OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE MERITS MORE PUNISHMENT THAN CENSURE

Let me say straight out. Punishing Bush's commutation of Libby's sentence with censure would be like punishing Libby's obstruction of justice with just 400 hours of community service. It would simply reinforce the notion that Bush's Administration is above the law. It would be a punishment wholly unfit for the crime that has been committed:

TWO RATS OFF OF BUSH'S SINKING SHIP

I'm with Howie and Josh. I think we ought not assume that, because two GOP Senators mired in scandal jump ship, it reflects widespread dissatisfaction with Bush's failing war in Iraq.

The two rats in question are Senator Domenici, who will have a real challenge for re-election next year. Reid has effectively challenged Domenici to put his votes where his mouth is next week, at which point Domenici might cave.

CONSIDERABLE MEANS

Just to put a little perspective to Scooter Libby's little get out of jail almost-free check today, I remind you of this quote from the government's filing on Libby's PSR:

Any suggestion the defendant is entitled to leniency based onthe loss of income he suffered as a result of his decision to work ingovernment rather than in the private sector should be rejected out ofhand, particularly in light of the fact that,

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IS SENATOR SESSSIONS THE FRED THOMPSON OF THE BUSH SCANDALS?

The BoGlo has a great story out today about what a slime Fred Thompson is. While he served as a minority counsel on the Senate Watergate Committee, Thompson was feeding Nixon's lawyer information so Nixon could take "appropriate action."

"Even though I had no authority to act for the committee, I decidedto call Fred Buzhardt at home" to tell him that the committee hadlearned about the taping system, Thompson wrote.

BUSH BYPASSES THE STRICTURES PUT IN PLACE AFTER CLINTON

ANOTHER DISAPPEARING REPUBLICAN FRONT GROUP

Remember the way that Thor Hearne tried to hide any traces of his American Center for Voting Rights, just as the media started to realize that it was a Republican front group designed to popularize ideas with no basis in reality, but which would be key tools to Republican dominance?

Well, the same is happening with Italia Federici's organization, Council of Republicans for Environmental Advocacy.

LIBERATE LIBBY'S PSR

Say, did you notice who wrote the talking points for Tony Snow's press briefing yesterday? The Probation office (only Snow makes the same mistake I did when I first talked about this, calling it the parole office—though I guess if you work for the guy who simply disappears all prison sentence, parole might come more easily to the tongue).

MR.

IS THIS THE EVIDENCE THAT LIBBY KNEW

PLAME WAS COVERT?

I found something nifty today when I was playing around in all my Libby Trial evidence. It's either evidence that Libby knew Plame was covert … or it's evidence that OVP went to some lengths to protect Dick and Bush. This involves a rethinking about the exchange from the Libby trial when Fitzgerald questioned Addington about the bogus stamp OVP used on lots of Libby's notes.

THE OFF THE RECORD CLUB WEIGHS IN

Say, does anyone remember the Off the Record Club? It was one of the most interesting details revealed at the Libby trial—that there's this group of GOP-lobbyist-hacks who meet monthly and serve as an on-call damage control group for the Republicans.

But [Richard] Hohlt's more significant role may be his leadership of a secretivesocial group of GOP heavy hitters and, occasionally, White Houseofficials, who convene to smoke cigars and mull over politics.

EMPTYWHEEL EXPLAINS AGAIN AND AGAIN AND AGAIN ABOUT OBSTRUCTION OF

JUSTICE

Here's my Guardian column explaining all the involvement of Cheney and Bush in the Plame outing—which explains why Bush didn't want Libby to lose his ability to refuse to testify.

On June 9, 2003, just one day after his national security advisor,Condoleezza Rice, got beaten up on the Sunday shows for claiming no onein the administration knew that the Niger intelligence was bunk, GeorgeBush expressed concern about the allegations.