a WaPo article yesterday did) on discussions in 2004. If the substantive discussions happened in 2004, then why did the tapes get destroyed in 2005?

DICK AND ED AND THE NH PHONE-JAMMING

Now that we know that Dick Cheney's lawyer was working DOJ to make sure that James Tobin would not be indicted until after the 2004 election, it's probably worth returning to another few aspects of this story that involves the White House.

DICK CHENEY'S LAWYER SPIKES THE PHONE-JAMMING CASE

McClatchy has a long story out detailing how indictments for the New Hampshire phone-jamming case got stalled. The whole thing is worth reading. But I'm particularly intrigued by the role of Terry O'Donnell, who was apparently responsible for getting Tobin's indictment stalled until after the 2004 election. That's rather curious, since O'Donnell is actually Dick Cheney's personal lawyer.

2004

It seems the NYT was not the only one who knew that Addington, Gonzales, and Bellinger got a briefing on the terror tapes. It appears the whole SSCI knew that too. But Hayden said those briefings took place in 2004, not in 2003, as the NYT implies. Which is it?

WHY IS DANA SO TOUCHY?

In all fairness to Dana “Pig Missile” Perino, she probably doesn’t want to become the next Scottie McClellan, forced to say things from the podium while Dick Cheney is hiding his criminal ways behind those public statements. Still, Dana comes off very badly in yesterday’s attempt to explain why anonymous sources at the White House are saying one thing and she’s saying another.

“TRENT LOTT CALLED”

It sure looks like there is solid evidence that Trent Lott only returned to the Senate this term to “get” State Farm. Which would sure suggest that his realization that such efforts were falling apart might explain his hasty retirement.

IN WHICH COUNTRY WERE THE TAPES STORED?

The NYT’s article has one more detail of note—again, reporting something that is intuitive, but not something that had been confirmed before AFAIK. That’s that the torture tapes were stored in the country—singular—where the interrogations of Abu Zubaydah and al-Nashiri took place.

SUB-HEADING: WHITE HOUSE PANICS

The White House has gone to the trouble of making the NYT correct their headline indicating that news of the involvement of Addington and Gonzales in discussions of the terror tapes differs from the story the White House was pitching—that Harriet Miers was the only one involved.

While the White House is correct that they never officially claimed that Harriet was the only one involved, someone has certainly been shopping that story for over a week. Which is why it behooves those who received that story to out their source, particularly if that person is in the White House.