
Arraignments, Indictments, Investigations, Oh My! *The GOP's Week of Disarray – October 21, 2005*

Bush's Supreme Court Pick Struggling

Miers' Meetings with Senators Going Poorly and Will Be Cancelled. "Harriet Miers -- whose courtesy calls with senators in their Capitol Hill offices have been more chaotic than courteous -- has finished the tour, the White House has told congressional aides. ... The meetings have been fraught with misunderstandings and disagreements, giving ammunition to detractors, both liberal and conservative, that Miss Miers is in over her head. 'No one is walking out of these meetings thinking they've just met with a star,' a Republican Judiciary staffer said yesterday." [[Washington Times](#), 10/21/05]

DeLay Booked and Arraigned

Former GOP House Majority Leader DeLay Booked in Texas on Money Laundering Charges. "Former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, surrendered to authorities in Houston yesterday, the last step before his scheduled appearance today in Austin to formally hear the conspiracy and money-laundering charges leveled against him last month. DeLay, 58, who relinquished his post as U.S. House majority leader after being indicted, was photographed and fingerprinted during the proceedings in Houston before being released on \$10,000 bond." [[Seattle Times](#), 10/21/05]

CIA Investigation & the Bush Administration Conspiracy to Silence Critics

Investigators Now Focused on Cheney. "A special counsel is focusing on whether Vice President Dick Cheney played a role in leaking a covert CIA agent's name, according to people familiar with the probe that already threatens top White House aides Karl Rove and Lewis Libby. The special counsel, Patrick Fitzgerald, has questioned current and former officials of President George W. Bush's administration about whether Cheney was involved in an effort to discredit the agent's husband, Iraq war critic and former U.S. diplomat Joseph Wilson, according to the people." [[Bloomberg](#), 10/17/05]

Bush "Rebuked" Rove Over Plame Leak in 2003. An article in the [New York Daily News](#) said that, "An angry President Bush rebuked" Rove "two years ago for his role in the Valerie Plame affair." [[New York Daily News](#), 10/19/05]

- **Bush Previously Said He Didn't Know If His Staff Had Leaked Plame's Name; Promised to Fire Anyone Who Leaked Her Name.** The account given by the [New York Daily News](#) contradicts Bush's previous statements on the matter. In September 2003, Bush claimed, "I don't know of anybody in my administration who leaked classified information. If somebody did leak classified information we'll take the appropriate action." And, later in June 2004, when Bush was asked specifically whether he would fire a staff member who leaked Plame's name, Bush said simply, "Yes." [[Houston Chronicle](#), 7/19/05]

Rove Becoming Liability; Rove a No-Show at Virginia and Connecticut Fundraisers and Hudson Institute Speech, After His Fourth Appearance Before Grand Jury. Presidential advisor Karl Rove cancelled his speech at the Hudson Institute on October 11th. He also called of an appearance before a Fairfax County Republican Committee breakfast last Saturday, only one day after appearing for the fourth time before a grand jury investigating the leaking of the identity of a covert CIA agent. Replacing Rove was RNC Chairman Ken Mehlman who addressed the audience in Tyson's Corner, VA. Later that week, Rove scrapped plans to attend a Republican National Committee fundraiser in Greenwich, CT, where Lynne Cheney spoke in his place. [[Washington Post](#), 10/17/05; [AP](#), 10/17/05]

Bush's Second Term Agenda

Bush Agenda Struggling On All Fronts. "Some Republicans are lamenting President Bush's 'lost year' and wondering if he can salvage his agenda. Vice President Cheney is giving pep talks to White House staffers as supporters brace for the possible indictments of Bush's top adviser and Cheney's chief of staff. Bush and his team have had difficult days before, but the autumn of his fifth year in the White House finds him in his worst slump ever. A USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup Poll released Monday found that just 39% approve of the job he's doing, the lowest rating of his political career." [[USA Today](#), 10/21/05]