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29 May 2008

VIA FEDEX AIRBILL 8618-8908-1747

Congressman Robert Wexler
2241 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-3001

Subject 1: Scott McClellan Testimony Before House Judiciary Committee
Subject 2: Representative Christopher Shays Testimony Before House Judiciary Committee

Dear Congressman Wexler:

Thank you very much for executing your Constitutional duty to effect check-n-balance oversight of the Executive branch. I say this specifically because I was recently told by a senior member of the Senate that Congress plays no such role. I was rebuffed during a telephone conversation by a senior member of that senator's staff who declared that "*Congress is not here to second guess the other branches.*"

I sincerely applaud your requirement that ex White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan testify before the House Judiciary Committee. The focus of your demand includes the issue of the criminal outing of Valerie Plame by the White House following the reports by former Ambassador Joe Wilson.

I had written about these very issues, and have attached a sample from the August 26, 2004 edition of the Ithaca Journal, "What the Boss Wanted to Hear?" Pasted here is the Shays quote on *Larry King Live* that is relevant to Subject 2 above:

"It was clear that the White House was relying on Shays to divert attention from its role in the leaking of national security information to the news media. Shays was coy during much of the program, but eventually became animated and lost his composure.

Shays agreed that the leaking of Ms. Wilson's CIA identity by the White House was a direct threat to national security. But when he was forced to concede that the truthful uranium reports had motivated the White House to attack Wilson, Shays blurted the following: 'The bottom line was, it wasn't what the White House may have wanted to hear or what I wanted to hear.' "

In this context I encourage you to subpoena Rep. Shays to the House Judiciary Committee, place him under oath, and provide him with the opportunity to dutifully explain his quote on *Larry King Live*; a quote which occurred PRIOR to the then-unexpected Judge Hogan ruling of August 10, 2004 to proceed with the Wilson/Plame trial.

Respectfully,

Paul V. Sheridan

Courtesy copy list:

Senator Carl Levin (D-MI)
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Rep. Christopher Shays (R-CT)
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What the boss wanted to hear?

PAUL V. SHERIDAN

GUEST COLUMNIST

Prior to the Bush Administration's invasion of Iraq, George Tenet, former head of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, proclaimed that acquiring intelligence that proved that Saddam Hussein had purchased uranium for use in nuclear weapons would be a "slam dunk."

President Bush claimed in his January 2003 State of the Union address the infamous 16 words, "The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa."

Was this statement merely a mistake, as some now claim? Or was the "slam dunk" the result of a fundamental incompetence of the current commander-in-chief?

Before we answer that question, we need to present a context that is all too prevalent in American management practices. From public institutions like the White House, to large private corporations, politics abound.

For more than 20 years I have worked for some of the world's largest corporations. It was not uncommon in my corporate



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For more than 20 years I have worked for some of the world's largest corporations. It was not uncommon in my corporate experience for the boss to proclaim an answer to a question before all the facts were known. It was then not uncommon for the staff to interpret the boss's proclamation as marching orders.

I sometimes got into hot water when I stated facts that my bosses "did not want to hear."

I am not alone in this context.

Former U.S. Ambassador Joe Wilson was guilty of presenting facts that were not consistent with his bosses' marching orders. His bosses were George W. Bush and Dick Cheney.

In Wilson's case the White House had already decided that it was going to war against Iraq. Their crucial proclamation was Hussein's alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. In early 2002, when British intelligence claimed that Hussein was purchasing uranium for use in nuclear warheads, Wilson was dispatched to the region to confirm the facts.

Unfortunately, Wilson never got the message about which facts the White House wanted to hear, and which facts would get him into hot water. His reports to the White House refuted the British allegations about Saddam and uranium.

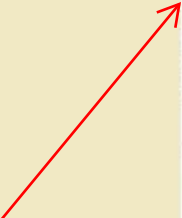
Wrong answer Joe!

The Wilson scandal was lead-story on the May 3 airing of CNN's Larry King Live. During the program Wilson reviewed his book, "The Politics of Truth: Inside the Lies that Led to War and Betrayed My Wife's CIA Identity."

The book describes the torrid consequences of not telling the White House what it wanted to hear about Saddam. Also interviewed were Rep. Jane Harman, D-Calif. and Rep. Chris Shays, R-Conn. The statements made by Shays put the Wilson affair, if not the Iraq war, into its true context.

It was clear that the White House was relying on Shays to divert attention from its role in the leaking of national security information to the news media. Shays was coy during much of the program, but eventually became animated and lost his composure.

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In other words, Wilson had disobeyed his marching orders.

I have written to Shays about his statements. My letters do not contain what Shays wants to hear: That some taxpayers are paying close attention! My letters were ignored until a recent federal ruling on the leak investigation.

On Aug. 10 Judge Thomas Hogan ruled that the news reporters who had relied on White House informants regarding the CIA identity of Ms. Wilson must testify at the grand jury. Now I am receiving polite telephone voice mails from Shays' staff.

Hopefully the source or sources inside the Bush Administration that leaked the "holy of holies" (the identity of CIA operatives) will be brought to justice.

It must be remembered that this whole Iraq quagmire comes to us from an administration that made campaign promises of restoring "honesty and morality to the White House."

The bottom line is, the Wilson disagreement with the slam dunk "wasn't what the White House wanted to hear."

In retaliation, the White House informants and its Republican Party supporters in the media sent a chilling message to Wilson, his wife, and anyone else who would question the White House bosses.

My personal reaction to Shays' statement was that he was telling the truth: The Wilson report wasn't what the White House wanted to hear. Republican Representative Doug Bereuter recently said, "Left unresolved for now is whether intelligence was intentionally misconstrued to justify military action."

All of this is very alarming because it suggests that, in terms of management competence, President Bush is unfit as commander-in-chief.

Sheridan, a former Ithaca resident, lives in Dearborn, Mich.

For more information on the Wilson scandal, visit the following Web sites:

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Sheridan, a former Ithaca resident, lives in Dearborn, Mich.

For more information on the Wilson scandal, visit the following Web sites:

Larry King Live transcript for May 4, 2004: www.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0405/03/lkl.00.html

President Bush's Iraq War announcement:

www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/03/20030319-17.html

President Bush's January 28, 2003 State of Union address:

www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/01/20030128-19.html



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REPRESENTING THE 19TH DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 28, 2008

Contact: Josh Rogin

Phone: (202) 225-3001

Wexler: McClellan Must Testify Under Oath Before House Judiciary Committee

Former White House Aide's Revelations Make Out Case for Obstruction of Justice by Rove and Libby in Valerie Plame Case

(Washington, DC) Today Congressman Robert Wexler (D-FL) called for former White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan to appear before the House Judiciary Committee to testify under oath regarding the devastating revelations made in his new book on the Bush Administration's deliberate efforts to mislead the American people into the Iraq War.

"The admissions made by Scott McClellan in his new book are earth-shattering and allege facts to establish that Karl Rove and Scooter Libby – and possibly Vice President Cheney - conspired to obstruct justice by lying about their role in the Plame Wilson matter and that the Bush Administration deliberately lied to the American people in order to take us to war in Iraq. Scott McClellan must now appear before the House Judiciary Committee under oath to tell Congress and the American people how President Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney, Karl Rove, Scooter Libby, and White House officials deliberately orchestrated a massive propaganda campaign to sell the war in Iraq to the American people."

"The allegations by this former top White House aide – that Rove and Libby deliberately coordinated their stories in order to obstruct justice in the Plame case, that the President deliberately disregarded contradictory evidence related to Iraq, should outrage every American and Congress must respond by initiating immediate aggressive oversight starting with an appearance by McClellan before the House Judiciary Committee. Any continued obstruction by this Administration to prevent White House officials from appearing before Congress cannot be tolerated by this Congress in the face of these shocking revelations."

Congressman Wexler has led a nationwide campaign in favor of holding impeachment hearings for Vice-President Dick Cheney. Congressman Wexler is Chairman of the Europe Subcommittee and a senior member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Judiciary Committee.

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