

THE “EMBARRASSMENT PRIVILEGE”

We’ve got to start calling these refusals to testify what they are—because they surely aren’t executive privilege. With Sara Taylor’s plea to avoid testifying because she admires—and apparently took a vow to—Bush it’s not executive privilege because she didn’t speak to him about the USA firings. But we might call her refusal to testify the “I love me my Prezident privilege”—because that’s about as serious as the legal discussion behind it

THE GUY WHO FAILED POINTS FINGERS

ThinkProgress had a piece the other day about Stephen Hadley visiting the Hill and blaming the military for the failure in Iraq.

Two weeks ago, Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN) shifted his position on Iraq in a speech on the Senate floor, where he called for a reduction of the U.S. military presence. After the speech, National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley attempted to “calm Republican waters” over Iraq with a visit to the Hill, but his efforts

AQ KHAN’S ON THE LOOSE

Does it bother anyone that—at a time when Pakistan’s Interior Ministry is raising concerns about the Taliban taking over significant chunks

of Pakistan, the father of Pakistan's nuke program is on the loose? [Thanks to Mimikatz for the spelling correction.]

Authorities have eased the virtual house arrest imposed on A.Q. Khan, the disgraced scientist who sold Pakistan's nuclear secrets to Iran, North Korea and Libya, officials said Monday.

[snip]

However, two senior government officials told the

PFIAB AND OVP

I'd like to point out a teeny detail in the report that Henry Waxman cites as his source that OVP isn't providing IS00 with information about OVP's classification and declassification activities:

PFIAB and OVP did not report data through the SF 311 to IS00 this year. This report, therefore, does not include any data from these two entities.

It was not just OVP that blew off IS00 in 2003.

POPE KEEPS BLAIR OUT OF HEAVEN BECAUSE OF IRAQ

Via Cannonfire, I see that Pope former-Nazi has finally done something worthwhile with his position: he told the Poodle that God meant it about that commandment that, Thou shalt not kill.

Tony Blair yesterday used his last official foreign engagement before leaving office to tell Pope Benedict he wanted to become a Roman Catholic, a Vatican source said last night.

But, in talks lasting more than half an hour, the outgoing Prime Minister was left

CHENEY'S METHOD

There's a remarkable paragraph close to the start of Barton Gellman and Jo Becker's story on Cheney today:

Cheney is not, by nearly every inside account, the shadow president of popular lore. Bush has set his own course, not always in directions Cheney preferred. The president seized the helm when his No. 2 steered toward trouble, as Bush did, in time, on military commissions.

RUMMY'S PLAUSIBLE DENIABILITY

INTERNECINE SQUABBLES, TEN MONTHS LATER

THE LATEST FROM SSCI

LURKING DICK