

INTIMIGATE

The recent story of the Bush Administration leaking classified information in an effort to defame a WMD report is just the latest in a well-established pattern. A look at the historical record shows that the Bush Administration has summarily fired, intimidated and defamed anyone who has had the courage to tell the truth about Iraq. In fact, the Iraq policymakers who have remained in the White House are largely those who parsed and distorted intelligence and misled the American people.

LINDSEY FIRED FOR TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT COSTS

“Top White House adviser Larry Lindsey [was fired] when he told a newspaper that *an Iraq war could cost \$200 billion.*”
- Christian Science Monitor, [12/17/02](#)

ZINNI FIRED FOR TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT FOREIGN POLICY

“General Anthony Zinni, a retired Marine general who was Bush's Middle East mediator, angered the White House when he told a foreign policy forum in October that Bush had far more pressing foreign policy priorities than Iraq and suggested there could be a prolonged, difficult aftermath to a war. *He was not reappointed as Mideast envoy.*”
- Associated Press, [7/27/03](#)

TROOPS THREATENED FOR TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT COMBAT IN IRAQ

“*None of us that wear this uniform are free to say anything disparaging about the secretary of defense, or the president of the United States.* Whatever action may be taken, whether it's a verbal reprimand or something more stringent, is up to the commanders on the scene.”
- Gen. John Abizaid, commenting after soldiers in Iraq criticized the Bush Administration for misleading them, [7/16/03](#)

REPORTER DEFAMED FOR TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT DISGRUNTLED TROOPS

“*A White House operative alerted cyber-gossip Matt Drudge to the fact that [ABC News correspondent Jeffrey] Kofman is not only openly gay, he's Canadian.* Drudge said he was unaware of the ABC story until ‘someone from the White House communications shop tipped me to it’...White House press secretary Scott McClellan tried to be nonchalant, indicating that he wasn't planning an investigation of the incident.”
- Washington Post, [7/18/03](#) and [7/20/03](#)

GENERAL DISPARAGED FOR TELLING TRUTH ABOUT TROOP LEVEL NEEDS

Despite the fact that it appears he was probably accurate, “Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz *criticized the Army's chief of staff, Gen. Eric Shinseki,* after Shinseki told Congress in February that the occupation could require ‘several hundred thousand troops.’ Wolfowitz called Shinseki's estimate ‘wildly off the mark.’”
- USA Today, [6/3/03](#)

CIA BLAMED FOR TELLING TRUTH ABOUT BOGUS IRAQ-NUCLEAR CLAIM

Despite the CIA having made advance objections to the White House about the false Iraq-Nuclear claim, “*President Bush and his national security adviser yesterday placed full responsibility on the Central Intelligence Agency* for the inclusion in this year's State of the Union address of questionable allegations that Iraq's Saddam Hussein was trying to buy nuclear weapons.”
- Washington Post, [7/12/03](#) and [7/14/03](#)

CIA OPERATIVE EXPOSED BECAUSE HUSBAND TOLD TRUTH ABOUT IRAQ

According to government sources, “Administration *officials leaked the name of an undercover CIA officer* to a journalist after her husband, former U.S. ambassador Joseph C. Wilson IV, publicly challenged President Bush's claim that Iraq had tried to buy uranium ore from Africa. ‘Clearly, it was meant *purely and simply for revenge,*’ a senior official said of the alleged leak.”
- Washington Post, [9/28/03](#)

BACKGROUND: INTELLIGENCE LEAKS

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH ON LEAKS

“The *president does have very deep concerns about anything that would be inappropriately leaked* that could in any way endanger America's ability to gather intelligence information, and even that could harm our ability to maintain sources and methods and anything that could interfere with America's ability to fight the war on terrorism.”

- White House spokesman Ari Fleischer, [6/21/02](#)

DID PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH LEAK CLASSIFIED INFO?

“Bob Woodward said the president gave two reporters 90 minutes, *often speaking candidly about classified information*. . . Woodward said, ‘Certainly Richard Nixon would not have allowed reporters to question him like that. Bush's father [former President George Bush] wouldn't allow it. Clinton wouldn't allow it.’”

- Bob Woodward interview after completing his book about the 9/11 White House, [4/10/02](#)

PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH ON LEAKS

“I have nothing but contempt and anger for those who betray the trust by exposing the names of our sources. They are, in my view, *the most insidious of traitors*.”

- President George H.W. Bush, [4/26/99](#)

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE DONALD RUMSFELD ON LEAKS

“Leaks put people's lives at risk. I think that people in any branch of government have an obligation to manage their mouths in a way that does not put lives at risk. Folks that leak and put people's lives at risk *ought to be in jail*.”

- Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, [2/13/03](#)

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN ON LEAKS

“The Congress has carefully drafted this bill so that it focuses only on those who would transgress the bounds of decency; not those who would exercise their legitimate right of dissent. This carefully drawn act recognizes that *the revelation of the names of secret agents adds nothing to legitimate public debate over intelligence policy*.”

- President Ronald Reagan, 6/23/82, upon signing legislation criminalizing the exposing of undercover intelligence agents

ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN ASHCROFT ON LEAKS

“*Leaks of classified information do substantial damage to the security interests of the nation*.”

- Attorney General John Ashcroft, [12/11/01](#), upon creating a task force to investigate government leaks

THE NEED FOR A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

“You know, *a single allegation can be most worthy of a special prosecutor*. If you're abusing government property, if you're abusing your status in office, it can be a single fact that makes the difference on that.”

- John Ashcroft, 10/4/97, CNN Evans and NOVAK

“President George W. Bush has no plans to ask his staff members whether they played a role in revealing the name of an undercover CIA officer.”

- Washington Post, [9/29/03](#)

CONTRADICTING QUOTES

The Bush Administration has claimed that it does not think it is possible to find the person who leaked classified information and compromised national security within the small confines of the White House. This is in stark contrast to the Administration's rhetoric when it talks about finding Osama bin Laden, Al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein in the vast expanse of the Mideast and Central Asia:

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION ON FINDING OSAMA BIN LADEN AND AL QAEDA IN CENTRAL ASIA:

“We're going to hunt them down one at a time...it doesn't matter where they hide, as we work with our friends we will find them and bring them to justice.”

- President George W. Bush, 11/22/02

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION ON FINDING SADDAM HUSSEIN IN THE MIDEAST:

“We are continuing the pursuit and it's a matter of time before [Saddam] is found and brought to justice.”

- White House spokesman Scott McClellan, 9/17/03

THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION ON FINDING THE LEAKER IN THE CONFINES OF THE WHITE HOUSE:

“I don't know if we're going to find out the senior administration official. I don't have any idea.”

- President George W. Bush, 10/7/03

CONSERVATIVES ON INTIMIGATE

SEN. CHUCK HAGEL (R-NE)

“[The President] has that main responsibility to see this through and see it through quickly, and that would include, if I was president, sitting down with my vice president and asking what he knows about it.”

- CNBC, 10/1/03

“This is a serious national security matter. ..We complicate it by trying to bring politics in it. I don’t think the RNC chairman should be talking about it. These are national security issues.”

- CBS Face the Nation, 10/5/03

SEN. JOHN ASHCROFT (R-MO)

“[W]hen abused as a delaying tactic or to protect unofficial acts, [executive] privilege in its distorted form becomes an unacceptable impediment to the public's right to know.”

- Congressional Record, May 13, 1998

SEN. ARLEN SPECTER (R-PA)

“I think a law was broken, and I think that there ought to be a very tough penalty when we apprehend the perpetrator.”

- CNN, 10/5/03

SEN. PAT ROBERTS (R-KS)

“I think it took them a little long” to begin the investigation.

- [LA Times](#), 10/6/03

HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER TOM DELAY (R-TX)

“The public has the right to know about actions in the White House and the American people have the right to know when and why the president is invoking executive privilege...No man is above the law.”

- AP, May 14, 1998

FMR. HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER DICK ARMEY (R-TX)

“There's only so many people that should have that information if it's classified. Let's start getting their feet in the fire.”

- CNBC, 10/1/03

WILLIAM KRISTOL

The leak “revealed an administration at war with itself.” This “civil war in the Bush administration has become crippling. The CIA is in open revolt against the White House. The State Department and the Defense Department aren’t working together at all.” He suggests that “a head or two has to roll.”

- [The Weekly Standard](#), 10/13/02

THE NEED FOR A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

ATTORNEY GENERAL JOHN ASHCROFT

“A single allegation can be most worthy of a special prosecutor. If you're abusing government property, if you're abusing your status in office, it can be a single fact that makes the difference on that.”

- 10/4/97 on CNN's Evans and NOVAK

“One of the reasons there is an independent prosecutor is they don't want the politics of the Congress involved in this decision-making.”

- 7/19/98, Both Sides with Jesse Jackson

SEN. BILL FRIST (R-TN)

“The reason we have this whole special counsel entity is to remove conflict of interest. It's important, if you're looking at the executive side, not to have the Department of Justice investigating the executive side.”

- Chattanooga Free Press, 3/21/97: regarding campaign finance investigation

SEN. LINDSEY GRAHAM (R-SC)

“Any time you have an attorney general asked to investigate their boss, you've got a conflict of interest. So you need a mechanism to allow an investigation of high government official to occur that will have credibility.”

- Evans, NOVAK, Hunt and Shields, 2/13/99. Roll Call reported on [9/30/03](#) that Graham opposed a special counsel to investigate classified leaks at the Bush White House

SEN. DON NICKLES (R-OK)

“Frankly, she's months late, if not almost a year late. She should have begun the independent counsel process some time ago.”

- Fox News Sunday, 09/21/97

SEN. ORRIN HATCH (R-UT)

“There's a conflict of interest for the attorney general. She should request the appointment of an independent counsel right now.”

- “Meet the Press” 9/21/97

“Both prudence and the American people's ability to have confidence that the investigation remains free of a conflict of interest warrants the appointment of an independent counsel.”

- Congressional Record, 3/14/97: regarding campaign finance investigation

“To the extent that any prosecutor is accountable to the executive branch, there inevitably will be pressure not to investigate and prosecute aggressively scandals at the highest levels of government – an inherent conflict of interest.”

- The Independent Counsel Statute and Questions about Its Future, LAW & CONTEMPORARY PROBLEMS (Winter 1999): academic article on Independent Counsel Statute

SEN. ARLEN SPECTER (R-PA)

“The fundamental purpose of appointing an independent counsel was to have someone in charge who was not allied with the administration, not beholden to the administration, and not motivated in any way to favor the administration.”

- Congressional Record, 9/16/97: regarding campaign finance investigation

SEN. TRENT LOTT (R-MS)

“Where you have the possibility of the appearance of conflict of interest within the administration, you should go to independent counsel.”

- Face the Nation, 03/02/97: regarding campaign finance investigation

Senator Lott said that an independent counsel is warranted where there are “allegations of illegal activity by high up officials that meet certain criteria in the administration, or conversely, where there is the appearance of the potential of conflict of interests from the attorney general, Justice Department with administration officials.”

- Press Conference, 3/6/97: regarding campaign finance investigation

SEN. ROBERT BENNETT (R-UT)

“The reason we have an independent counsel operation is because the Attorney General is indeed subject to pressure from the White House.”

- Congressional Record, 3/19/97: regarding campaign finance investigation

SEN. CHUCK HAGEL (R-NE)

“Criminal investigations should be taken out of politics. Prosecuting wrongdoing should be done without regard to politics. The Attorney General needs to appoint an independent counsel now.”

- Congressional Record, 3/17/97: regarding campaign finance investigation

REP. HENRY HYDE (R-IL)

“The pressure, the divided loyalty, are too much for any man and as honorable and conscientious as any individual might be, the public could never feel entirely easy about the vigor and thoroughness with which the investigation was pursued. Some outside person is absolutely essential. Words to live by.”

- Judiciary Committee testimony, 10/15/97