

Santa Clara County  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY

# The Democratic Party:

Honoring Those Who Protect America's Security

For Political Revenge, Bush White House Blew CIA Covert Agent's Cover

"George Bush... can't find Osama bin Laden,  
he can't even find the leaker in his own White House."

Presumptive Democratic Presidential Nominee John Kerry

[Remarks at the Iowa Jefferson-Jackson Dinner](#), November 15, 2003

[For Telling Americans The Truth, The Bush Administration Exacted Political Revenge](#)

"I have no idea whether we'll find out who the leaker is."

George W. Bush

"Bush Doesn't Know Whether Leaker Will be Caught"

[Boston Globe](#), October 7, 2003

"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

[At the Dedication Ceremony for the George Bush Center for Intelligence](#)

April 26, 1999

Former Republican Majority Leader, Dick Armev:

[Bush White House CIA Leak Scandal: 'A Cowardly Act of Revenge'](#)

"Somebody in the White House ... decided they needed to get even with Ambassador Wilson, leaked something on the ambassador's wife, caused all kinds of -- an uproar around here that's got the White House in bad trouble. Now, there was no reason to tell the world about the ambassador's wife. It was just a shortsighted, self-centered, simple-minded cowardly act of revenge... The Bush White House...thought they were getting even."

Former House Majority Leader Dick Armev (R-TX)

[\[CNN Late Edition, 10/19/03\]](#)

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[JOHN KERRY: BETRAYAL OF OUR TRUST 'BEYOND THE PALE AND UNACCEPTABLE'](#)

"Under this Administration, the Credibility Gap is growing every day. We need change and new leadership that Americans can believe in again. And that's what we will bring."

U.S. Senator John Kerry

Presumptive Democratic Presidential Nominee

[Press Release](#) March 16, 2004

## [FOR TELLING AMERICANS THE TRUTH, THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION EXACTED POLITICAL REVENGE](#)

In 2002, both the CIA and Bush's own Ambassador to Niger, Joseph C. Wilson, definitively debunked the Administration's myth that Iraq had attempted to purchase yellowcake uranium from Niger. Wilson was the last top U.S. diplomat in Iraq at the time of the Gulf War, a former Ambassador to Gabon, head of African Affairs under President Clinton, and a career foreign service officer. His intimate knowledge of Iraq and Africa provided the requisite expertise for this CIA investigation.

Almost a year after the CIA and Bush's Ambassador to Niger reported that a sale from Niger to Iraq was "highly doubtful," George W. Bush perpetuated the falsehood to the American people to convince Americans he had justification to go to war with Iraq.

In his 2003 State of the Union Address, Bush stated the following 16 words he knew or should have known were false. It is a president's job to know fact from fiction -- or at least surround himself with experts who do.

"The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa."

— George W. Bush

Courageously, Joseph C. Wilson -- the man who conducted the CIA investigation -- publicly exposed the Administration's betrayal of truth to the American people. News accounts have since reported the Bush Administration relied on forged documents as the basis for its claim.

To exact political revenge, the Bush White House apparently deliberately revealed the identity of Wilson's wife, a career CIA operative who is an intelligence agent on weapons of mass destruction. Under the Intelligence Identities Protection Act of 1982, it is a felony to intentionally disclose the identity of covert agents.

The Bush Administration's political revenge jeopardizes Valerie Plame's life and the lives of every CIA operative associated with her over the course of her career. By committing this felony offense, the Bush White House also exposed the front company, Brewster Jennings, Plame was using. In exposing Brewster Jennings, the Bush Administration blew the cover of other agents and destroyed critical national security networks these agents established throughout many years.

Of course, the White House leak ended Ms. Plame's career. Ms. Plame, a covert agent, was one of America's most important CIA operatives gathering intelligence on weapons of mass destruction. This malicious White House leak wasted Americans' tax dollars invested in Ms. Plame's expertise and network.

It wasn't foreign enemies who deliberately harmed America's intelligence community -- it was the Bush White House. The Bush Administration exacted political revenge against former Ambassador Wilson solely because he had the courage to tell the truth to the American public. The Bush White House behavior in the CIA leak scandal is outrageous and unacceptable. Americans deserve a President whose administration emanates basic American values of civility and decency and which is respectful and faithful to those who protect our nation's security.

## TIMELINE:

### THE WHITE HOUSE POSSIBLY COMMITTING A FELONY TO EXACT POLITICAL REVENGE

Feb. 2002	Dick Cheney's Office Concerned About Iraq's Alleged Attempt To Buy Yellowcake Uranium CIA Investigates Cheney's Concern Bush's Ambassador To Niger Already Wrote Reports Debunking Cheney's Concerns
March 2002	CIA Investigation Concludes No Evidence To Support Allegation Against Iraq
Sept. 2002	British 'White Paper' Published Claim: Iraq Attempted To Purchase Uranium From African Country
Dec. 2002	U.S. State Department Published Fact Sheet And Mentioned Niger Case
Jan. 2003	George W. Bush Tells Americans Iraq Tried To Purchase Uranium From African Country
July 6, 2003	New York Times Publishes Wilson's Op-Ed "What I Didn't Find In Africa"
July 7, 2003	White House Admits 16-Word Mistake in 2003 State Of The Union Address
July 14, 2003	Republican Columnist Novak Outs Wilson's Wife As A CIA Operative
July 22, 2003	Wilson Goes Public: White House Attempts To Intimidate
July 2003	CIA Filed "Crime Report" With Justice Dept., Outing CIA Operative Is A Federal Offense Justice Department To CIA: "Are You Sure?"
Mid-Sept. 2003	CIA To Justice Dept.: Yes, Novak Column Released Unauthorized Info
Sept. 29, 2003	Two Top Gov't Officials Called At Least 6 Journalists And Disclosed Plame's Identity Democratic Congressman Waxman (CA) Requested Investigation Into Bush's Handling Of Leak
Sept. 30, 2003	Democratic Leaders Demand Special Counsel To Investigate White House CIA Leak Scandal White House To Democrats: "NO!" Bush's Justice Department Begins Investigation Of Bush Administration Leak Scandal
Oct. 7, 2003	Bush White House Censors Documents In Administration's CIA Leak Criminal Investigation Democrats Demand An Independent Criminal Investigation Of White House CIA Leak
Oct. 12, 2003	Investigators Expand Criminal Probe To Events One Month Prior To Novak's Column
Dec. 30, 2003	Ashcroft Finally Heeds Democratic Leaders' Demand For An Impartial Criminal Investigation
Jan. 5, 2004	Bush White House Doesn't Release Reporters From Confidentiality Agreements
Jan. 19, 2004	Grand Jury Hears Testimony In White House CIA Leak Criminal Proceeding
Feb. 2004	Hard Evidence Points To Cheney's Chief Of Staff And Other Cheney Staff Members
March 6, 2004	Grand Jury Investigation Into Bush White House Leaks Begins, Subpoenas "News Briefing" Transcript
April 2004	Heeding Democratic Congressman Waxman's September 2003 Request, Prosecutors Expand Inquiry To Examine Whether White House Lied Or Mishandled Classified Information
May 2004	Wilson Names Cheney's Key Staff as Possible Sources of Leak
June 2004	Prosecutors Question Cheney: What did he know? When did he know it? Prosecutors Question Bush: What did he know? When did he know it?

For more information, see the Democratic National Committee's Report: "[The Bush Leak Scandal: A Short-Sighted, Self-Centered, Simple-Minded Cowardly Act](#)"

- Feb. 2002 Dick Cheney's Office Concerned About Iraq's Alleged Attempt to Buy Yellowcake Uranium  
Dick Cheney's office had concerns about a memorandum of agreement allegedly documenting Niger's attempted sale of uranium yellowcake to Iraq. Requests CIA investigation. ["What I Didn't Find in Africa," Joseph C. Wilson New York Times July 6, 2003]
- CIA Investigates Cheney's Concern  
To provide a response to the vice president's office, CIA recruited career foreign service officer and former Ambassador Joseph C. Wilson to investigate White House allegations. ["What I Didn't Find in Africa," Joseph C. Wilson New York Times July 6, 2003]
- Bush's Ambassador to Niger Already Wrote Reports Debunking Cheney's Concerns  
Bush's Ambassador Barbro Owens-Kirkpatrick, US Envoy to Niger told Wilson "that she knew about the allegations of uranium sales to Iraq — and that she felt she had already debunked them in her reports to Washington." ["What I Didn't Find in Africa," Joseph C. Wilson, New York Times, July 6, 2003]
- Feb/March 2002 CIA Investigation Concludes No Evidence to Support Allegation Against Iraq  
Ambassador Wilson concluded there was no evidence to support the allegation. Iraq had attempted to purchase yellow cake uranium from Niger. He briefed U.S. Ambassador Owens-Kirkpatrick, provided a detailed briefing to the CIA, and shared his conclusions with the State Department of African Affairs Bureau. ["What I Didn't Find in Africa," Joseph C. Wilson New York Times July 6, 2003]
- Sept. 2002 British 'White Paper' Published Claim: Iraq Attempted to Purchase Uranium From African Country  
"The British government published a "white paper" asserting that Saddam Hussein and his unconventional arms posed an immediate danger. As evidence, the report cited Iraq's attempts to purchase uranium from an African country." ["What I Didn't Find in Africa" Joseph C. Wilson New York Times July 6, 2003]
- Dec. 2002 U.S. State Department Published Fact Sheet and Mentioned Niger Case  
"...[I]n December, a month before the president's address, the State Department had published a fact sheet that mentioned the Niger case." ["What I Didn't Find in Africa" Joseph C. Wilson New York Times Op-Ed July 6, 2003]
- Jan. 2003 George W. Bush Tells Americans Iraq Tried to Purchase Uranium from African Country  
In spite of no evidence to support the allegation, George W. Bush told the American public in his 2003 State of the Union address that Iraq had attempted to purchase uranium from an African country. The Bush Administration had access to the truth for almost an entire year. Yet, Bush still said the following 16 words, which are patently false.
- "The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa."  
— George W. Bush  
[2003 State of the Union Address](#)
- July 6, 2003 New York Times Publishes Wilson's Op-Ed "What I Didn't Find in Africa"  
Ambassador Wilson wrote the Op-Ed article, "What I Didn't Find in Africa," published by the *New York Times*. Wilson accused the Bush Administration of exaggerating the intelligence on Iraqi weapons programs in order to justify its case for war.
- "Based on my experience with the administration in the months leading up to the war, I have little choice but to conclude that some of the intelligence related to

Iraq's nuclear weapons program was twisted to exaggerate the Iraqi threat".  
["What I Didn't Find in Africa [New York Times](#) July 6, 2003]

- July 7, 2003 White House Admits 16-Word Mistake in 2003 State of the Union Address  
"On July 7, the White House admitted it had been a mistake to include the 16 words about uranium in Bush's State of the Union speech." ["Probe Focuses on Month Before Leak to Reporters" [Washington Post](#) October 12, 2003]
- July 14, 2003 Republican Columnist Novak Outs Wilson's Wife as a CIA Operative  
Republican Columnist Robert Novak published column "Mission to Niger" that identifies Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame, as a CIA operative on weapons of mass destruction.  
  
"[Former Ambassador] Wilson never worked for the CIA, but his wife, Valerie Plame, is an Agency operative on weapons of mass destruction."  
  
Novak's column cites "two senior administration officials." Revealing the name of an undercover operative is a felony offense. ["Mission to Niger" [Townhall.com](#) July 14, 2003]
- July 22, 2003 Wilson Goes Public: White House Attempts to Intimidate  
Ambassador Wilson says the revelation of his wife's identity was "an attempt to intimidate others like him from talking about Bush administration intelligence failures."  
  
"It's a shot across the bow to these people, that if you talk we'll take your family and drag them through the mud as well,' he said [Wilson] in an interview." ["Columnist Blows CIA Agent's Cover" [Newsday](#) July 22, 2003]
- July 2003 CIA Filed "Crime Report" with Justice Dept., Outing CIA Operative Is A Federal Offense  
"Senior intelligence officials said . . . that the CIA filed what they termed a 'crime report' with the Justice Department in late July, shortly after syndicated columnist Robert D. Novak, citing two unnamed administration sources, identified Wilson's wife by name. The CIA report pointed to a 'possible violation of federal criminal law involving the unauthorized disclosure of classified information.'" ["Bush Vows Action if Aides Had Role in Leak" [Washington Post](#) September 30, 2003]  
  
Bush's Justice Department to CIA: "Are You Sure?"  
"Justice replies with queries about whether the agency is sure the disclosure is a violation of the law." ["Justice Department Begins Probe of CIA Leak" [USA Today](#) September 30, 2003]
- Mid-September, 2003 CIA to Justice Dept.: Yes, Novak Column Released Unauthorized Info  
"The CIA, in response to the Justice queries, says the information in the Novak column was not authorized for release and could not have come from a source outside the government." ["Justice Department Begins Probe of CIA Leak" [USA Today](#), September 30, 2003]
- Sept. 29, 2003 Two Top Gov't Officials Called At Least 6 Journalists and Disclosed Plame's Identity  
"A senior administration official told The [Washington] Post . . . that two top government officials called at least six Washington journalists and disclosed the identity and occupation of Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame" prior to the publication of the Novak column. ["Media Review Conduct After Leak" [Washington Post](#) September 29, 2003]

Democratic Congressman Waxman (CA) Requested Investigation into Bush's handling of Leak  
"Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., the top Democrat on the House Government Reform Committee, requests an investigation into the Bush administration's handling of the leak. Several other Democrats call on Attorney General John Ashcroft to appoint an independent counsel to investigate." ["Justice Department Begins Probe of CIA Leak" [USA Today](#) September 30, 2003]

Sept. 30, 2003

Democratic Leaders Demand Special Counsel to Investigate White House CIA Leak Scandal.  
"Democratic leaders demanded the administration appoint a special counsel to investigate the charges that a CIA operative's name was divulged in an effort to discredit her husband, a prominent critic of Bush's Iraq policy." ["Bush Vows Action if Aides Had Role in Leak" [Washington Post](#) September 30, 2003]

"The track record of John Ashcroft and this Justice Department do not adequately assure Americans that legitimate questions will be answered fully without any political bias."

Presumptive Democratic Presidential Nominee John Kerry  
["Justice Department Begins Probe of CIA Leak" [USA Today](#) September 30, 2003]

White House to Democrats: "NO!" "The White House rejected those calls..." ["Bush Vows Action if Aides Had Role in Leak" [Washington Post](#) September 30, 2003]

Bush's Justice Department Begins Investigation of Bush Administration Leak Scandal  
"The Justice Department launched a criminal investigation into who leaked the name of a clandestine CIA officer, and President Bush directed his White House staff on Tuesday to cooperate fully. The president's request came a day after his spokesman denied White House involvement in the leak." ["Justice Department Begins Probe of CIA Leak" [USA Today](#) September 30, 2003]

Oct. 7, 2003

Bush White House Censors Documents In Administration's CIA Leak Criminal Investigation  
"In an unprecedented move, 'White House lawyers will review phone logs and other records supplied by presidential aides before turning the documents over to the Justice Department officials conducting the investigation into who leaked a CIA undercover operative's identity,' officials said." ["Bush Aides Will Review Leak Notes" [Dallas Morning News](#) October 7, 2003]

Democrats Demand an Independent Criminal Investigation of White House CIA Leak  
"To allow the White House counsel to review records before the prosecutors would see them is just about unheard of in the way cases are always prosecuted," said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., speaking on NBC's *Today* show. 'And the possibility of mischief, or worse than mischief, is very, very large.'" ["Bush Aides Will Review Leak Notes" [Dallas Morning News](#) October 7, 2003]

Oct. 12, 2003

Investigators Expand Criminal Probe To Events One Month Prior To Novak's Column  
"FBI agents investigating the disclosure of a CIA officer's identity have begun by examining events in the month before the leak, when the CIA, the White House and Vice President Cheney's office first were asked about former ambassador Joseph C. Wilson IV's CIA-sponsored trip to Niger, according to sources familiar with the probe." ["Probe Focuses on Month Before Leak to Reporters" [Washington Post](#), October 12, 2003]

Oct. 22, 2003

Ashcroft Betrayed Word that CIA Criminal Investigation is Free of Political Hindrance  
"Ashcroft and his aides have stressed repeatedly that the department's career attorneys are being left to run the investigation free of political hindrance." ["Democrats Eye Ashcroft's Role in CIA-Leak Inquiry" [New York Times](#) October 22, 2003]

“Attorney General John Ashcroft's top aides have briefed him regularly on key details in the investigation into the disclosure of a CIA officer's identity, including the identities of those interviewed by the FBI, a senior Justice Department official told members of Congress.” [“Democrats Eye Ashcroft's Role in CIA-Leak Inquiry” [New York Times](#) October 22, 2003]

Dec. 30, 2003

Ashcroft Finally Heeds Democratic Leaders' Demand for An Impartial Criminal Investigation

“After months of resisting Democratic demands that he step aside from the investigation into who in the Bush administration leaked the identity of a CIA agent, Attorney General John Ashcroft abruptly recused himself ... from any further oversight of the case, and his deputy immediately appointed a special prosecutor to take over.” [“Ashcroft Steps Aside in Probe into CIA Leak” [Boston Globe](#) December 31, 2003]

Jan. 5, 2004

Bush White House Doesn't Release Reporters from Confidentiality Agreements

“Bush...won't say whether he'll ask staffers to release reporters from confidentiality agreements. Signing such confidentiality waiver forms could persuade reporters to disclose their confidential sources. That might help investigators find out if a Bush administration official leaked the name of Valerie Plame, an undercover CIA officer, to syndicated columnist Robert Novak in July.” [“Bush Tells Staff to Cooperate on CIA Leak” [USA Today](#) January 5, 2004]

Jan. 19, 2004

Grand Jury Hears Testimony in White House CIA Leak Criminal Proceeding

A grand jury in Washington, D.C. begins hearing testimony in the CIA Leak criminal case. [“Grand Jury Hears Plame Case” [Time Magazine](#) January 22, 2004]

Feb. 2004

Hard Evidence Points to Cheney's Chief of Staff and Other Cheney Staff Members

“Federal law-enforcement officials said that they have developed hard evidence of possible criminal misconduct by two employees of Vice President Dick Cheney's office related to the unlawful exposure of a CIA officer's identity last year. The investigation, which is continuing, could lead to indictments, a Justice Department official said.”

“According to these sources, John Hannah and Cheney's chief of staff, Lewis "Scooter" Libby, were the two Cheney employees. “We believe that Hannah was the major player in this,” one federal law-enforcement officer said.” [“Hard Evidence' Shows Cheney's Staff Outed CIA Operative” [Capitol Hill Blue](#) February 6, 2004]

March 6, 2004

Grand Jury Investigation into Bush White House Leaks Begins, Subpoenas “News Briefing” Transcript

The grand jury investigating the illegal leak subpoenaed a transcript of a news briefing that showed White House officials had begun trying to discredit Joseph Wilson even before the July 14 Novak column. “In the subpoenaed

July 12 transcript of the briefing in Nigeria, then-press secretary Ari Fleischer called Wilson a ‘lower-level official’ and said Wilson had made flawed and incomplete statements.” [Transcript: “Bush Staff Went After Ambassador” [Chicago Tribune](#) March 6, 2004]

April 2004

Heeding Democratic Congressman Waxman's September 2003 Request, Prosecutors Expand Inquiry to Examine Whether White House Lied or Mishandled Classified Information

“Prosecutors ... have expanded their inquiry to examine whether White House officials lied to investigators or mishandled classified information related to the case...”

“Republican lawyers worried that the leak case... might grow into an unwieldy, time-consuming and politically charged inquiry, like the sprawling independent counsel inquiries of the 1990s, which distracted and damaged the Clinton administration.”

“The White House last year took the unusual step of specifically denying any involvement in the leak on the part of several top administration officials, including Karl Rove, President Bush's senior adviser, and I. Lewis Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff.” [“Probe Into Leak of CIA Agent's ID Expanding White House Statements Now at Issue” [San Francisco Chronicle](#) April 2, 2004]

May 2004

Wilson Names Cheney's Key Staff as Possible Sources of Leak

“Former Ambassador Joseph C. Wilson IV ... believes the White House official behind the disclosure of his wife's identity as an undercover C.I.A. officer was 'quite possibly' I. Lewis Libby, Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff... Mr. Wilson does not limit his suspicions to Mr. Libby. He says another person whose name 'has most often been repeated to me' is Elliott Abrams. Mr. Abrams is a former official in President Ronald Reagan's administration who became embroiled in the Iran-contra affair and now works in the National Security Council.” [“Former Envoy Talks in Book About Source of C.I.A. Leak” [New York Times](#) April 30, 2004, *emphasis added*]

June 2004

Prosecutors Question Cheney: What did he know? When did he know it?

“Investigators questioned Vice President Dick Cheney recently in the probe of who in the Bush administration leaked the name of a covert CIA operative last year, a source familiar with the investigation said.” [“Investigators Interviewed Cheney Recently OverLeak” [USA Today](#) June 5, 2004]

Prosecutors Question Bush: What did he know? When did he know it?

“Bush was interviewed by government prosecutors Thursday in connection with the federal investigation of who leaked the name of an undercover CIA operative to the news media.” [“Bush Interviewed in Gov't CIA Leak Probe” [ABC News](#) June 24, 2004]



## NOVAK KNEW, "INTIMIGATE," AND MORE

### Leaks – Novak Knew Leak Would Jeopardize Intelligence Sources And Methods

"The *American Prospect* reports '[t]wo government officials have told the FBI that conservative columnist Robert Novak was asked specifically not to publish the name of undercover CIA operative Valerie Plame in his now-famous July 14 newspaper column.' The officials warned Novak 'that by naming Plame he might potentially jeopardize her ability to engage in covert work, stymie ongoing intelligence operations, and jeopardize sensitive overseas sources.' The new accounts 'directly contradict public statements made by Novak.' Want to hold Novak accountable? Check out [www.bustbob.com](http://www.bustbob.com)." [Center for American Progress February 13, 2004]

### "Intimidate" -- Former Intelligence Officers Demand Inquiry

"The [*Washington Post*] reports that 'a group of former intelligence officers is pressing Congressional leaders to open an [immediate inquiry](#) into the disclosure last summer of the name of an undercover C.I.A. officer, Valerie Plame.' The letter 'reflects discontent and unrest within the intelligence services about the affair, along with concern that a four-month-old Justice Department investigation into the matter may never identify who was behind the disclosure.' The leaking of Plame's identity is 'viewed within spy circles as an unforgivable breach of secrecy that must be exhaustively investigated and prosecuted.'" [Center for American Progress January 22, 2004]

### Suddenly There Is Urgency

"While it took the White House just 24 hours to launch an investigation into O'Neill, it took them months to launch an inquiry into the [leak of a CIA agent's name](#). As blogger [Josh Marshall](#) notes, 'Number of days between Novak column outing Valerie Plame and announcement of investigation: 74 days. Number of days between O'Neill *60 Minutes* interview and announcement of investigation: 1 day. Having the administration reveal itself as a gaggle of hypocritical goons ... priceless'." [Center for American Progress January 13, 2004]

### "Intimidate" – Time To Cooperate

"Sen. Charles Schumer (D-NY) sent a letter to the White House, exhorting the Administration to 'require staffers to [cancel reporter confidentiality agreements](#) so the journalists might tell investigators whether a Bush administration official leaked a CIA operative's name.' Instead of actively pursuing who in the White House breached security and endangered Valerie Plame, the White House has thus far stonewalled. Schumer 'argued that the White House staff has only 'partially cooperated' with Justice Department investigators by turning over phone and e-mail records.' The move would not be unprecedented: 'In the late 1990s when Republican congressional leaders were looking into whether White House officials were leaking information about members of Congress, then White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles informed news organizations that the White House was waiving all confidentiality rights regarding such leaks.'" [Center for American Progress January 7, 2004]

### Toensing's Change Of Heart

"Conservative pundit Victoria Toensing floated the scenario that the Justice Department could 'conclude that administration officials disclosed the woman's name and occupation to the media but still committed no crime because they did not know she was an undercover operative.' Toensing dismissed the leak as potentially 'typical Washington talk' that could not '[even begin to qualify as a dirty trick](#).' But in 2001, in an editorial in the WP [Washington Post] about the leaking of the contents of a federal wiretap relating to the investigation of former Senator Robert Torricelli, entitled '[They Call It a Leak. I Call it a Crime](#),' Toensing had a different perspective. In that piece she asserted that 'any time the disclosure is a felony...the policy is to conduct a concerted effort to find the lawbreaker.' She warned that 'if a leaker is never caught – and has no fear of being caught – there is no discomfort in leaking.' Toensing concluded that 'the leak must be investigated fully if the law has any meaning' and 'if that requires subpoenaing a reporter's phone records, so be it'." [Center for American Progress January 5, 2004]

### Calling Novak's Bluff

"Toensing's theory is based on Robert Novak's assertion that his use of the word 'operative' in his column didn't mean he knew that Valerie Plame was undercover. Appearing on *Meet the Press*, Novak said that he uses 'the word too much [and] if somebody did a Nexus search of my columns they'd find an overuse of 'operative.' Blogger [Josh Marshall called Novak's bluff](#)."

Marshall did a Nexus search of all the times that Novak used the phrase 'CIA operative' or 'agency operative' and found that 'in each case Novak used the phrase to refer to someone working in a clandestine capacity' Conversely, Marshall found that when Novak referred to a known CIA official he used the phrase 'CIA analyst or agency analyst.' (Questions: Even if one assumes that the leaker didn't know that Plame was undercover, why are there people in the White House who know the names of covert CIA operatives but don't know they are covert? Who told those people about Valerie Plame? Even if the direct leaker to Novak didn't know, didn't the original leaker commit a crime?)" [[Center for American Progress](#) January 5, 2004]

## DEMOCRATS -- NOT REPUBLICANS -- HELD HEARING ON SECURITY BREACH

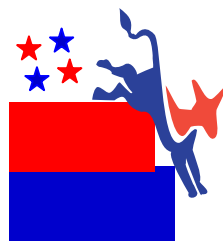
"The Senate Democratic Policy Committee ... [held hearings](#) to look into the security breach caused by the White House leak of the identity of an intelligence operative. According to Sen. Tom Daschle, 'Just as there is unanimity in the importance of human intelligence, Democrats and Republicans agree publicly disclosing the identities of these assets cause great harm.' However, as Sen. John Rockefeller said, the president has been 'rather tepid' and 'detached' from the process of tracking down the security breach in his office. The committee heard from former CIA operatives Jim Marcinkowski, Larry Johnson and Vince Cannistraro. Cannistraro claimed the leak of Valerie Plame's name was a 'dirty trick' undertaken to 'undermine and trash Ambassador [Joe] Wilson,' as well as 'demonstrate...contempt for CIA by bringing Valerie's name into it.'" [[Center for American Progress](#) October 31, 2003]

## JOHN KERRY: BETRAYAL OF OUR TRUST 'BEYOND THE PALE AND UNACCEPTABLE'

*"To undermine our intelligence efforts and to risk the lives of our agents is beyond the pale and unacceptable. We learned in the last days the extent to which someone in a powerful position in his Administration, bent on revenge, endangered Ambassador Joe Wilson's wife because her husband had committed the great crime of telling the truth. Outing a CIA agent endangers lives, threatens national security and breaks faith with those who put their lives on the line to protect this country."*

Democratic Presumptive Nominee John Kerry  
[Winning the Peace in Iraq](#)  
September 30, 2003

## The Democratic Party: Honoring Those Who Protect America's Security



**Santa Clara County  
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