

REAL HISTORY BLOG

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TUESDAY, JULY 03, 2007

Scooter Libby's Pardon and 9/11

Scooter Libby's pardon begs the question of what he would have talked about had he been truly faced with prison. Whatever it was, it was important enough for Bush to grant Libby a last-second reprieve so he wouldn't have to go to jail.

I thought back to something I had tripped upon a while ago, something that involved Libby, which happened on September 10, 2001, the day before the twin towers were struck.

On the CNN site, in a timeline available from [this page](#), I found this stunning entry:

SEPTEMBER 10, 2001 A CIA plan to strike at al Qaeda in Afghanistan, including support for the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance, is given to the White House. Sen. Dianne Feinstein asks for a meeting with Vice President Dick Cheney. The California Democrat is told that Cheney's staff would need six months to prepare for a meeting.

When I read this, I was stunned on two levels.

First, read that again. The CIA was going to do BEFORE 9/11 exactly what it did AFTER 9/11 - strike at al Qaeda in Afghanistan. Since we hadn't been attacked yet, 9/11 provided a nifty justification for this plan.

But second, Feinstein is a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, a group that works closely with intelligence agencies and--ostensibly--provides oversight of intelligence activities. (I say ostensibly because the committee does not know of, and therefore has no option to approve or disapprove all intelligence activities). How could it be that, as the 9/11 Commission report states, when the "system was blinking red" on a possible terrorist attack on the country, and ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee comes to say hey, something serious is afoot and we need to talk, the VP's office could blow off Feinstein by saying they couldn't review her plans for *six months*?

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Curious, I called Senator Feinstein's office and asked, is it normal for the VP to blow off a meeting with Senator Feinstein for six months? The four people I spoke to in her office all said and did the same thing. They said no, that's not usual, what is this about? I said this is about the Senator's 9/10 visit to Cheney, the day before 9/11. At this, each staffer got nervous and transferred me to the next person. None of them would even confirm that this conversation had transpired, but in the end, I found it on a [press release](#) on Feinstein's senate site:

I was deeply concerned as to whether our house was in order to prevent a terrorist attack. My work on the Intelligence Committee and as chair of the Technology and Terrorism Subcommittee had given me a sense of foreboding for some time. I had no specific data leading to a possible attack.

In fact, I was so concerned that I contacted Vice President Cheney's office that same month to urge that he restructure our counter-terrorism and homeland defense programs to ensure better accountability and prevent important intelligence information from slipping through the cracks.

Despite repeated efforts by myself and staff, the White House did not address my request. I followed this up last September 2001 before the attacks and was told by 'Scooter' Libby that it might be another six months before he would be able to review the material. I told him I did not believe we had six months to wait.

This just begs the question. Did Scooter Libby know what was going to happen? Did he know just how busy they really would be over the next six months due to the coming attack the next day? It's hard not to see that as a possibility.

I was particularly interested that it was [I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby](#) who put Feinstein off. Libby was one of the co-signers to the seminal document, "[Rebuilding America's Defenses](#)," from the [Project for a New American Century](#) (PNAC). In contrast to [JFK's call](#) that we seek a true peaceful co-existence with other countries, rather than a "pax Americana," the PNAC report calls for just that - ensuring a pax Americana. This is the same report that said,

...the process of transformation, even if it brings revolutionary change, is likely to be a long one, absent some catastrophic and catalyzing event - like a new Pearl Harbor.

That quote gave rise to the notion that perhaps 9/11 was made or allowed to happen

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by the government as an excuse to get us back into a war. We know now that the administration tried hard to make that war one in Iraq, despite the fact that no evidence from 9/11 linked Iraq to the attack in any way. And the CIA already had plans to strike Afghanistan (as the CNN site showed) so instead we made a great show of taking down the Taliban, even as we let Osama Bin Laden slip through our fingers at Tora Bora.

We had pinpointed OBL's location by radio. We could absolutely have picked him up. Several friends of mine in the black ops world have told me repeatedly that we've known where OBL was at all times. A man in Hollywood was approached by a CIA operative to do a documentary of the secret tailing of OBL. So it's not like we can't find him.

And if we weren't picking him up, why? Could it be because ties between his actions and those of our intelligence community might raise disturbing questions about 9/11? An intelligence asset told me of a friend of his that had just come back from handing OBL a wad of cash. "For attacking us, or so he wouldn't attack us again," I asked, but got (predictably) no response.

We know now too that not only were there no weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in Iraq, but, as the [Downing Street Memo](#) tells us, that Team Bush *knew* there were no weapons, and were deliberately falsifying intelligence to justify an attack on Iraq anyway.

When Ambassador Joe Wilson tried to tell us intelligence was being falsified to justify the march to Iraq, what happened? [Scooter Libby talked to Judith Miller](#) of the *New York Times* about the fact that Valerie Plame, Wilson's wife, was a covert CIA operative. Six days later, Robert Novak reveals this fact in a column that essentially broke the law by revealing the identity of a covert source.

I believe that Libby's blowing off of Feinstein on the 10th should be investigated. Why did he tell her it would be six months before they could review her proposal when such a timeframe was utterly out of keeping re a request from a high profile Senator to the Vice President? I can't help but wonder if the pardon is intended, in part, to keep Libby silent on that point.

POSTED BY REAL HISTORY LISA AT 1:10 PM - [PERMANENT LINK](#) -

11 COMMENTS:

Magmak1 said...

I misplaced my "I am not worthy" emoticon, so a tip of the cap will have to do.

3:37 PM

Anonymous said...

[Bush asks Daschle to limit Sept. 11 probes](#)

January 29, 2002 Posted: 9:26 PM EST (0226 GMT)

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- President Bush personally asked Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle Tuesday to limit the congressional investigation into the events of September 11, congressional and White House sources told CNN.

The request was made at a private meeting with congressional leaders Tuesday morning. Sources said Bush initiated the conversation.

He asked that only the House and Senate intelligence committees look into the potential breakdowns among federal agencies that could have allowed the terrorist attacks to occur, rather than a broader inquiry that some lawmakers have proposed, the sources said

Tuesday's discussion followed a rare call to Daschle from Vice President Dick Cheney last Friday to make the same request.

"The vice president expressed the concern that a review of what happened on September 11 would take resources and personnel away from the effort in the war on terrorism," Daschle told reporters.

Next there is a power shift in the Senate..

[Max Cleland](#) and

[Paul Wellstone](#) ..

thus assuring no serious investigation into any of these events.

5:23 PM

[Real History Lisa](#) said...

And don't forget how [American weapons-grade anthrax](#) was sent to Tom Daschle (and Patrick Leahy - another strong opponent of the war) in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

7:17 PM

[Real History Lisa](#) said...

Ah, Magmak1! Thanks for that. We're all worthy, those of us who care, share, and fight for the truth. The others are just lucky to have us around. Remember that!

7:40 PM

Dawn Meredith said...

Very interesting about Daschle. Scare him into being silent.

Thanks to the internet at least half of the public believe 9-11 was a conspiracy.

(Tho Fetzer is lacking on many answers, for example the planes in PA and DC, where they went. He ignored that question). So our educators on what really may have happened on 9-11 must stick with common sense. Real science can overcome the writers at Popular Mechanics. I have not believed the cover story for years now.

But our representatives will never really investigate this any more than they REALLY inverstigated the assassinations.

7:00 AM

Anonymous said...

Hasn't most of this been obvious from day one?

Wake up you fucking idiots. It's time to do something about it.

12:19 PM

Bill Bergman said...

Consider this story in light of the fact that the decision to commute Libby's sentence was reviewed by White House Counsel Fred Fielding. Curiously, Fred Fielding was also on the 'independent, bipartisan' 9/11 Commission.

11:52 PM

Real History Lisa said...

Fielding is one of the guys who truly knows the skeletons in the national closet. He liaised with Jim Angleton's counterintelligence unit at CIA during Watergate (see the CIA's Family Jewels report, printed page 583). He was also suspected of being "Deep Throat," during Watergate, Mark Felt's not-so-believable "confession" notwithstanding.

I don't believe in extraordinary rendition and torture. But if I did, Fielding would be someone worth sweeping off and questioning with extreme prejudice. I can hear the skeletons in our national closet rattling in fear at the very thought.

5:30 AM

Real History Lisa said...

Pardon- in my previous comment I meant to say Fielding liased with CI during the Nixon administration - not necessarily during the Watergate period per se.

5:37 AM

Anonymous said...

More on [Mark Felt](#) and Scooter Libby.

1:06 PM

Anonymous said...

Cannonfire connects Libby - Rich to the Iran-contra October Surprise..

Getting Rich

2:52 PM

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"If you look for the social-economic motive, you will not have to wait for history to tell you what was propaganda and what was truth." - George Seldes

