

I DO BELIEVE I SMELL A PR CAMPAIGN

AT&T wants something from you. They want immunity from prosecution for breaking existing laws on customer privacy. They want more bandwidth. They want to eliminate net neutrality. They may well want to suck up another company or two, to return to the good old days of MaBell. They want to be the exclusive provider to iPhone customers.

SIMPSON CLAIMS ROVE WORKED WITH PUBLIC INTEGRITY ON SIEGELMAN CASE

According to Jill Simpson's testimony, in January or February of 2005, Karl Rove met with the head of Public Integrity at DOJ and got him to assign resources to the Don Siegelman case.

A And so, anyway, he was telling me all of the things that Alice had done as far as having messed up the deal.

GONZALES SEEMS TO EXPECT MORE TROUBLE

Or at least that's one thing we might surmise from the news that Gonzales hired George Terwilliger to represent him just after he resigned (h/t bmaz).

No sooner did Alberto Gonzales resign as attorney general last month than he retained a high-powered Washington criminal-defense lawyer to represent him in continuing inquiries by Congress and the Justice Department.

[snip]

The top concern for Gonzales, and now Terwilliger, is the expanding investigation by Glenn Fine, the Justice Department's fiercely independent inspector

BARTLETT TARGETS DEADEYE DICK

Remember when Dick Cheney shot an old man in the face and then attempted to cover it up by reporting it through the local press? Well, Dan Bartlett wants you to know that that whole cover-up was Dick's idea demand.

Then there was the time Cheney shot his pal during a hunting accident in Texas. "We couldn't get hold of him for quite a bit of time," Bartlett said. "They were strategizing on their

WATERGATE, THE FARCE

I happen to be reading Stonewall right now. And I gotta say, I've already said what Bernstein said several times.

Watergate would not have played out the same way today because Congress no longer performs its oversight role, said Carl Bernstein, one of the journalists famous for uncovering the story.

â€œThe difference with today is that the system

did its job.

PROGRESS?

I'll withhold judgment until I see the text of the bill, but from this story, it appears the Progressive Caucus made some progress—though not on all counts—in their efforts to ensure the permanent FISA amendment safeguards privacy and civil liberties.

House Democrats plan to introduce a bill this week that would let a secret court issue one-year “umbrella” warrants to allow the government to intercept e-mails and phone calls of foreign targets and would

SPYING ON YOUR FRIENDS AND ENEMIES

Laura's right. Jeff Stein's article detailing the several ways in which Senator Richard Shelby spied on Anthony Lake and similar activities raises all sorts of questions.

Tenet also wrote that, “National Security Agency officials told us that Shelby staffers had been asking whether there was derogatory information in their communications intercepts on Lake.”

But the NSA refused Shelby's entreaties, two sources said, and there was no derogatory information in the FBI's files.

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SHOWS SIGNS OF LIFE

When I was at the Duke conference last week, I premised a question to ACLU's Legal Director that ACLU was having more success in the courts than in Congress of late. He responded by joking about my faint praise. Perhaps I reverse jinxed him. Because we're beginning to make some progress in Congress.

Rep.

CATHIE MARTIN'S WORKING MEDIA ON ONE SIDE

And her FCC Chair hubby, Kevin Martin, is working media on the other side. The LAT reports (h/t Sirota) that the FCC is leaking information on key votes to big stakeholders. Since there's a restriction on lobbying in the week before a vote, this has the effect of making it impossible for those representing citizens to lobby in a timely fashion.

People are allowed to submit comments and meet with FCC commissioners and

OH, THAT'S WHO WE

GET TO KICK AROUND

Larry Craig, that's who.

Shortly after a state judge denied his request to withdraw the August plea admitting to disorderly conduct, Mr. Craig said he had reversed his previously announced decision to leave the Senate if he could not get the plea thrown out and would instead serve out his third term, which expires at the end of 2008.