

NOW WHY WOULD THEY WANT TO BURY PLEA AGREEMENTS?

Readers of this blog no doubt know that Federal Courts have gone to lengths to make Courts more accessible to dirty fucking hippies citizens in recent years.

The policy of the Judicial Conference on privacy and public access to electronic case files has developed incrementally over the past four years. The application of the policy to various types of cases files has evolved to the point where the policy now provides for remote access to

THE ACLU BEGINS TO WIN BACK OUR COUNTRY

If you haven't given to the ACLU in a while, here's the donate button. The ACLU (with some help) has scored some important wins this week, starting with today's decision that National Security Letters are unconstitutional.

The ACLU said it was improper to issue so-called national security letters, or NSLs – investigative tools used by the FBI to compel businesses to turn over customer information – without a judge's order or grand jury subpoena.

REPUBLICANS BACK SOUND MINIMIZATION OVERSIGHT

I'm watching HJC's first hearing on FISA Amendment, and I think the Republicans may be giving us a superb opportunity to address one of the big problems of the FISA Amendment.

You see, the Republicans have no fucking clue that the reason McConnell chose the Republican bill over the Democratic one is because it removed all oversight over minimization.

Thus far—and at 12:04 we've only had questions from 3 Republicans—Dan Lungren has already

GOLDSMITH'S PR CAMPAIGN BEGINS

And so the man who began a silent revolt against BushCo's shredding of the Constitution begins to speak. The NYT has a long Magazine article on Jack Goldsmith reviewing the revolt and previewing Goldsmith's book, due to come out on September 17. The article provides details we've known in sketchy form before—like how the key decisions, prior to Goldsmith's arrival, were made by Cheney and Addington bypassing normal channels in the

ARREST JOHN BOEHNER

The government's primary strategy, in responding to the ACLU's request for release of the FISC rulings disallowing parts of the

Administration's domestic wiretapping program, is to argue that the ACLU doesn't have standing to ask for the documents. Only an aggrieved person can ask for such rulings, and even then, the aggrieved person cannot see the orders themselves that authorize domestic spying.

But there are two problems with that, it seems.

HOW TO SPIKE AN INVESTIGATION

This WSJ article—which relies on Debra Wong Yang and George Cardona as sources—suggests that the Jerry Lewis investigation has been stalled because of staffing shortages in the USA Office.

Overall, funding for the offices has grown well below the rate of inflation. As a result, “fewer cases were getting charged and bigger investigations were taking longer because there weren't enough prosecutors to do them,” says Debra Yang, who stepped down in October 2006 as the U.S.

AUGUST 24

The WaPo provides more details on an investigation I'm rather interested in:

Fine's office has also separately expanded a probe into whether senior Gonzales aides improperly considered partisan affiliations when reviewing applicants for nonpolitical career positions. As part of that inquiry, Fine sent hundreds of questionnaires in the past week to former Justice Department job applicants.

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

I noted the other day that Pat Leahy had sent a letter to Brad Schlozman asking for his overdue homework. What I didn't note in the post—but did in comments elsewhere—was the carbon copy line:

cc: The Honorable Alberto Gonzales
The Honorable Glen Fine

In comments where I mentioned this, I suggested this reflected a belief on Leahy's part that the Inspector General was a co-participant in his

THE IGLESIAS COVER- UP, AGAIN

Most people who linked to Isikoff's latest did so to note that Jack Goldsmith will testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee in September.

The Senate Judiciary Committee, for example, has already planned a hearing next month featuring the first public testimony of former Office of Legal Counsel chief Jack Goldsmith. A one-time administration stalwart, he became convinced that Gonzales and other administration officials were breaking the law in eavesdropping on conversations of U.S.

SCHLOZMAN'S NOT DONE

In my rush to leave town on Thursday, I missed this letter Pat Leahy sent to Brad Schlozman about his missing homework:

Dear Mr. Schlozman:

According to news reports, you have confirmed that you resigned last week from the Department of Justice. Yet, the Judiciary Committee is still waiting for your responses to written questions from Committee Members following your June 5 testimony at the Committee's hearing on "Preserving Prosecutorial Independence: