

I'D LOVE TO SEE CONYERS AND PELOSI IN A SPAT

That may not be a mature sentiment, wanting to see Conyers and Pelosi in a spat. But after reading that Pelosi knee-capped Conyers on his subpoena of Harriet Miers and Josh Bolten, I have marginal hopes that this will piss off Conyers and escalate things in HJC, rather than bury them as Pelosi seems content to do.

House Democratic leaders have decided to postpone a vote on a criminal contempt resolution against White

WHOSE CREDIBILITY IS DECLINING FASTER?

Mike McConnell or General Petraeus?

Petraeus has become Fox's latest pundit, while McConnell is claiming the amended FISA is responsible for those German terror arrests last week.

The government's ability to eavesdrop on terrorism suspects overseas allowed the United States to obtain information that helped lead to the arrests last week of three Islamic militants accused of planning bomb attacks in Germany, Mike McConnell, the director of national intelligence, told senators on Monday.

THE WARRANTLESS WIRETAP PROGRAM WAS ILLEGAL

When Jim Comey testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee, he refused to say the warrantless wiretap program was illegal.

SPECTER: Well, you don't have to.

If the certification by the Department of Justice as to legality is required as a matter of law, and that is not done, and the program goes forward, it's illegal.

COMMUNITIES OF INTEREST

This Eric Lichtblau article provides a lot of dots that have been, heretofore, missing in our picture of the surveillance they've got us under. It's no surprise the government has been using data mining on not just suspects themselves, but also on their friends and associates—a virtual “Friends and Families” plan of surveillance.

“THE WHITE HOUSE NEEDS TO HIRE AN ARCHIVIST”

WTF is the Administration doing, claiming it has briefed members of Congress on the warrantless wiretap program when it hasn't?

After the domestic surveillance program was revealed in 2005, former Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Bob Graham (D-FL) said that White House briefings that he attended in the Vice President's office failed to disclose that the administration was spying on Americans:

There was no reference made to the fact that we were going to begin unwarranted, illegal "

WHAT INDICTMENTS DID SCHLOZMAN SPEAK TO ELSTON ABOUT?

Brad Schlozman remains unresponsive on a few of the questions he (finally) returned to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Take this question that asks for very specific details about any conversations he had with Mike Elston about indictments in WD MO:

Did you speak with Michael Elston regarding any other indictments filed while you were U.S.

GET YOUR SATELLITE OUT OF MY BACKYARD

This will be interesting. The Dems are trying to prevent Chertoff from implementing his big brother satellite domestic spying program on October 1.

We are so concerned that, as the Department's authorizing Committee, we are calling for a moratorium on the program until the many Constitutional, legal and organizational questions it raises are answered.

Today's testimony made clear that there is effectively no legal framework governing the domestic use of satellite imagery for the various purposes envisioned by

WERE THEY BYPASSING GONZALES, TOO?

Marty Lederman points to this excerpt from Jack Goldsmith's book at Slate. Goldsmith explains he only saw Alberto Gonzales disagree with David Addington once—and that Bush ended up siding with Addington.

Addington's hard-line nonaccommodation stance always prevailed when the lawyers met to discuss legal policy issues in Alberto Gonzales' office. During these meetings, Gonzales himself would sit quietly in his wing chair, occasionally asking questions but mostly listening as the querulous Addington did battle with whomever

YET ANOTHER WHINE ABOUT A REPORT CARD

No, seriously. The GAO's report on DHS is really important evidence that Bush has done very little to make this country more safe. But I'm most struck by the fact that the DHS people quoted are making exactly the same complaint the military did last week, when GAO reported that Iraq has met few of its benchmarks (for the record, DHS seems to be doing somewhat better than Iraq, making at

SOMEBODY TO FIRE!!!!

I'm thrilled with the news that George Bush just gave Barry Jackson a promotion.

Yesterday, President Bush named Barry Jackson to be Peter Wehner's replacement to run the White House Office of Strategic Initiatives. Jackson was the major White House strategist behind Bush's failed Social Security privatization ploy, and was one of the White House employees discovered to be using RNC email accounts to e-mail an associate of disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

That's because just