

A THOUSAND WORDS

Remember this photo? This particular version is from Stephen Crowley of the New York Times—it's part of a slideshow they've got up to commemorate the demise of Turdblossom. Go look through the slideshow and tell me whether you think they're emphasizing the centrality of scandal to Rove's tenure (there's a hot picture of Rove and Lusk in there, for example, walking out of Prettyman).

TSP AND FISA

Yup, still mono-focused on FISA, but mr. emptywheel is clamoring for dinner, so maybe once I step away from the computer, I'll remember all the other things I've been meaning to write on.

I want to object to the way Kevin Drum is referring to the new details of FISA:

Originally, FISA allowed warrantless wiretapping of anycommunication between two foreigners.

FEINGOLD'S QUESTIONS

I'm still working through AGAG's answers to a bunch of questions the Senate Judiciary Committee asked him last year (he only answered early this year). There's an exchange involving Russ Feingold that is, I think, very instructive for understanding the recent FISA amendment.

You indicated at the hearing that the Administration has agreed to "submit" the program to the FISA court to rule on it if Congress passes the bill the Administration

WARRANTLESS WIRETAPPING AND THE IG LOOPHOLE

I'm working on a massive post on how the Administration has gamed the system to sustain their wireless wiretapping program. For the moment, though, I'd like to make a discrete point about the aborted Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) investigation into the program.

When Senator Spector asked Alberto Gonzales last year why BushCo refused to give OPR the clearance to investigate the wireless wiretapping program because OPR included many career employees,

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE FISC APPEAL?

Both the WaPo and the NYT have stories today explaining how the crisis in the warrantless wiretap program got so bad that Congress got punked into passing a shitty bill. The story is simple, on its face. The FISC rejected a government subpoena in March, another in May, and those two rulings resulted in the government losing the ability to wiretap a great deal of foreign communication.

TWO RULINGS?

No wonder BushCo wanted oversight of FISA totally out of the hands of the FISC. If I'm reading this WaPo article correctly, there were actually two rulings that went against the Administration—one in March, and one in May.

But in a secret ruling in March, a judge on a special court empowered to review the government's electronic snooping challenged for the first time the government's ability to collect data from such wires even when they

A REVERSE F.U.

You know how Thomas Friedman's six months always seem to end up being indefinite forever? Well, the reverse seems to be going on with Republican accusations that:

For months, congressional Democrats ignored warnings from Director of National Intelligence Michael McConnell that FISA's antiquated provisions were tying the hands of U.S. intelligence agencies from collecting against terrorist communications.

In fact, it appears that Director of National Intelligence Mike McConnell actually sat on the information for months, from

HOEKSTRA'S LEAKS/CHENEY'S LEAKS

Steven Benen writes most of the post I was going to write (thanks Steve!) in response to the news that Pete Hoekstra is a big fat hypocrite about

intelligence leaks. Steve links to Justin Rood's coverage of Hoekstra leaking details about the supposedly secret intelligence budget; RawStory first noticed Hoekstra's leak.

THIS IS WHAT NANCY SHOULD HAVE DONE ON FISA

Josh marvels at the (big surprise) latest galling corruption from a member of the Alaska delegation: Don Young snuck an earmark into a 2005 bill after it had been passed by both houses of Congress, but before Bush signed it.

The 'Coconut Road' earmark wasn't in the bill passed by the House and Senate.

LURITA DOAN, ROUND 2043: DAVIS V. BLOCH EDITION

Since I seem to be the only one interested in Lurita Doan now that Bush has apparently refused to fire her for clear Hatch Act violations, I thought I'd point out the interesting tidbit that shows up in a profile of Scott Bloch, the guy in charge of Office of Special Counsel, the office that carries out Hatch Act violations that Bush studiously ignores.

Meanwhile, the Doan matter is breeding some ironies.