

“IT SMELLS LIKE A COVER-UP”

The most interesting tidbit from John Rizzo's appearance before HPSCI yesterday is that Rizzo reported lawyers within CIA admitting the 9/11 Commission would probably want to see the torture tapes. If lawyers within CIA recognized the Commission wanted the tapes, then surely George Tenet did. But he declined to mention the tapes to the Commission. No wonder he lawyered up recently.

SHORTER RIZZO TO RODRIGUEZ: WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TESTIFY, I WILL SCREW YOU

Jose Rodriguez, with help from Bob Bennett, tried to exonerate himself in the WaPo today. But John Rizzo, whom Rodriguez seems prepared to claim authorized the destruction, apparently had none of it during his testimony before HPSCI today.

STEPHEN CAMBONE COLLECTS ON HIS HANDIWORK WITH CIFA

I've long suspected that the GOP has used the Counter-Intelligence Field Activity (CIFA) as a

way to spy on domestic enemies even while making their friends rich. CIFA is the organization that collected information on both Jesus' General and Quakers, then stuck it into a database without requisite privacy protections. And then, when Congress and the Carol Lam started focusing on CIFA, its database on private citizens got quickly disappeared.

THE DUBIOUS TIMELINE FROM PINCUS' LOVE LETTER TO BOB BENNETT

I've already ranted about how irresponsible it was for Walter Pincus and Joby Warrick to publish Bob Bennett's statement on behalf of Jose Rodriguez on the same day that John Rizzo testifies before Congress. Nothing like assisting the obstruction of an ongoing investigation. But now that I've done my ranting (and enjoyed the sun), here is the dubious timeline offered in Pincus and Warrick's article.

THE WHITE HOUSE RESPONSE ON BACKUP TAPES

The CIO of the White House Office of Administration pulls off a masterful feat: she claims that the White House should have all emails on its backup tapes, even while she's admitting that it may well be missing the emails

from March 2003 to October 2003.

A CHEAP PLOY TO AVOID GIVING TESTIMONY, JOSE RODRIGUEZ

Today's article from Joby Warrick and Walter Pincus answers a lot of questions we've been asking about the torture tapes—the biggest being that the tapes were stored and destroyed in Thailand. And it has a lot of interesting details. But its evident, overriding purpose, is to allow Jose Rodriguez and John Rizzo to coordinate stories before the latter testifies before Congress today.

CIA INSPECTOR GENERAL: WE NEVER HAD ANY TORTURE TAPES!

The CIA has responded to the ACLU's motion to hold them in contempt for destroying evidence ACLU had FOIAed. Their entire response relies on the technicalities by which OIG avoided taking possession of the torture tapes.

THEY REALLY DON'T WANT US LEARNING ABOUT THE TORTURE TAPES, DO THEY?

Surprise surprise. Bob Bennett is advising his client, Jose Rodriguez, not to tell Congress about how and why and when he destroyed the torture tapes unless they give him immunity. And Judge Kennedy has decided that he's not all that worried about the government destroying torture tapes in spite of orders not to do such things.

We're not going to find out more details about the torture tapes anytime soon.

IT'S MORE THAN JUST WHETHER THE E-MAILS ARE ON THE BACK-UPS

The judge ordering the White House to reveal whether the 10 million missing emails are on the backup tapes asked for more than that. He asked for enough information to begin to determine whether it's JUST the missing emails that aren't on the backup tapes.

JOHN YOO COMPLAINS, "I AM TRAPPED ON A

PLANE IN ALL OF THIS BAD WEATHER”

Poor John Yoo. Apparently now he’s trapped. Or, as his lawyer said, faced with “nothing more than a political rant disguised as a lawsuit.” I know you’re all crying for him.

I’m a little bit late to posting about the lawsuit, on the behalf of Jose Padilla and his mother, against the guy who rationalized his torture, John Yoo.