

PRAISING BY DAMNED FAINTNESS: THE NSAS, SOSS, AND SODS WHO DIDN'T ENDORSE CHUCK HAGEL

Ever since this letter, in which a bunch of former Directors of Central Intelligence—but not Poppy Bush—came out against torture investigations, I've been more interested in who doesn't sign these endorsement letters than who does.

For example, did you notice that Harold Koh did not vouch for John Brennan's respect for the rule of law the other day, even though his counterpart at DOD, Jeh Johnson, did?

The same is true of this letter—signed by a bunch of former National Security Advisors and Secretaries of Defense and State in support of Chuck Hagel's nomination to be Defense Secretary.

Here's who did endorse:

Hon. Madeleine Albright, former
Secretary of State

Hon. Samuel Berger, former National
Security Advisor

Hon. Harold Brown, former Secretary of
Defense

Hon. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former
National Security Advisor

Hon. William Cohen, former Secretary of
Defense

Hon. Robert Gates, former Secretary of
Defense

Hon. James Jones, former National
Security Advisor

Hon. Melvin Laird, former Secretary of Defense

Hon. Robert McFarlane, former National Security Advisor

Hon. William Perry, former Secretary of Defense

Hon. Colin Powell, former Secretary of State and National Security Advisor

Hon. George Shultz, former Secretary of State

Hon. Brent Scowcroft, former National Security Advisor

Which leaves—in addition to currently serving Tom Donilon, Leon Panetta, and Hillary Clinton—these non-endorsers:

Stephen Hadley

Condi Rice (both NSA and State)

Anthony Lake (Lake directs UNICEF right now, which may preclude such endorsements)

~~Frank Carlucci (both NSA and Defense Secretary)~~ [Update: Thanks to Justin Raimundo for correcting me—while Carlucci did not sign this letter, he did sign a LTE in support of Hagel]

John Poindexter

William Clark (NSA for Reagan)

Richard Allen (NSA for Reagan)

Henry Kissinger (both NSA and State)

Donald Rumsfeld

Dick Cheney

James Schlesinger

James Baker III

Jeebus, White House, get on your game! You want people to vote for Hagel? Release the list of all the corporatist warmongers who didn't endorse Chuck Hagel. Hagel may not be my first choice, but there is no clearer praise than the list of non-endorsers Hagel has racked up.