

\$1.40

Atrios points out that the Euro has just pushed past \$1.40.

Let's see. In the last two days, the Fed has cut interest rates by half a point, making what is probably a futile attempt to staunch the subprime crisis. And yesterday, Henry Paulson asked Congress to raise the debt limit before we once again hit our debt limit on October 1—which will make the fifth time Bush has had to

THE 1% LEADERSHIP SOLUTION

scout prime catches Michael Chertoff looking like the self-important incompetent he is. She finds that: Michael Chertoff has a blog. Yes, that's right folks. And his blog is called How to Kill a City. No wait. I'm sorry. It's called Leadership Journal. Faced with yet another intractable crisis, the Bush Administration is doing what it always does.

CBS COLLABORATES IN TORTURE

The most interesting thing about the Dan Rather complaint, IMO, is the description it gave of CBS and Administration attempts to spike the Abu Ghraib story.

In late April 2004, Mr. Rather, as Correspondant, and Mary Mapes, a veteran producer, broke a news story of national importance on 60 Minutes II—the abuse by

American military personnel of Iraqi prisoners in the Abu Ghraib prison.

THE PRE-EMPTIVE CAVE ON IMMUNITY

Glenn Greenwald catches the Democrats preparing to cave to Administration demands for retroactive immunity for the telecoms.

Mr. McConnell argued on Tuesday that the expanded surveillance powers granted under the temporary measure should be made permanent.

He also pushed for a provision that would grant legal immunity to the telecommunications companies that secretly cooperated with the N.S.A. on the warrantless program.

NO INPUT FROM DOJ

The WaPo reveals that the White House pulled the Clement-Keisler headfake with no input from DOJ.

While Mukasey's nomination is pending, the Justice Department will be run by former civil division chief Peter D. Keisler, a conservative appointee who this week was a surprise replacement in that role for Solicitor General Paul D. Clement. Clement, who was publicly tagged last month as the temporary replacement for Gonzales, wound up officially taking the helm at 12:01 a.m.

HOUSE RULES

The WaPo has more on the logic behind the refusal of the 13 Congressmen subpoenaed yesterday to testify.

As required by House rules, the subpoenas were read into the Congressional Record late Monday evening. John D. Filamor, assistant House counsel, wrote Geragos on Sept. 6 to object to the subpoenas, citing House rules that forbid members from testifying in judicial proceedings unless their testimony is "material and relevant."

Filamor also cited the "speech or debate" clause of

MR. SULZBERGER, TEAR DOWN THAT WALL

My buddy Pinch Sulzberger wrote me today. He said:

We are ending TimesSelect, effective today.

The Times's Op-Ed and news columns are now available free of charge, along with TimesFile and News Tracker. In addition, The New York Times online Archive is now free back to 1987 for all of our readers.

Why the change?

Since we launched TimesSelect, the Web has evolved into an increasingly open environment.

DIPLOMATIC CONVOYS

Two days ago Iraq said it was kicking Eric Prince and his mercenary thugs out of Iraq. Yesterday, Iraq said it would review all the mercenary thugs (and legitimate security entities) to see if they could stay in Iraq. And today, the US announces a curb on land-based civilian travel.

The United States on Tuesday suspended all land travel by U.S.

CONGRESSIONAL SUBPOENAS ARE THE NEW GRAYMAIL

The AP has the list of Congressmen whom Brent Wilkes has subpoenaed to appear at his trial. There are virtually no surprises on the list—all are either former or current Chairs of the Committees that knew of Wilkes' behavior and/or noted earmarkers in their own right. Here's why I think each person was subpoenaed.

Duncan Hunter, R-CA:

IRAQ WILL REVIEW ALL CONTRACTORS

Following on yesterday's announcement that it was withdrawing the license of Blackwater, Iraq's government has announced it will review all the security contractors doing business in Iraq.

The Iraqi government said today that it would review the status of all foreign and local security companies working in Iraq after a shooting that left eight Iraqis dead.

I'm as skeptical as I was yesterday that this is going to achieve anything.