

# CONYERS HEARING ON LIBBY COMMUTATION

HJC has announced the list of witnesses for Wednesday's hearing on Libby's get-out-of-jail-free. They are: Joe Wilson: You guys know him, I think. I suspect he'll talk about how Bush and Cheney are involved in this case. Roger Adams, US DOJ Pardon Attorney. He'll end up talking about the normal process for commutation.

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# NOVAK'S JULY 7 MEETING

Credit where it's due. Tom Maguire hits all the right notes about this Novak book excerpt, save one. He notes that Novak's story has a way of changing with the seasons.

Interesting. This old post has the Novak version before he was willing to name Armitage; here is Novak (post-"Hubris") rebutting Armitage's version.

There are subtle shifts in the story – now we are told that "Hementioned her first name, Valerie",

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# JUST SCRAPS OF SNARK REMAINING

Fitzgerald's filing in response to Judge Walton's request for clarification on Libby's magical disappearing prison sentence has the feel of bitter duty. Much of it is an attempt to stave off any attempt by Libby's lawyers to

disappear even the supervised release.

As discussed more fully below, it is the government's position that the supervised release term remains operative, and that, by effect of the commutation, the supervised release term began on

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## **FRED AND PAUL FORGET THE CONSTITUTION-TIME TO REMINDE THEM**

I'm supposed to be doing something else entirely. But I'm going to raise a point that I've raised already—because it sure seems like Democrats are sleeping through the Constitution.

Paul Clement, in his explanation of why BushCo could invoke executive privilege in the USA scandal, claimed that the President has “nondelegable Presidential power” “to nominate or to remove U.S.

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## **ISIKOFF'S WORST**

Wow. When I railed on Mikey Isikoff's horribly conflicted coverage of the CIA Leak case while on Sam Seder's show today, I had not yet read Mikey's latest blowjob to Karl Rove. But this is truly shameful stuff. First, Mikey provides tons of details that make it clear that the White House has scrupulously tried to pretend no one influenced Bush in untoward manner ...

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## **CHENEY PLAYS DUMB**

As a teaser for the post I keep promising, but never delivering (identifying the document from which I think Cheney learned of Plame's identity), I'm going to make a quick point about Cheney's request to the CIA on June 10, 2003 for information on Wilson's trip. This email, written by Robert Grenier's Executive Assistant (but not seen by Grenier, if we can believe his trial testimony), repeats the story that Cheney

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## **YOU WANT A MOTIVE? LIBBY'S SECRET MISSION**

Big Media Matt and Brendan Nyhan and Tom Maguire are puzzling over what motive Bush might have for commuting Libby's sentence. Since Maguire was helpful enough to quote from Team USA, I'll offer an explanation offered by Team Libby. (I could point to a number of Fitzgerald quotes about clouds and VicePresidents that Maguire is overlooking, but I find that Jeffress is better at soundbite than Fitzgerald.) In his closing argument, Bill

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## **DEFENSE LAWYERS WOULD BE STUPID**

I mentioned in my celebration of Jeralyn my friend whose clients never get the luxury of

Presidential commutations. Well, he says this is an accurate quote, so I thought I'd let him have his say on Libby's commutation.

David Moran, associate dean of the Wayne State University Law School, said Libby's commutation directly contradicts the Justice Department's position in the case of Victor Ritz, a highly decorated veteran imprisoned for perjury under circumstances strikingly similar

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## **LIBBY'S TIMING**

In my post on the felon of considerable means, rhrfactor noted that Libby's check paying his fine was dated July 2—the same day Bush obstructed justice commuted Libby's prison sentence. What a coinkydink, huh?

But I checked with the good folks at the Prettyman Courthouse, and at least on the surface, there's nothing untoward about the date.

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## **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: