

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/07/04

THE RUSH LIMBAUGH SHOW 05/07/04

RUSH: And greetings folks. And welcome to the Rush Limbaugh program. Let's go to the Senate hearing room. Hecklers are giving it to Rumsfeld at this moment. The Libs got their people in there. Let's JIP it. Go ahead.

REPORTER: – protestors in the audience there, in the Senate hearing room, where the Defense Secretary of the United States –

RUSH: Well, I can tell you better about this. They're moving them out. There's a bunch of people stood up and started shouting, "Fire Rumsfeld! Fire Rumsfeld! Fire." In the middle of his opening statement. We'll get back to that when he continues. The Rush Limbaugh program and the EIB Network.

You know, these people look like protesters. They look like people who have been waiting since the Vietnam War in order to get going again. How'd they get in there? Anyway, here's Rumsfeld. He's resumed.

RUMSFELD: – photos that depict instance of physical violence towards prisoners, acts that can only be described as blatantly sadistic, cruel, and inhuman. Second, there are many more photographs and indeed some videos. Congress and the American people and the rest of the world need to know this.

In addition, the photos give these incidents a vividness, indeed, a horror in the eyes of the world. Mr. Chairman, that's why this hearing today is important. It's why the actions we take in the days and weeks ahead are so important. However, because the terrible – however terrible the setback, this is also an occasion to demonstrate to the world the difference between those who believe in democracy and in human rights, and those who believe in rule by terrorist code.

We value human life. We believe in individual freedom and in the rule of law. For those beliefs, we send men and women of the Armed Forces abroad to protect that right for our own people and to give others who aren't Americans the hope of a future of freedom. Part of that mission, part of what we believe in is making sure that when wrongdoing or scandal do occur, that they're not covered up, that they're exposed, they're investigated, and the guilty are brought to justice.

RUSH: Yeah, like Monica.

RUMSFELD: Mr. Chairman, I know you join me today in saying to the world, judge us by our actions, watch how Americans, watch how –

RUSH: Boost it up.

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RUMSFELD: – a democracy deals with wrongdoing and with scandal, and the pain of acknowledging and correcting our own mistakes and our own weaknesses. And then, after they have seen America in action, then ask those who teach resentment and hatred of America if our behavior doesn't give the lie to the falsehood and the slander they speak about our people and about our way of life. Ask them if the resolve of Americans in crisis and difficulty. And yes, in the heartbreak of acknowledging the evil in our midst, doesn't have meaning far beyond their hatred.

Above all, ask them if the willingness of Americans to acknowledge their own failures before humanity doesn't light the world as surely as the great ideas and beliefs that made this nation a beacon of hope and liberty for all who strive to be free. We know what the terrorists will do. We know they will try to exploit all that is bad and try to obscure all that is good. That's their nature. And that's the nature of those who think they can kill innocent men, women, and children to gratify their own cruel wills to power. We say to the world we will strive to do our best, as imperfect as it may be. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

WARNER: Thank you, Mr. Secretary. You and I have had the privilege to know each other many, many years. We've enjoyed a close working relationship. I want to say I found that statement to be strong, and in every sense, heartfelt by you.

RUSH: Well, hubba-hubba.

RUMSFELD: Thank you.

WARNER: General Myers?

MYERS: Mr. Chairman and Senator Levin. I would like to express my deep regret to being here under these circumstances. The incidence of prisoner abuse that occurred at Abu Ghraib prison are absolutely appalling. The actions of those involved are unconscionable and absolutely unacceptable. Since Brigadier General Kimmitt's public announcement of the allegations back in January, the commander's response to the problems highlighted in these investigations has been timely and thorough. And just as a backdrop, we must also realize that our commanders had been handling some enormous challenges in Iraq, including the fighting that had intensified in Fallujah and al Najaf. The temporary plus-up of troops, which was a decision that was pending, and the departure of the Spanish brigade, all at the same time that you're dealing with these reports.

And despite these extraordinary events, our commanders did exactly the right thing in a timely manner. I have great confidence in them, as should the American public and the citizens of Iraq. I've been receiving regular updates since the situation developed in January and have been involved in corrective actions, and personally recommended specific threats. Again, I'm confident that the commanders are doing the right things.

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One of the military's greatest strengths comes from the fact that we hold our servicemen and women accountable for their actions. Our military justice system works very well. I took an oath to support the Constitution, and with that comes the responsibility to ensure that all military members enjoy the full protections of our Constitution, to include the due process of a fair judicial system. After all, it's respect for the rule of law that we're trying to teach and instill in places like Afghanistan and Iraq.

So as the Secretary said, we are now in the middle of a judicial process regarding detainee abuse. And because of my position, I have to be careful I don't say anything that could be interpreted as direction or pressure for a certain outcome in any of these cases. Moreover, we have to understand that a fair judicial system takes time to work. I know you all understand that.

So no one is stalling or covering up information, but it's absolutely essential to protect the integrity of our judicial system. I have complete confidence in our military justice system. The accused will receive due process. Those found guilty will receive punishments based on their offenses.

When I spoke to Dan Rather, with whom I already had a professional association, concerning the *60 Minutes* story, I did so after talking to General Abizaid. And I did so out of concern for the lives of our troops. The story about the abuse was already public, but we were concerned that broadcasting the actual pictures would further inflame the tense situation that existed then in Iraq, and further endanger the lives of coalition soldiers and hostages.

Again, it's useful to remember the context here. We were in the midst of some very heavy fighting in Fallujah and other places in Iraq. Some 90 hostages had been taken. It was a very delicate situation that we were trying to resolve. Since the story of the photographs was already public, I felt we were on good ground on asking him to hold off airing the actual photos. As we are now seeing, the photos are having a very real, very emotional worldwide impact. And I would identify myself with the Secretary's remarks on having seen more of them than I wished to have seen, about the impact that it has on – on me.

This situation is nothing less than tragic. The Iraqi people are trying to build a free and open society, and I regret they saw such a flagrant violation of the very principles that are the cornerstone of such a society. I'm also terribly sad – saddened that the hundreds of thousands of servicemen and women who are serving or who have served so honorably in Iraq and Afghanistan and elsewhere, but have their reputation tarnished and their accomplishments diminished by those few who don't uphold our military's values. I know our servicemen and women are all suffering unfairly with a collective sense of shame over what has happened.

Their credibility will be restored day by day, as they interact with the Iraqi people. And I'm confident that our dedicated servicemen and women will continue to

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prove worthy of the trust and respect of our nation and of the world. We continue to be very proud of them, as always. I thank you on their behalf for your steadfast support. Thank you.

RUSH: Well, there you have it. That's the opening statements of Secretary Rumsfeld and the Joint Chiefs Chairman. That's General Richard Myers that we have just heard. So much for security in Washington. How did those nutcases get on – I'm not talking about the senators. I'm talking about those protesters. It was kind of cool to see some nutcases in the audience and not just the Senators in there as nutcases. But there you have it, ladies and gentlemen. So the groveling is underway.

And I hate to tell you this, but you know – well, it is. And you know who started this. Can I tell you who – can I tell you why these hearings are taking place today? You want to – you want to take a stab, Mr. Snerdley, on why these hearings are taking place today? Hmmm? Hmmm? Oh! It's not the Democrats in Congress. I mean, shoot, they were going to – they were going to call for hearings at any juncture no matter what.

When the President let it be known that he had privately told Rumsfeld that he wasn't tolerating this, was that he upbraided Rumsfeld privately and then it got out, that's the blood in the water. The target of this, though, folks, I want you to understand, is George W. Bush. Rumsfeld is not the target. This is about George W. Bush. This is about the election in November. It's Open Line Friday. We'll take a brief time out and come back and get started with all the rest of today's program right after this. Stay with us.

(station break)

RUSH: Open Line Friday, and Rush Limbaugh here on the Excellence in Broadcasting Network. Do you know what that means, folks? It means that you can go outside the usual boundaries on Friday. Monday through Thursday, the program is about what I am interested in. On Friday, you can go beyond that if you wish. The e-mail address, if you want to go that way, rush@eibnet.com. And the e-mail address – or the phone number is rush@eibnet.com.

And it really is painful to see Rumsfeld go through this, because this is all such a – this is all such a trumped-up phony fraud. The sanctimony here is what gets me. I feel like I'm back during the Iran-Contra era, with this giant select committee between the House and Senate all gunning for Reagan over – over so-called abuses there. And now we're doing the same thing as always. When the Left gets involved in these things, the target is the US military and its efforts and its purpose.

This little committee here today is – has been ginned up by people who are out to destroy Rumsfeld and Bush and the war effort. And they're doing so under – under the guise of being outraged about prisoner mistreatment here, as though this is the

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absolute most shameful thing that they've ever, ever seen. And it's just got to be stopped. It is just horrible. And it's just – well, we're – let's bend over and grab the ankles and let's just let anybody do what they want with us because it's just terrible.

It's just – this is such an over-the-top display. And there may even be real cowardice in this, when you get right down to it, when you consider what we face out there, what is going on. And to make such a huge deal out of something that people have known about since last fall was really intentionally reported in January. This has been in newspapers, everything but the pictures. And the press didn't care about it, didn't do much with it when there weren't any pictures.

Now all of a sudden, the pictures have surfaced, and lo and behold, the Congress and the Senate appear upset that they weren't told last week about the existence of the pictures. They think they're being lied to. It's just – it's a – it's hard to see how this is going to improve or – or – oh, what's the word? Stimulate the war effort that is taking place. But we'll just have to – we'll just have to wait and see.

You know, I – yesterday, it's – it's sad. It's not sad. It's uncanny. I sit here, I make jokes. But one of the jokes I made yesterday was, you know, we shouldn't stop at this apology. We need to apologize to these prisoners over there personally, we need to start discussing restitution, financial aid. That's when you said, Mr. Snerdley, "What, reparations?" And I said, "No, no, no, I'm not talking reparations. We just need to compensate these people." Listen to Rumsfeld from his testimony today.

RUMSFELD: I'm seeking a way to provide appropriate compensation to those detainees who suffered such grievous and brutal abuse and cruelty at the hands of a few members of the United States Armed Forces. It's the right thing to do.

RUSH: All right, so we're – we're now going to compensate people who were in jail for obvious reasons that led them there – attempting to kill Americans, thwart our war effort – just criminals of maybe a civil sense in the streets of Iraq, but we're now going to offer to pay these people? We have offered to pay these people.

Now, I'm also – I must tell you, I – I'm – some of you people are going to think, well, Rush, you shouldn't be surprised at this. But I continue – I continue to smile and I continue to scratch my head when I hear about this.

Let's go to the *NBC Nightly News* last night. Chip Reed, a reporter, is doing a report on the uproar on Capitol Hill over the possible resignation of Rumsfeld. He's on with Brokaw. He says, "Now a backlash for many Conservative Republicans. Today during debate in the House on a resolution to condemn the Iraqi abuse, some Republicans also condemned the Democrats, accusing them of using the issue to score political points against the Bush administration."

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Then he plays DeLay saying, “Democratic leadership’s decided to take a political position and is undermining our troops in the field.” Then Reed says, “Conservative talk show host, Rush Limbaugh, is now leading the charge in accusing the media and the Democrats of hyping the Iraqi abuse story.” And he played this clip from yesterday’s show.

RUSH (on tape): Welcome to the real world. They’re not pictures of violence. They’re not pictures of death. They are not pictures of horror. I am not going to join the chorus of people who aren’t even thinking, who are just reacting with emotions –

REED: The abuse over Iraqi prisoners, a story that was initially greeted with bipartisan revulsion, now at the center of a furious political debate.

RUSH: And then last night, or yesterday afternoon on *Crossfire*, The Forehead was one there, hosting on the Left side, Paul McValley who’s now with Novak. And they had a couple of guests, Bob Wexler the Congressman from down here in Florida, a Democrat. They had Republican Eric Cantor (sp?). And The Forehead said to Canter, he said, “Congressman Canter, in the last segment you said, and I quote, ‘you have to be accountable for the words you use.’

Well, Rush Limbaugh says – (laughter) Rush Limbaugh says what happened over there was no different than a fraternity initiation. He said these guys were just blowing off some steam and having a good time. Do you endorse or condemn Rush Limbaugh’s words?”

CANTOR: I do not take lightly the incidents that occurred in Iraq. No question, the individuals responsible need to be held accountable. The President said as much –

NOVAK: But you condemn Limbaugh?

CANTER: I do not necessarily agree with what was said, no.

NOVAK: Congressman Wexler –

WEXLER: I condemn Limbaugh –

RUSH: So the question on *Crossfire* was do you condemn Limbaugh. (laughter) Now why – why on the *NBC Nightly News* and why on *Crossfire* does my name come up, and why do I have to be challenged? Don’t – don’t misunderstand – I don’t mind that I am. Don’t misunderstand that, I said, but “Do you condemn Limbaugh?” “Do you – ?” “I condemn Limbaugh!” So Wexler’s got his hand up, gets a badge of honor. He condemned Limbaugh. And then on NBC, of all the people, they could really – I mean, go out there and play highlights of, what do you think, Mr. Snerdley, what’s the reason for this? What is the reason?

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No! It's – of course – well, the '04 election, it's all politics now, but I – I'm – OK, I'm just going to tell you what I think, folks. I don't want to – I'm not going to hold back. I think the reason that I have to be condemned, and they've got play sound bites from this show and have people poo-poo it, is because it's effective. It's because there's one voice in this country that's contrary to the – to the herd, to the mentality here that has – that has picked up steam. And everybody is in that herd, and everybody's making a rush in that certain direction. And there's one voice out there which is saying, whoa, wait a minute, this is not what everybody is saying it is.

And because it is political, Mr. Snerdley – you're right, because it is political and about – well, of course they're not playing me in context. I don't care about that. The point is that they're using me because I'm the most prominent – maybe not the only, but I'm the most prominent voice that's not in this pack mentality.

And since this is political, they have got to play this voice of mine and have people refute it, and say it's not right, it's wrong, or it's condemnable, or what – or some sort of thing, proving that this is political. Because I'm not an elected official. I'm not part of the Joint Chiefs. I'm not in the command structure. I'm not in the chain of command at all. And yet, I have to somehow be condemned and discredited? It proves it's politics, folks.

(station break)

RUSH: Hi. Welcome back. Open Line Friday, Rush Limbaugh, the EIB Network. We are, I just want to give you a heads up. We're going to try to get into some other matters today besides this, but it's still Topic A. The questioning of General Myers and Rumsfeld is going on now, the grilling, the interrogation by the nut, well, the Senators there on this committee. Let's listen a little bit on the air, see how it's going.

MYERS: That prompted my call to try to delay that, because I thought those pictures, at that particular time, would have a particularly bad effect on our troops, perhaps resulting in death to our forces. I think we have a lot of troops in Iraq right now, after talking to Cal Smith and others, that are probably walking with, I mean, they're involved in combat, but they're walking with their head just a little bit lower right now, because they have to bear the brunt of what their colleagues up in Abu Ghraid did. And it's going to take, as General Schumaker said, good leadership, and everything else we can do to get to get them back up on the set because they are engaged in some very, very important work, and–

RUSH: I just don't believe that.

MYERS: I continue to think that the way we will, as I said in my statement, the way we'll win their trust will be soldier by soldier, patrol by patrol, like for winning the war over there.

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RUSH: I don't believe this.

MYERS: They're just going to have to stay at it.

SENATOR: My time has expired, Senator Levin.

RUSH: Well, this ought to be good.

LEVIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Secretary Rumsfeld—

RUSH: Ho, ho, ho.

LEVIN: I was struck upon seeing one of the photographs from the prison, depicting three naked prisoners in a lump on the floor being overseen by a number of soldiers, while other soldiers in the cell block were assisting or were going about their business without any apparent interest in, or concern about the obvious abuse of treatment. That the conduct that we were witnessing and watching was not abhorrent conduct of a few individuals, but was part of an organized and conscious process to extract information.

This picture reinforces the Taguba Report which quotes Sergeant Davis is saying that he witnessed prisoners in the military intelligence hold section, Wing 1A, being made to do various things that I would question morally, and he —

RUSH: What's the question?

LEVIN: — quoted the military intelligence folks as saying that “loosen the guy up for us. Make sure he has a bad night. Make sure he gets the treatment,” and that the “we” belonged to the military intelligence. And it appeared that personnel, military intelligence personnel approved of the abuses.

Now, in the Taguba Report itself, General Taguba says the following, and this is his finding. “That military intelligence interrogatories, and other U.S. government agency interrogatories,” which I assume includes CIA, “actively requested that MP guards set physical and mental conditions for favorable interrogation of witnesses, and that personnel assigned to the MP Company and Brigade were “directed to change facility procedures to set the conditions for military intelligence interrogations.” My question to you is, what were those changes that were made, and whether or not they were, it was proper to make changes of the kind that General Taguba refers to.

MYERS: The conclusions you seem to have drawn in your question, Senator Levin, are issues that I believe are probably all being addressed in a — in an investigation that was initiated last month, and I believe it's called The Fey. Possibly you, General Smith, have been involved in this and would want to comment.

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SMITH: Sir, there has been an investigation that was initiated in mid-April by Major General Fey, and it is to look into exactly those allegations as a result.

MYERS: All right. Secretary Rumsfeld, would you agree that people who authorized, or suggested, or prompted the conduct depicted in the pictures that we've seen, as well as those who carried out the abuses, must be held accountable? That anybody who authorized, knew about, prompted, suggested in the intelligence community or otherwise, that conduct, must be held accountable? That's my very direct question to you.

RUMSFELD: The pictures I've seen depict conduct, behavior, that is so brutal, and so cruel, and so inhumane, that anyone engaged in it, or involved in it, would have to be brought to justice.

LEVIN: Would that include anybody who suggested it, prompted it, hinted at it, directly or indirectly?

RUMSFELD: I think that was—

LEVIN: Directly or indirectly? I just want to know how far up this chain you're going to go. Are you going to limit this to people who perpetrated it, or are we going to get to the people who may have suggested it, or —

RUMSFELD: That is exactly why the investigation was initiated. That is why it's being brought forward, and we'll find what their conclusions are, and I'm sure they will make recommendations with respect to prosecution.

LEVIN: But in terms of the standard, does anybody who recommended or suggested, directly or indirectly, that conduct in order to extract information, are they also, in your judgment, if that occurred, violative of our laws and standards?

RUMSFELD: Certainly, anyone who recommended the kind of behavior that I have seen depicted in those photos, needs to be brought to justice.

LEVIN: Thank you. My time is up. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN: Senator McCain.

MCCAIN: Thank you Mr. Secretary. I come to this hearing with a deep sense of sorrow and grave concern: sorry for after shock and anger of seeing these pictures for the first time, that so many brave young Americans who are fighting and dying are under this cloud. I attended the memorial service of Pat Tillman, a brave American who sacrificed his life recently. And he and others, unfortunately, at least in some way, are diminished by this scandal. I'm gravely concerned —

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RUSH: I don't believe him.

MCCAIN: –that many Americans will have the same impulses I did when I saw this picture, and that's to turn away from them, and we risk losing public support for this conflict. As Americans turned away from the Vietnam war, they may turn away from this one.

RUSH: Amen.

MCCAIN: Unless this issue is–

RUSH: And that is the objective.

MCCAIN: –is quickly resolved, full disclosure immediately. With all due respect to investigations ongoing and panels being appointed, the American people deserve immediate and full disclosure of all relevant information, so that we can be assured and comforted that something that we never believed could happen, will never happen again. And Mr. Secretary I'd like to know, I'd like you to give the Committee the chain of command from the guards, to you, all the way up the chain of command.

RUMSFED: I think so

MCCAIN: And I'd like to know–

RUMSFELD: I think General Myers brought an indication of it, and we'll show it.

MCCAIN: Thank you. I'd like to know who was in charge of – what agencies, or private contractors, were in charge of interrogations. Did they have authority over the guards, and what were their instructions to the guards?

RUSH: (Laughter)

MCCAIN: First, with respect to the–

MYERS: We did not bring it–

MCCAIN: Oh my

MYERS: Yeah, Oh my is right.

RUMSFELD: It was all prepared.

MCCAIN: It was did.

RUMSFELD: You want to walk through it?

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MCCAIN: Well, anyway, who was in charge—

RUSH: Somebody go get it.

MCCAIN: What agency or private contractor was in charge of the interrogations? Did they have authority over the guards, and what were the instructions that they gave to the guards?

MYERS: I'll walk through the chain of command and—

MCCAIN: No, I — let's — you can submit the chain of command, please.

RUMSFELD: General Smith, do you want to respond?

MCCAIN: No. Secretary Rumsfeld, in all due respect, you've got to answer this question, and it could be satisfied with a phone call. This is a pretty simple, straight-forward question. Who was in charge of the interrogations? What agencies or private contractors who were in charge of the interrogations, did they have authority over the guards, and what were the instructions to the guards? This goes to the heart of this matter.

RUMSFELD: It does indeed. As I understand it, there were two contractor organizations. They supplied interrogators and linguists. And I was advised by General Smith that they — there were maybe a total of 40. Now, were they in charge of the interrogations?

MYERS: Thirty-seven interrogators and—

SMITH: Thirty-seven—

CHAIRMAN: The witnesses' voice is not being recorded. You have to speak into your microphone. Would you repeat the conversation and responses? Just answer his question?

SMITH: Yes sir. There were 37 interrogators that were—

MCCAIN: I'm asking who was in charge of the interrogations.

SMITH: They were not in charge. They were interrogators there.

MCCAIN: My question is who was in charge of the interrogations?

SMITH: The Brigade Commander for the Military Intelligence Brigade.

MCCAIN: And were they — did he also have authority over the guards?

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SMITH: Sir, he was, he had technical control over the guards, so he was –

MCCAIN: Mr. Secretary, you can't answer these questions?

RUMSFELD: I can. I – I thought–

MCCAIN: But we're –

RUMSFELD: I thought the purpose of the question was to try to make sure we got an accurate presentation, and we have the expert here who was in the chain of command.

MCCAIN: I think these are fundamental questions to this issue.

RUMSFELD: Fine.

MCCAIN: What were the instructions to the guards.

RUMSFELD: There's two sets of responsibilities your questions suggest. One set, the people who have the responsibility for managing the detention process, they are not interrogators. The military intelligence people, as General Smith has indicated, were the people in charge of the interrogation part of the process.

And the responsibility, as I have reviewed the matter, shifted over a period of time. And the General is capable of telling you when that responsibility shifted. What were the instructions to the guards? That is what the investigation that I have indicated has been undertaken, is determining –

MCCAIN: Mr. Secretary, that's a very simple, straight-forward question.

RUMSFELD: Well the, the – as the Chief of Staff in the Army can tell you, the guards are trained to guard people. They're not trained to interrogate, they're not – and their instructions are to, in the case of Iraq, adhere to the Geneva Conventions. The Geneva Conventions apply to all of the individuals there, in one way or another.

They apply to the prisoners of war, and they are written out, and they're instructed, and the people in the Army train them to that, and the people in the Central Command have the responsibility of seeing that, in fact, their conduct is consistent with the Geneva Convention's. The criminals, in the same detention facility, are handled under a different provision of the Geneva Convention. I believe it's the fourth, and the prior one is the third.

MCCAIN: So the guards were instructed to treat the prisoners under some kind of changing authority, as I understand it, according to the Geneva Conventions?

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RUMSFELD: Absolutely.

MCCAIN: I thank you Mr. Rumsfeld.

CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Senator.

RUSH: Cut. All right, all right. We're going to take a brief time out here, but I thought watched this, and I have a question. Who died? Who, who died here? What are we, what are we investigating? We haven't learned anything here. In fact, this is not about learning what happened, this is about these senators, well, here's Ted. We've got to listen to Ted Kennedy folks. I'm sorry, but we have to –

KENNEDY: And the catastrophic crisis of credibility for our nation. Now, since the beginning of the war, the International Committee of the Red Cross provided the Pentagon officials with resorts of abuses at this prison, saying that some of them were tantamount to torture. The issue of serious complaints during inspection of the prison in October of 2003, and at several other times.

The State Department and the Coalition Provisional Authority appealed to you to stop the mistreatment of the military detainees. Secretary Powell raised this issue at cabinet meetings and elsewhere, pleading with officials from your department, Mr. Secretary, to see that detainees were properly cared for and treated, and your department failed to act.

The military leadership put the troops in charge of the prison who weren't trained to do the job, and they assigned far too few prisoners to the prison that were required to do the job right. And they relied on the civilian contractors to perform military duty as I understand.

RUSH: All right, all right, never mind. It is not interesting to hear – We're going to take a brief time out because we have to, folks. We'll be back. We'll continue with all of this. I'm serious though, who died? You get the gravity of this is unbelievable. And the pontificating that's going on here by these supposed senators who are trying to get to the bottom of it, is nothing more than playing to the cameras, which we all knew that's what this was going to be before it began. Quick time-out. Stay with us. We'll be right back.

(station break)

RUSH: And we are back. It's Rush Limbaugh. This is Open Line Friday on the Excellence in Broadcasting Network. Would somebody tell me what do these Senators actually do and accomplish? These questions have provided us with nothing new. It's almost as though now Rumsfeld is supposed to go out and prosecute the case, and these guys are sitting there as judge and jury. McCain, as usual, all about the media. I don't even think these people are really interested in the facts here. They just want to be able to show they can push Rumsfeld around,

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and by extension, Bush. Somebody seriously tell me what these people are accomplishing right now.

Here we've got Rumsfeld and Myers. Do you know who these people are? Don Rumsfeld and General Myers, both of who've – both of whom have won two wars. They are trying to bring democracy to Iraq. They are being pummeled by a bunch of political hacks today taking an opportunity to be political in an election year. In my opinion, these Senators are making asses of themselves, but I'm prepared to be the lone voice saying "Nothing. If *Crossfire* wants to ask people to condemn me for it fine, I'll say it again. I think they're making asses of themselves."

Carl Levin asked if those responsible up the chain will be held accountable. They will be, and they are being. There was no point to the question. Ted Kennedy, one of the things he just – he wants to know what the International Red Cross – why they weren't brought into the prison? This, from the man who has oppose the liberation of 25 million Iraqis in the first place, wants to know if the International Red Cross has been brought in to examine the prisoners who are people who have tried to kill Americans. He's not worried about that. He is now worried about the treatment of Iraqi prisoners.

And we're all sitting here, all concerned now, about how we look in the world. Let me tell you how we look. We are being laughed at today in the part of the world with whom we are at war. We are being laughed at today, and we are being seen as weak and malleable. I ask again who died here? The gravity of this is overwhelming.

You know who the luckiest person in Washington, D.C. is today? Jamie Gorelick. Here is a woman who is directly in the chain of command that built a wall that prevented intelligence data from being shared so we could connect the dots that might have given some need notice to 9/11 occurring. And she's totally been blown off the radar screen here by this, which is nothing more than an attempt to target Rumsfeld to get him out of the way so we can get at Bush in an election year.

But the idea that Ted Kennedy wants the International Red Cross in there, why aren't they in there looking after these prisoners? These are people who tried to kill Americans, and he opposed the liberation of 25 million Iraqis in the first place, opposed this war. The hypocrisy here is stunning. Quick time out. We'll be back and continue. Stay with us.

(station break)

RUSH: All right folks, we have to take a top of the hour time out. Your local EIB affiliate may carry – may continue to carry some of the hearing. It's up to them individually. Some of them may be, some of them may not be, but we'll be back with the usual start of the next hour. Robert Byrd is now doing the questioning of Secretary Rumsfeld. I just have to tell you again, you know, you can see more

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hoods at a Robert Byrd birthday party 40 years ago, than you could see in those pictures coming out of the prison in Iraq. Just keep that in mind as you listen to all of this.

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RUSH: And welcome back, ladies and gentlemen. Happy to have you along. Rush Limbaugh, the all-knowing, all-caring, all-sensing, all-feeling, all-concerned, and all-disgusted Maha Rushie. It's Open Line Friday. Let's go.

ANNOUNCER: Live from the Southern Command in sunny South Florida via New York City, it's Open Line Friday!

RUSH: And here's the telephone number if you want to line up, get in order and share with us your passion today. The telephone number, 800-282-2882. The e-mail address is rush@eibnet.com. Well, the inquisition of Donald Rumsfeld continues. The bulk of it is over. We haven't learned anything new. We're not going to learn anything new because there's nothing new to learn here. There's just a bunch of excuse-making and a bunch of posturing by a bunch of senators who want to have some good sound bites for later on in their careers.

It's – I don't know, I just – I had to tell you folks, it's so sad to watch this. For – for example, Robert Byrd just concluded his questioning. And he wanted to know how we will regain our respect, meaning the country. How in the world can we possibly regain our respect?

Now the premise of the whole question offends me because I don't think we've lost – we're in the process of losing respect doing this. If we're in the – if we're in danger of – of losing respect, it's this. The people who have struck us and target us are laughing at us today over all of this. This is all being televised, you know, on Al-Jazeera today, as well as other – other Arab networks.

And I – I must take issue with something General Myers said in his opening statement. General Myers – and I realize the need – I mean, when – when you – from the executive branch, when you go up before these guys at the Senate and Congress, you have to grovel. I mean, that's the rules. You have to go up there. You have to grovel.

For example, Ted Kennedy was asking about the International Red Cross. And you know, he's asked Rumsfeld about the International Red Cross. "Why wasn't the International Red Cross there?" The same reason the local Red Cross didn't show up at Chappaquidick, Senator. What do you mean why weren't they in there? They have been in there. What do you mean, Senator? Where was the International Red Cross? You opposed the liberation of 25 million Iraqis, and now all of a sudden you're concerned about the Iraqis that are in prisons who tried to

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kill Americans? You want the International Red – that’s the answer that we all need. That’s the answer we’d all love. I don’t know if that’s the answer Rumsfeld would like to give, but I have – I have a thought or two on it.

Then you’ve got Sheets Byrd up there, you know, and – and again, I mean, this poor guy – everybody’s concerned about these pictures and all these hoods in the pictures. As I say again, my friends, you going to see more hoods at a Robert Byrd birthday party 40 or 50 years ago than you’ll see in all these pictures combined. And he’s up there asking, “When will we regain our respect? How will we regain our spect – respect?” Let me answer that for you. This is not difficult either. If a former member of the Ku Klux Klan, a group that murdered, pillaged, and terrorized for the thrill of it, can end up having a former member hailed as a great senator, then anything is possible when it comes to respect.

The General – Myers was over there saying – he said, “Well, our soldiers, it’s bad over there today. Soldiers are now walking with their heads hanging a little lower than usual because of what went on – what went on in the Abu Garib prison.” I respectfully disagree. If our soldiers are indeed walking with their heads hanging a little lower today, it’s because of this. It’s because of this – this – this overreaction, this sanctimony. And – and – and he also made mention that they’re going to be impaired a bit in doing their jobs because their heads are going to be – they’re – they’re not going to be impaired to do their jobs because their heads are hanging low. They’re going to be impaired because, my gosh, if some idiot takes a picture of something out of context and nobody understands it, they get thrown out of the military. This is going to end up tying the hands of warriors. Not just prison guards, and not just interrogators, and this and that and the other thing. It’s just – it’s just – it’s sad to see this. And it’s so predictable, and it’s – it’s so obvious what it is. It is a political move in an election year.

I got an e-mail – I want to read this e-mail to you, because some of you people – I’m sure a lot of you agree with me, but I don’t know how many of you do. As I said yesterday, my instincts have gotten me pretty far in my life. Most of the time I trust my instincts, I end up doing the right thing. And I’m just following my instincts on this. Now some of you might be outraged, some of you might upset about this, and some of you might not be, but I want to share with you an e-mail from a woman who’s from where? Ba-da-blah-da-blah-da. I’m not sure where this woman’s from. Somewhere in America. But she is – she is a woman, I think, that has this in perspective.

She said, “Mr. Limbaugh, we have it all wrong. Iraq is Vietnam, and the Democrats have been warning us about it all along. It is Vietnam, because one, like in Vietnam, we are winning the war even though the Democrats tell us we’re not. Number two, like in Vietnam, the Iraqis want freedom even though the Democrats tell us they don’t. Number three, like in Vietnam, the Democrats are using the media to fight the war for the enemy. Number four, like in Vietnam, the war can be won even though Democrats tell us it can’t. Number five, like in

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Vietnam, the Democrats use the media and the election to cripple the military command. Number six, like in Vietnam, the Democrats are trying to turn the country against our military.”

“We’ve not been listening, Mr. Limbaugh. The Democrats have not been comparing Iraq to Vietnam. They’ve been telling us all just how they’re going to fight against this war and how they’re going to run this election. Maybe we should agree with the Democrats for once and point out to the world that they have done this before and that they are doing it again. We need to do something about this. Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me. Let’s not be fooled by them again.”

So her theory is, hey, let’s just – let’s agree with them, OK? Yeah, we know exactly what you guys are doing, and here’s what it is. Instead of arguing with them about Vietnam, say yeah, yeah, you’re doing exactly now what you did in Vietnam.

Speaking of which, let me hear audio sound bite number one. And by the way, by the way, folks, in case you were not able to hear portions of this program in the previous hour because your local EIB affiliate was going wall-to-wall with the coverage of the hearings – we were carrying them here too, but I did take some occasional breaks for on-the-spot instant analysis and commentary. And it appears, ladies and gentlemen – just to illustrate that this is political. This has nothing to do with ego, and I want you to understand this. But just to illustrate this is political, yesterday on *Crossfire* and last night on the *NBC Nightly News*, audio sound bites of me were played on both of those programs. And on *Crossfire*, guests were asked to condemn what I had said.

Now, I understand it on one level, but let’s face it, I’m not in the military command. I’m not elected. I’m not in the government at all. I have no responsibility whatsoever for anything here that is being investigated, examined, looked at, or trying to be understood. And yet, the media is focusing on things that I have said that contradict what the White House is saying. They’re focusing on things that I have said that go against the grain of what the – the pack mentality is saying. They’re asking members of Congress to condemn what I have said.

Now why do this? I mean, I’m just a talk show host here. I mean, a big one. I mean, don’t misunderstand. This is not false humility. Don’t – don’t misunderstand this, I’m saying, but why all – there’s a lot of people out there they can play sound bites from. The answer is there’s nobody saying it. And because it is challenging, they have to have it discredited. I mean, if I were so off the wall. If I were so ridiculous. If what I was saying was so mindless and so inconsequential, they wouldn’t even bother to be playing it and asking elected officials to condemn it. But because this is political, or I should better say as proof that it is political, they are playing these sound bites from me, this program, and asking people to condemn what I am saying, both Republicans and Democrats.

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I didn't know this until just recently, but yesterday at the White House briefing, a reporterette, an info babe for the American Urban – what is the – American Urban Network? What did I do with this? I want to get this right. I have it here. I'm not going to play it now because I've got to take a break. American Urban Radio. Her name was April Ryan. And she's up there asking Scott McClellan at the press briefing – briefing about comments made by the spokesperson for the Conservative Party, Rush Limbaugh, and whether or not the White House finds a problem with what the spokesperson for the Conservative Party, Rush Limbaugh, is saying.

Now if you don't think this is political, if – in other words, if you think this is really about finding out what went on in that prison and getting to the bottom of it because we're all ashamed and we're all embarrassed, you've got another thing coming. This is political, and I'm not joining the pack. And so I'm the one that has to be discredited because I'm – I represent those who are not joining the pack in terms of national voices that they can quote and throw up there for people to condemn or whatever they want to do.

I'll play all these sound bites for you again. We have other sound bites as well. We have other stuff in the stacks of stuff. See if we can get all to today – we can massage our way around this place. It's Open Line Friday and your phone calls, and a lot of people want to weigh in on this. So just sit tight, be cool, be patient. A brief EIB profit center timeout. We'll be right back.

(station break)

RUSH: Welcome back to Open Line Friday. I am Rush Limbaugh in danger myself, my friends. Dangerously close to violating the Geneva Conventions on my own. How, you might ask? Because I am heaping humiliation upon the already humiliated. And I'm sure that some of these senators can find something in the Geneva Convention to suggest that I have violated them. I'm just a talk show host, but they'll find a way.

Welcome back. Here it is, at 800-282-2882. Interesting story today from *The Seattle Post Intelligencer*. Now, Mr. Snerdley, you lived in Seattle. You existed in Seattle for a while. And you – you'll confirm for me that *The Seattle Post Intelligencer* is not a right wing or Conservative newspaper, would you not? All right, Mr. Snerdley, who existed in Seattle for a while, would say that *The Seattle Post Intelligencer* is the legitimate daughter of *The New York Times*.

All right, given that, “The abuse of Iraqi prisoners” – this is somebody – a local – one of their – one of their reporters. “The abuse of Iraqi prisoners at the hand of US soldiers draws intense reactions from some who left Iraq to find freedom in Washington State, but prolonged outrage is not one of them. While some local Iraqis are bothered by the images, others welcome them. ‘It's a terrible thing, it adds more wood to the fire,’ said Hussein al-Muhanna, who came to the US in '93,

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‘but to me it’s not the issue I have to worry about. To me, the main issue is Iraq’s future.’”

“Imad al-Turfy, another Everett, Washington resident, shows no sympathy for the prisoners, saying their treatment paled when compared – when compared with the horrors inflicted under Saddam’s regime. ‘They raped our women, they killed our kids, so there’s hatred between us, the people here and the people in Iraq,’ referring to the Shiite Muslims who emigrated and the Sunni Muslims who ruled Iraq under Saddam. ‘Anything coming to them would make me happy,’ said this Iraqi.

“Al-Muhanna and al-Turfy were among about 20 Iraqi men who met last night to talk politics, discuss their jobs, and offer opinions on the latest headlines. Al-Turfy said he could tell a million stories about Saddam’s abuses, the people who blown apart by dynamite or thrown off 20-story buildings, or the family that was buried alive in a car in Baghdad.”

“Well, yeah, but they weren’t humiliated.” I’m throwing that in myself to add context and perspective and to show that I am sensitive. “They might have been thrown off a car or off the top of a building or buried dead or alive in a car in Baghdad, but they weren’t humiliated.”

“‘You can imagine,’ said al-Turfy, ‘they killed us like rats, like anything cheap. So to view photos of prisoners in humiliating positions one month after seeing another chilling image, the charred and mutilated corpses of Americans hanging from a bridge over the Euphrates River was worth it, because they did the same to us,’ al-Turfy said, a comment echoed by several other Iraqis.”

Now – and I said yesterday that this was going to be the case. You know, this is – this is what’s so frustrating. What I – I said yesterday that the people who lived under Saddam are going to look at this and they’re going to celebrate this. These are the people who committed these atrocious acts against them, and this – this is – they’re going to be extremely happy. But we’re just – we’re really playing this all wrong, I fear. I – I think – I don’t know. The political realities may be such that it has to be done, but it – in terms of the impact that this could potentially have on the people who are in harm’s way over there is incalculable to me.

Here’s Tony in Tampa. We go to the phones. Welcome, sir. Nice to have you on the program.

TONY: Hi there, Rush. And megadittos from the west coast.

RUSH: Thank you.

TONY: And I just wanted to say, I’ve been watching this, and Joe Lieberman, of – of all people, seems to be the only mainstream, you know, right-thinking Democrat on that panel. He comes off –

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RUSH: No, not – not surprising. It’s not surprising. He has the – why do you think this guy was the first out of the Democrat primary?

TONY: Well, you’re right. You’re right. And now after these comments, I’m just waiting for the Democratic machine to come out and, you know, get rid of him. He says where’s the apology for, you know, four guys getting killed and burned and hung from a bridge? Where’s the apology for 3,000 Americans getting killed? And it – it’s just refreshing to see that. I’m glad that finally somebody came out and said it live in the – in the Senate hearings, so –

RUSH: Yeah, we – we’re preparing some audio sound bites of Lieberman and his opening remarks now. He has been consistent on this from the get-go. I can remember watching speeches Lieberman gave during the Democrat primaries. And he was rating nothing. Nobody was for Lieberman. He was – because he understands what this is all about, and he is – he was taking – in favor of taking positions that strengthen our cause and strengthen our effort.

And I never forget his concession speech. I guess it was in New Hampshire or whatever it was, somewhere early on in the primaries. His concession speech was “I’m not going to stop saying what I think is right. Our party is making a mistake by underestimating the importance of the conflict that we find ourselves involved in. And I have tried to alert them” – and I’m paraphrasing – “and I have tried to speak to it, but they’re not interested in hearing about it.”

And that’s exactly what’s going on here. This – this is – nobody can tell me that the effort on the part of this Senate committee today is about improving or enhancing the war effort. Because if they were really concerned with that, this wouldn’t be happening this way. I mean, there’s a number of ways to do this without making a show trial out of it, and attempting to force the Secretary of Defense to resign, and get him out of the way so that you can then use the blood in the water to go after the President.

Here’s Mark in Sault Sainte Marie, Michigan. Thank you for calling, you’re on Open Line Friday. Hi.

MARK: Thank you for taking my call, Rush. I’m quite shocked and disappointed with you, a strict Constitutionalist and somebody who really looks up to the rule of law, that you’re not outraged about the Geneva Convention being violated in these many instances. And I think it all stems from the fact that when Saddam was captured, they showed inhumane pictures of him with lights up his nose and up his mouth, and those pictures being released. And it’s now – what you’re seeing now is a national consequence of that. It just goes down the chain of command, saying that this is OK –

RUSH: Mark. Mark. Mark, you can’t possibly believe this.

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MARK: I believe this.

RUSH: You can't possibly believe that what's happening now is because of the way Saddam was treated when he was captured?

MARK: The pictures of Saddam, the inhumane pictures? I mean, if you're going to – if you're going to be a (inaudible; overlapping dialogue) –

RUSH: Inhumane pictures? He was hiding in a dirt hole.

MARK: – (inaudible; overlapping dialogue), not just pick and choose when you're going to follow the law. And I'm – I'm quite shocked and disappointed with you, Rush, because you're not outraged about the fact that the Geneva Convention has been violated and that these people are, you know, just –

RUSH: Mark, I'm going to tell you what. When I found out that the Geneva Convention's been violated, I may get a little bit concerned, but I don't know all there is to know about it. There's a lot we don't know about this, Mark, my man. There's a lot we don't know about this. And I want to warn some of you. Some of you are not going to like it, and you're going to be really surprised when you find out what I think was really going on here.

(station break)

USH: And yes my friends, I want you to believe me when I say this, having more fun than a human being should be allowed to have. We're here, and we are plodding on on the EIB Network, Open Line Friday.

Jeff Sessions. A great, great Senator from Alabama, just had a great session with Rumsfeld. We're going to try to grab some audio sound bites of sessions. One of the things – I'm still monitoring this, my friends. I'm multi-tasking, if you will, able to do many things at one time, while also hosting this program at the supremely high level you've come to know, love and expect.

And I sense no mood for Rumsfeld's resignation here at all. This is all about Rumsfeld's got to resign. Right? That's all we heard about this before it all started. Rumsfeld has got to go. Rumsfeld's had it. Rumsfeld's guilty. Blah, blah, blah. There is no sentiment for this in this. That is something that has been totally ginned up by the American Left and the media. This is not about Rumsfeld resigning, and nobody who's up there suggested it yet. Carl Levin may have gotten closest with his chain of command questions, but he didn't broach it. You know, this is something that has been totally, totally trumped up.

Now, you know – do you know when the Pentagon issued its first public statement on this? Do you remember when it was? January 16th of this year. And it was on

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like page A23 of *The New York Times* and page A14 in *The Washington Post*. It was nowhere on the front pages. Media didn't put it there. So it's not on the front page, doesn't get noticed. But the Pentagon issued its public statement on January 16, stating what we basically know today about the mistreatment of prisoners. It was reported in, among other places, the Associated Press.

My question is why didn't John McCain, and his colleagues on this august committee, demand hearings at that time? When they heard about the abuse of prisoners, why didn't they do something way back in January when it was first reported? Oh, don't tell me they didn't see it. Why, these are Senators, my friends. These are all-knowing Senators. They know everything that's going on. Why didn't the media react? They reported it. Why didn't the media react back in January when this report was made public?

I'll tell you why. We all know why. It's the pictures. It's the pictures. But McCain and Company had every opportunity to pick up the telephones themselves, and ask for more information once this story appeared in print, but they didn't, did they? They didn't do anything. They were too busy in January and February in the Democrat primaries. McCain's out there fending of questions about whether he's going to be John Kerry's running mate. He didn't have time to call the Pentagon to get more information on this.

Besides that, January and February of this year, Congress met only a few days during both of those months, because they're too busy doing other things. Then lo and behold, bam, here come the pictures. And, "why, look what we didn't know." BS. This was known. There just weren't any pictures to go along with it.

So what's this all about? Is this really about prisoner abuse? I submit that it's not. It's not about prisoner abuse. It's about some pictures that have surfaced. Let's not even begin to ask how or why. Pictures have surfaced, and we all know that this is a culture that doesn't react, or doesn't believe anything until it sees a picture, either a moving picture, or a still picture.

All of a sudden there is this hell to pay reaction in the media, which didn't spend much time on this at all back in January when the details came out. The investigation's been going on that long. And yes, the Pentagon did ask *60 Minutes* to hold the pictures because they feared the impact on the war effort, and *60 Minutes* couldn't hold them for very long, because everybody around the world was going to get them at some point.

If anything here, there is a PR screw-up in handling the problem. And no, I'm no trying to shove the problem under the rug by saying this, but there is a bit of a PR problem. Because this is – this is damage control. This is not anybody really, really concerned about this. They're just acting like it, because it gives them a political opportunity in an election year.

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And look at the cost. Look at the cost of this. There is one of my favorite senators up there now. I love hearing his name in the roll call. Senator Akaka. He is from Hawaii. Senator Akaka. I bet they have to really be careful not to mispronounce that when his name comes up in a roll call.

Here is a little bit of Lieberman. A previous caller referred to Lieberman. This was during his opening statement, or his prelude to his questioning of Rumsfeld.

LIEBERMAN: I cannot help but say, however, that those who were responsible for killing 3,000 Americans on September 11th, 2001, never apologized. Those who have killed hundreds of American in uniform in Iraq, working to liberate Iraq and protect our security, have never apologized. And those who murdered and burned, and humiliated four Americans in Fallujah a while ago, never received an apology from anybody.

RUSH: Senator Joe Lieberman, a Democrat. One of the few voices of sanity and reason on this Committee. And my hat is off to him, because he's going against the grain of his party. Now he may have some – his party just shunned him royally in the Democratic primaries last Fall through this winter. But I don't think he's doing it for that reason, because he's been consistent on this, and this whole war, from the moment he started speaking about it. He's also consistent on Israel. He's consistent on everything that ought to be done in the Middle East, and consistently right about it.

And my hat is off to Senator Lieberman, because he is putting partisanship aside here, and focusing on the issue, which is what everybody claims that they're doing. "Oh, this is not partisan, we're looking at the issue." They are not. At least the Democrats on this committee are not.

Here's Cathy in Augusta, West Virginia. I'm glad you waited. You are on Open Line Friday.

CATHY: Dittos, Rush. I am so upset with this media, and with the – I consider the people that are questioning Joel Myers and Rumsfeld, an arm of the media. Ethan Jordan, a year and one month ago, wrote an article in *The New York Times* "The News We Kept to Ourselves." And he admitted that they made life and death decisions based on the fact that they wanted to be considered non-biased, or whatever, and it cost the lives of individuals right then.

Now, General Myers talked about the fact that he went to CBS and asked them to hold back these pictures, and the only reason, Rush, and nobody seems to be mentioning the fact that we have at least two Americans right now that are being held hostage over there. Not to mention the fact, that any that could be taken any point.

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And this whole thing, the media is not keeping this information to themselves. They're trumping it up. They're hyping it up. They're playing it every time they can, and what it's doing, it's going to cost lives. And we're to the point now that the media is no longer just biased, they're dangerous, and they admitted it. Ethan Jordan, "The News we Kept to Ourselves." He admitted it on April 11, 2003.

RUSH: I remember that, now that you bring it up. That's an interesting analysis that you have given us of this, because—

CATHY: Well, Rush, I mean, nobody—

RUSH: Now, I may have not heard everything that you said, because I said I'm multi-tasking here, trying to keep up with about 14 things at once, but did you point out the reason why CNN admitted, Eason Jordan admitted that they withheld certain negative information about the Iraqi regime?

CATHY: Well basically, I mean, when you read this, he says that it may have cost some o their, some lives on their staff —

RUSH: Yes but why, no, no, why, the why, the reason he did it is so they wouldn't have gotten kicked out of the country.

CATHY: Exactly.

RUSH: They needed to keep their bureau open, and of course, somebody was asking what good is a bureau in Baghdad if you're not going to tell people what's happening there? If you can't tell people what's happen because it will get you thrown out, what good is being there? What good is what you're saying? What good is the information you're giving us out of there, if you're having to suppress a lot of it because it will get you kicked out? Is that — ?

CATHY: But what is the difference then, Rush? The difference then, I mean, then it may have cost the lives of — of the son-in-law of Saddam Hussein, or there was — in this article they talk about a young lady that was chopped up and delivered back to her family.

But now, see, they can report this now, because who would be the targets? It would be American soldiers, and it would be people that, you know, probably they think it's somebody that deals with Halliburton or something that may be over there, may have been taken hostage.

But Rush, the question I'm asking, if based on all of this information, if the media had known ahead of time that a plane was headed to the Pentagon — now forget the twin towers, just the Pentagon, who's in the Pentagon? Rumsfeld and all of this underlings. If they had known that —

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BUSH: Now wait, wait, wait. Wait. It is not that bad yet. No, no, no—

CATHY: I'm wondering.

BUSH: Now, well Cathy don't – no, no. The media would not have kept quiet if they knew a plane was headed to the Pentagon, because they'd like to see Rumsfeld killed in an attack. But you know, let's stick with the previous things that you said, because I had forgotten about this Eason Jordan business, but let's just relive it for just a second. He admitted that they had suppressed certain information to save lives, not only the lives of Iraqis, but the lives of CNN employees. And everybody said, "Well, what's the good of being there?" and they did it to protect their bureau. I mean, they wanted to not be kicked out of the country. OK, so what good is being there, if you can't tell people what really needs to be told?

So what we conclude, can conclude from that, is that there are news judgments made to suppress news, are there not? There are news judgments made to suppress news. And in the Eason Jordan case, a decision was made to suppress bad news about Iraq because it might save lives. It might save CNN employee's lives, and it might save the lives of innocent Iraqis. So there is a precedent. The media has admitted they will suppress news to save lives.

OK. Here come these pictures. Anybody with half a brain has to know what these picture are going to do, and who they're going to imperil. Was there a similar judgment made to suppress the news, and in this case, the news hadn't been suppressed. The news had been reported, minus the pictures back in January. And it didn't get a whole lot of play because there were pictures with it. Yip, yip, yip, yip yahoo. You know? OK, get some prisoner abuse. Yippee. That's how big a story it was, folks, without the pictures.

AP had it. Some of the newspaper had it, therefore. So you get this story of prisoner abuse. Nobody thought it was a big deal. Here come the pictures. The pictures are, indeed damaging, as we are witnessing now, and no effort to suppress was made. It is a bit of a contradiction. It may even be a little hypocritical. That's an excellent point Cathy. Thanks much. Quick time out. Back in just seconds.

(station break)

RUSH: I want you to hear Jeff Sessions, who is just a fine, fine man, a great senator from Alabama. He's a former US Attorney. He was Attorney General down there, preceded Bill Pryor. He was nominated – no, nominated to be a federal judge, or an appellate court judge, and the Democrats killed him in confirmation hearings on the usual rigmarole of civil rights and this sort of stuff, but he's a great, great man, folks. And here is a little of what he said today following Senator Lieberman.

SESSIONS: I want to join with Senator Lieberman's courageous comments and strong comments, about how we do not need to dishonor the soldiers out there this very

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day at risk of their lives, withholding firing weapons, being in hostile situations, taking chances with their own lives to protect the people of Iraq. And yes, this is a serious problem, but I feel very strongly that the military deserves a lot of credit here.

First, I want to say to Secretary Rumsfeld, thank you for your leadership and all of you there. And yes, you have some complainers in the Congress, but we voted to send our soldiers to this effort. Nobody else authorized you to go. We voted to support it. And I would also note that the terrorists aren't happy with you either. I saw they put a \$15 million bounty on your head, along with General Kimmett and General Sanchez, and I thank you for that service.

RUSH: Jeff Sessions, senator from Alabama, firing both barrels in an effort to keep all of this in perspective.

All right, while I have a moment here, let's go back and review some of the sound bites I played earlier that mentioned me. And again, I want you people to understand that this is simply to show you that there is a total political context here, rather than some serious supposed outrage over abuse.

Now, I'm not saying there isn't any of that. That's not what this is. This is an opportunity. This is a political opportunity for opponents of the President that continue to take more shots where there's blood in the water, and so they're doing everything they can to win this election for John Kerry, so he's so inept at doing it himself.

How else do you explain the *NBC Nightly News Crossfire*, and the White House Press Briefing, bringing me up in official questions to elected officials about my opinion of this? I'm not elected. I'm not in the chain of command. I have no authority over anybody involved in any of this. And yet, as you will hear, I am either being criticized, or illustrated as an example of the opposition, criticized on *Crossfire* as the man who needs to be condemned, and being asked, by a reporter of the White House press spokesman, whether or not the President disavows what I'm saying or agrees with it. If that doesn't illustrate to you that this is political, and since I am a voice that has not joined the pack on this, and this is a media-led frenzy that "OK, let's do what we can do to nullify this disagreeing voice," or discredited, or what have you.

The first example, *NBC Nightly News* last night with Tom Brokaw. Chip Reid is the reporter doing a report on the uproar on Capital Hill about the possible resignation of Rumsfeld, about which I have seen nothing on these hearings so far today, by the way. And so Chip Reid starts out talking about a backlash from many conservative republicans, and a debate and a resolution on the Florida House. And he quotes Tom DeLay by saying the Democratic leadership has decided to take a political position undermining our troops in the field. Then he says, "Conservative talk show host Rush Limbaugh now leading the charge." "The Conservative Talk

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Show host Rush Limbaugh leading the charge” in accusing the media, and Democrats, of hyping the Iraqi abuse story.

RUSH (on tape): Welcome to the real world. They’re not pictures of violence, they are not pictures of death, they are not pictures of horror. I am not going to join the chorus of people who aren’t even thinking, who are just reacting with emotions–

REID: The abuse of Iraqi prisoners, a story that was originally greeted with bipartisan revolution, now at the center of a furious political debate.

RUSH: Now, don’t give me this business that was initially greeted with bipartisan revulsion. That’s – that’s – that’s a little bit of misinformation. It doesn’t mean it was greeted with bipartisan condemnation and agreement with the Liberal Left and the media on this.

Now, here’s *Crossfire*. They’ve got The Forehead, Paul Begala who is representing the Left. The guests are Congressman Eric Cantor. He’s a Republican from Virginia, and Bob Wexler, from down here in Florida. He’s the guy that all of those mistaken Buchanan voters called to complain during 2000.

And The Forehead says “Congressman Cantor, in the last segment you said, and I quote, you have to be accountable for the words you use. Well, Rush Limbaugh says what happened over there was no different than a fraternity initiation. He said these guys were just blowing off some steam and having a good time. Do you endorse, or do you condemn Rush Limbaugh’s words?”

CANTOR: I do not take lightly the incidents that occurred in Iraq. No question, the individuals responsible need to be held accountable. The President said as much–

BEGALLA: Did you forget Limbaugh?

CANTOR: I do not necessarily agree with what was said, no.

BEGALLA: Counselor Wexler–

WEXLER: I condemned him.

RUSH: (laughter) “I condemn Limbaugh. I condemn.” “Do you condemn Limbaugh?” This is *Crossfire*. I’m – I’m proud to be there, don’t misunderstand, but if this doesn’t prove it’s political now – well, I know nobody saw it, that’s why I’m playing it.

Let’s go to the White House press briefing, not much time here. The White House press briefing yesterday with Scott McClellan. You’re going to hear the voice of April Ryan, an Info-babe reporterette for the American Urban Radio Network.

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RYAN: There is a segment of society that differs with the White House as it relates to these pictures, and the investigation of the US soldiers' conduct to include Rush Limbaugh who Tuesday, agreed with a caller equating the pictures to a college fraternity prank and said US soldiers should not be punished because it was an emotional evil as they were letting off steam. What does the White House say about that?

MCLELLAN: April, I think the White House says what we said yesterday, and what the President has said over the last few days.

RYAN: No, seriously. This man is a Conservative. He's (inaudible: overlapping dialogue) his ideas –

MCLELLAN: And actually you asked a question earlier today about this matter, and I addressed it then.

RYAN: But you stand out strongly trying to let the Arab world know that this is wrong, and then you have the proverbial spokesperson for the Conservative Party saying this, doesn't that send a mixed message?

MCLELLAN: I think the President's views have been made very clear.

RUSH: Do you get this? This woman – isn't this Conservative Party spokesman Limbaugh – isn't this a mixed message? Can't you guys disavow – (laughter) Oh my friends, I just, I'm just a kid from Missouri that wanted to be on the radio.

(station break)

RUSH: Well, we must bring the broadcast to a screeching halt, a temporary, momentary halt, ladies and gentlemen. Be right back after our top of the hour breaks. Sit tight, it won't be long. We will continue.

HOUR 3

RUSH: Stand by on audio sound bite number eight as well. And greetings my friends, welcome back. Rush Limbaugh. Here we are from high atop the EIB Southern Command broadcast complex well hidden, well disguised, you couldn't find it even if you were aiming for it.

ANNOUNCER: Live for the Southern Command in sunny South Florida via New York City it's Open Line Friday.

RUSH: And just to prove that, Dawn gets lost every day trying to get here. We're on the excellence in broadcasting – (laughter). I'm sorry I should have said Mr. Snerdley to avoid charges of stereotypical sexist humor.

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Open Line Friday, that means that you can choose whatever it is that you want to discuss on the program. Our telephone number is 800-282-2882 and the e-mail address is rush@eibnet.com. As you know Monday through Thursday we talk about what interests me, and on Friday we talk about what interests me while making you think that it's about what interests you.

We're looking forward to (laughter) to hear – folks, you just have to laugh. I mean, that's about all you can do with this. I know it's serious stuff but I'm through wringing my hands over this. There's such asininity out there.

ABC News, the top of the hour, just got a report, you know, they're – there's no sound bites from sessions. No sound bites from Lieberman. All this flamboyant rhetoric, this dicey stuff that's coming from people like Levin and Ted Kennedy and whoever else.

I had a couple of pieces here in stack I want to – I want to get to. One of them – oh, did you see the – the Lib Net. Two more execs left and they can't make payroll at the new Lib Net.

Dead Air America, I guess, or whatever it's called – did you see the report? They got 100 employees and they didn't get paid. Checks bounced and two execs quit. And that's just what – it's in the *Chicago Tribune*. I know this is not being widely reported. It's certainly not commensurate with the big build up that the Lib Net got, but nevertheless.

Folks, there's some things in the stack here, two stories and I just – I just want to say, I just want to – two – before, well, two stories – one's from Krauthammer and one's from George Neumayr at the American Express, *The American Spectator*, and they're about the sexual component of these pictures. And I may I ask you who first alleged some weird sexuality in these photos. It was I and I did so yesterday. And it's interesting these two pieces, and I will share them with you as the program unfolds.

I also – I want to lodge an official complaint with The Media. They are taking – they are misrepresenting what I said. On *Crossfire*, and at the White House press briefing, and on NBC, they're claiming that I said these photos remind me of just an average initiation party, and that is not what I said. I said it reminds me of a Skull and Bones initiation. And I said Skull and Bones on purpose because Kerry and Bush have both been initiated as Skull and Bones, and The Media hates Skull and Bones. The media thinks it's too secret, that all kinds of Masonic stuff goes on in there and the only people that can go to Skull and Bones can be President, whatever it is. And – yeah I forgot Skull and Bones probably had The Media change – Skull and Bones members probably in the media for all I know.

But there's a better quote than that. If you people in the media want to continue to characterize what I said you can at least put it in context. You can say it also

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reminds me of things I've seen in a Britney Spears or Madonna concert, or on the MTV Music Awards. Now if you're going to do this let's just go ahead and get it right.

Now in addition, ladies and gentlemen, the Democrats – you know they got this number out there that Democrats from all over the country, elected and just citizens, can call for talking points and ideas of what to say. It's – it's sort of like a telephonic facts clearance house. You don't have to wait for the fax. You can call the Democrat Talking Points Hotline for the latest talking points on the issue of the day. Carville does the recording. Here's the latest one.

CARVILLE: Hello, this is James Carville. You have reached the Democratic Party Talking Points Hotline. This week's talking points cover all the gross abuses of the entire US military in Iraq. And these facts right here will help you get ready for the Sunday shows.

Until the US military arrived, no one was ever tortured or humiliated in Iraqi prisons. They were just killed.

Fact: With John Kerry in the White House, American people can be assured that the torture camps are going to be closed, with more Americans being tortured every single day.

Fact: We know that George W. Bush was directly involved. This whole thing looks just like a Skull and Bones initiation.

So get in those trenches on them Sunday shows. See you on Monday. That is all.

RUSH: We stay in touch. We've got the private number for the Democrat Talking Points Hotline. That's James Carville doing the honors.

We were alerted today by our good friends at our San Francisco affiliate, KSFO, to a humorous – some of you might think it's an outrageous – thing that happened with the Congressman out there, Fortney Pete Stark. He got a letter from a constituent in Newark, California, the name of Dan Dowd. Dan Dowd is a staff sergeant, California Army National Guard. And he's a life member of the VFW and a member of the American Legion. And on May 6th, he sent Fortney Pete Stark a fax, a letter. And I have that letter.

Well, Fortney Pete Stark didn't like it, and called this guy and left a scathing message on his answering machine. And this is a member of Congress reacting to a constituent who is in the US military. I want to first read to you the fax from Staff Sergeant Dan Dowd to Fortney Pete Stark.

“Dear Mr. Stark,” – May 6th is the date – “I'm appalled that you voted against today's House Resolution 627, Roll Number 150. This measure would have shown

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publicly that you condemn the abuse of the prisoners in Iraq while simultaneously commend the service of the fine men and women who are serving in Iraq that bring honor to the uniform that they wear and to the nation that they serve.

“There are many soldiers, sailors, Marines, airmen, and Coast Guardsmen from your 13th Congressional District who are serving with pride and distinction. These men and women bring great credit upon their hometowns and the state of California. Your no vote is an indication that you do not support the troops who selflessly serve our nation, and in many cases, have given the ultimate sacrifice so that you might have the freedom that you enjoy as a citizen of this great nation. Further, your no vote, Congressman Stark, on this resolution is a disgrace to the people of this district who have elected you.

“I urge you to stop your contemptuous display of bitter partisanship and your politicization of this war. Your actions are very divisive and destructive to the morale of our troops and the morale of our nation. I know that a majority of the population of the 13th Congressional District are very strong in their support of our soldiers and in their support of the war in Iraq. Your no vote today reflects that you are way out of touch with the people of this district. Very sincerely, Daniel Dowd, Staff Sergeant, California Army National Guard, Life Member Veterans of Foreign Wars and member of the American Legion.”

He lives in Newark, California. Here is what Stark – he called this guy. He’s got his phone number here on his letter. So he called this guy, and he left the following message on – on Staff Sergeant Dowd’s voicemail.

STARK: Dan, this is Congressman Pete Stark, and I just got your fax. I don’t know what you’re talking about. So if you care about enlisted people, you wouldn’t have voted for that thing either.

But probably somebody put you up to this, and I’m not sure who it was, but I doubt if you could spell half the words in the letter, and somebody wrote it for you. So I don’t pay much attention to it. But I’ll call you back later and let you tell me more about why you think you’re such a great ***damn hero, and why you think that these generals and the Defense Department, who forced these poor enlisted guys to do what they did, shouldn’t be held to account. That’s the issue.

So if you want to stick it to a bunch of enlisted guys, have your way. But if you want to get to the bottom of the people who forced this awful program in Iraq, then you should understand more about it than you obviously do. Thanks.

RUSH: Pete Stark using a profanity there, taking the Lord’s name in vain and assuming that this man is not smart enough to write the letter he wrote. Assuming he’s not smart enough to think of the things in this letter, that somebody had to put him up to it. And then insulting his view on the American military.

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Now this – the reason I play this for you is not just to outrage you, but this illustrates what I’ve always told you about Liberals. They are condescendingly arrogant. They think you’re idiots. You’re not smart enough to make life decisions that will protect you and anybody else. And if you do come across as intelligent, somebody else had to write this for you, because you don’t have the guts, and you don’t have the brains, and you don’t have the ability to do things like this on your own. You’re not as smart as Fortney Pete Stark is, and he doesn’t believe this. And anyway, he’s wrong – meaning his constituent.

And “I’ll call you back later and let you tell me more about why you think you’re such a great ***damn hero, and why you think that this is” blah, blah, blah. So there you have it. Fortney Pete Stark responding in kind – I mean, typically, typically as a Liberal would to an upstart peasant, dare to speak to a Congressman, citizen. We’ll be back after this. Stay with us.

(station break)

RUSH: All right, Hillary Clinton is asking a question. Let’s listen to Hillary here at the hearings for (inaudible) –

CLINTON : – some of the same MPs were involved, apparently. And with respect to the recommendations at the end of General Tuguba’s report, they called for establishing the conditions with the resources and personnel required to prevent future occurrences of detainee abuse.

I would appreciate, since we don’t have time in this round of questioning, to receive for the committee a report about exactly how that is being handled. What changes have been made? Are the Geneva Convention training going on now? Are the appropriate rules being posted in both English and Arabic? And certainly an explanation as to the adequacy of the punishment that was meted out. Because with respect to who is being punished for what, there is a clear distinction, at least as reported by General Tuguba, between enlisted personnel and those up the command.

But I’m also concerned by a related matter, and let me just quickly reference the case and (inaudible; overlapping dialogue) –

RUSH: Well, hang on a minute. I want to know if there were rules of proper decorum posted in the White House when interns walked into the Oval Office.

HILLARY CLINTON: – (inaudible) solitary confinement. Ultimately, all the charges were dropped after his reputation was sullied.

RUSH: I don’t believe this!

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HILLARY CLINTON: – and obviously the information about this particular case came from –

RUSH: We need warning signs in prisons now.

HILLARY CLINTON: – government sources. It was pushed out and it was –

RUSH: For the guards!

HILLARY CLINTON: – widely disseminated. So Mr. Secretary, how is it that a case with no basis in fact gets such widespread publicity, based on information from government sources, while egregious conduct, like that at the Abu Graib prison, is cloaked in a classified report and is only made available when the investigation is leaked to the press?

RUMSFELD: Well, Senator, first let me say, with respect to the question that Senator Reed raised, there – I can't conceive of – of anyone looking at the pictures and suggesting that anyone could have recommended, condoned, permitted, encouraged, subtly, directly, in any way that those things take place.

Second, the decision that was made by the President of the United States, that you referred to, was announced. And in the announcement, it was said that the al Qaeda in Guantanamo that are captured in the world, mostly in Afghanistan, would be treated consistent with the Geneva Convention. That is a fact.

You say the report was well known. I don't know how you know that. All I know is when it made the public, when somebody took a secret document out of prosecutorial channels and released it to the press, it was – I do not believe it was yet anywhere in the Pentagon. Certainly, I had not been given it, or – or seen it. I agree with you –

RUSH: Now this – this – see, this is what I've been talking about –

RUMSFELD: – when you read the report, you do get an – an impression, as you suggested –

RUSH: There's some – there's something –

RUMSFELD: – that there is something much worse than what was in the press release, for example, in January, you (inaudible; overlapping dialogue) in March by the –

RUSH: And we don't know what went on here at this meeting –

RUMSFELD: – by the central command. But that was not something that had been moved past the Central Command to my knowledge. It may have been somewhere

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in the Department of Defense, but certainly I had not received a copy. It was still in those channels.

WARNER: Thank you very much, Senator.

RUSH: OK, that's – now let me tell you what the first part of Hillary's question was when we came out of the – right before we came out of the break. She was – she was saying that you don't need these pictures to be revulsed. You don't need to see these pictures. She was trying to dispute that. She's wearing smart glasses, by the way, today.

You don't need these pictures, ladies and gentlemen. Just reading descriptions of these pictures is enough to revulse anybody. And I'm going to tell you, folks – mark the date, May 7, 2004, 2:26 PM – she is going to re – well, she missed – people who say that are going to regret that they said it, that you could – just – just reading – just reading of the descriptions of what's in these pictures is revolting. I will say no more. I'm just telling you there's a good chance that if we learn all there is to know about this, that describing this as revolting is going to be really offensive to some people. OK?

And now Emily in Washington. Welcome to the EIB Network. Nice to have you with us.

EMILY: Hi, Rush. Do you know why Paul Begala and the Liberal press quote you? Because they wish they had a tenth of the guts that you have, that they could speak to this matter in the voice that you do.

Basically, these people are spineless and heartless. And if John Zogby did a poll, and he listed, for the Armed Forces, who would you like to be in a foxhole with – Rush Limbaugh, Paul Begala, Hillary Clinton – God forbid – Ted Kennedy, he'll let your drown – who would you want to be in a foxhole with? They would pick you overwhelmingly. And you know why? Because you'd hold them to a high standard, and you would never ever let a group of men and women, who are putting their lives on the line for us, be indicted because of the actions of a few people.

And I'm telling you one more thing, Rush. Democrats are coming perilously close to where they were in the last half of the 20th Century. People thought they were soft on crime, and they tried to dispel that. They are going to be spending the first half of the 21st Century trying to dispel that they're soft on terrorism. They're – this is ridiculous.

RUSH: I don't think I need to add anything to that. That's – that's – I appreciate your saying that, Emily. You're very – you're very kind, but – you know, your assessment of where the Democrats are, you left something out of where they were in the last half of the – the 20th Century. They didn't think Communism was a problem, and they – they thought the military of the United States was. And

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they're still there. The military is still a problem. It's like that e-mail I read from another listener earlier today, that this is – they're treating this exactly like Vietnam.

EMILY: Exactly.

RUSH: They're out there trying to say it is – we ought to agree with them. The way they're handling this is exactly the way they handled Vietnam. Use the media to pressure the Pentagon and the military to weaken them. And – and other similarities. I don't have the e-mail right in front of me. But I – you're very nice to say that, and I – I really appreciate it. Thank you so much. I appreciate your patience in holding on to say that. Yes.

EMILY: You're welcome, Rush.

RUSH: Yes. Yeah, thank you – you bet. And we've got to – just look at this. I've got to go. Quick break. But sit tight, my friends. Turn the Dittocam on, Brian. People have got to see me reacting to all this stuff. We'll be back here in just a second, folks. Don't go away. 800-282-2882 is the number to call.

(station break)

RUSH: Rush Limbaugh, here, talent on loan from God. A man, a legend, a way of life. I love what I say, I love hearing myself say it, and I'm going to keep on. Telephone number 800-282-2882. Before I get to these two stories that I told you about that have to do with the sexual component of all this, and one of them's Charles Krauthammer.

A related story, related to these hearings that are going on here. By the way, welcome to those of you that just tuned in on the Dittocam, rushlimbaugh.com our 24/7 service. Nice to have you for the remaining moments of the program today. A story related to these Senate hearings today.

“People who have problems with excess intestinal gas are often advised to exercise, even though the benefit is unproven. And now there's research from Spain that suggests that this may be good advice. In a small study of the large intestine, physical activity sped the clearance of excess gas. ‘We've – we've – we've shown that physical exercise facilitates intestinal gas evacuation. And it – it – it may thus prevent abdominal symptoms related to gas retention, such as bloating,’ according to the author of the study, Dr. Fernando Azpiroz of the Hospital General Vail d'Hebron de Barcelona in a story to Reuters Health.

“‘The importance of this study on the evacuation of intestinal gas is that it provides experimental support for a heretofore unproven recommendation frequently made by physicians.’” Don't you just love this gobbledygook? He's saying out there and move it. Get out there, shake around, bounce around, run, do whatever what

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you have to do. And then don't be near anybody when you do this because you're going to start evacuating gas.

Now when I hear these stories, and I have a question. I – I – It's just like when I – I've told you people about this organization out in the Bay area called NOCIRC, National Organization Circumcision Information Resource Centers. It's a bunch of people actually trying to stamp out circumcision and they've got a chairman, they've got a president, and they've got videotapes and pictures and all.

The thing that strikes me as – can you imagine when the president of NOCIRC was nine or 10 years old, and his parents say, so Dick, what do you want to do when you grow up? (as young Dick), “Well, I'll tell you what, Dad. I want to stamp out circumcision.” (as Dick's Dad) “Really, Dick. Why – what – what has interested you in this?”

So now we've got these guys in Spain. Can you imagine going up to Dr. Fernando Azpiroz of the hospital in Barcelona, saying, doctor, when you were 10, what was it that you wanted to do? (as young doctor) “I wanted – I wanted to study ah – ah – I wanted to study, um – because my dad does it all the time. I want to know why.” (sigh) So I thought I would just mention this. This is one of the big news items that I had in the stack today that I otherwise would not have had time to get to, ladies and gentlemen. But I decided I'm just going to force it in there anyway, so we're not wall-to-wall with one subject.

All right, now here's Charles Krauthammer's piece today, and it's headlined, “This war is about Sex. On September 11th America awoke to the great jihad, wondering what's this about? We've come to agree on the obvious answers, religion, ideology, political power and territory. But there's one fundamental issue at stake that dares not speak its name. This war is also about – deeply about sex.

“For the jihadists, at stake in the war against the infidels is the control of women. Western freedom means the end of women's mastery by men and the end of dictatorial clerical control over all aspects of sexuality in dress, behavior, education, the arts. Western freedom means the end of women's mastery by men.”

Meaning that's what the infidels – or the jihadists fear. Because they keep their women as slaves. And he says nobody dares bring this up, but he's going to today. Well, it was brought up by me yesterday. Ahem. I now continue with the Krauthammer piece in progress.

“Taliban rule in Afghanistan was the model of what the jihadists want to impose upon the world. The case the jihadists make against freedom is that wherever freedom goes, especially America and Europe it brings sexual license and corruption, decadence, and depravity.”

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Do you see why this interests me, Mr. Snerdley? Because you remember what I said yesterday, about this. All right, “the appeal of this fear can be seen in the Arab world’s closest encounter with modernity. Israel. Israeli women are by far the most liberated of any in that part of the world. For decades the Arab press has responded with lurid stories of Israeli sexual corruption.

“The most famous example occurred in the late 1990s when Egyptian newspapers claimed that chewing gum Israel was selling in Egypt was laced with sexual hormones that aroused insatiable lust in young Arab women. Palestinian officials later followed with charges that Israeli chewing gum was a Zionist plot for turning Palestinian women into prostitutes and completely destroying the genetic system of young boys, to boot.” That would be some gum. Maybe Viagra could look into this.

“Which is why the torture pictures coming out of the prison in Iraq could not have hit a more neuralgic point. We think of torture as the kind Saddam practiced, pain, mutilation, maiming, ultimately death. We think of it as having a political purpose. Intimidation, political control, confession and subjugation. But what happened at Abu Graib was entirely different. It was gratuitous sexual abuse, perversion for its own sake.”

Oh, ho, ho. I – Krauthammer does not know how close he is to this. I mean, he does but he doesn’t at the same time. That is what made it, ironically and disastrously, a pictorial representation of precisely the lunatic fantasies that the jihadists believe. And that cynical secular regimes such as Egypt and the Palestinian Authority peddle to pacify their populations and deflect their anger and frustrations. Through this lens Abu Graib is an I-told-you-so played out in an Arab capital recorded on film.

“Jihadists, like all totalitarians, oppose many kinds of freedom. What makes them unique, however, is their particular hatred of freedom for women. They prize their traditional prerogatives that allow them to keep their women barefoot in the kitchen as illiterate economic sexual slaves. For the men, that’s a pretty good deal, one threatened by the West with its twin doctrines of equality and sexual liberation.

“It’s no accident that the jihadists around the world are overwhelmingly male. It’s very rare to find a woman suicide bomber and when you do, it turns out that she herself was a victim of sexual subjugation – a wife accused of adultery marked for death who decided to die a martyr rather than a pariah, but die she must.

“Which is what made one aspect of these pictures even more incendiary, the pictures of American women soldiers mocking, humiliating, and dominating naked and abused Arab men. One could not have designed a more symbolic representation of the Islamist warning about where Western freedom ultimately leads, than Thursday’s *Washington Post* photo of a uniformed American woman holding a naked Arab man on a leash.”

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Now, Krauthammer's point here is "The reason this is really bad is because this is going to feed all of these BS rumors coming out of Egypt and the Palestinian authority, that there is gum and all these other things that are making American – or Arab men impudent, and Arab woman all-powerful. And so it feeds those stereotypes, and it allows the people peddling these stupid, idiot stories to point at them and say "See, see, we've been telling you." So his theory is these pictures help the propagandists prove this idiocy.

I disagree. I want to say this right now. I disagree. Well, it may do that, but I disagree that that's a bad thing, let's put it that way. This is war. "Let's be clear" Krauthammer continues. "The things that we've learned so far about the prison are not by far the worst atrocities committed in war. Indeed, they pale in comparison with what Arab insurgents have done to captured Westerners, and what Saddam did to his own people.

By our standards, these were egregious violations of human rights and human dignity. They must be punished seriously. They don't, however, reflect the ethos of the American military, which has performed with remarkable grace and courage in Iraq, or of American society at large.

The photographs suggest otherwise though, which is why the abuse at Abu Graib is so inflammatory, and for us, and our cause, so damaging. It reenacted the most deeply psychologically charged and most deeply buried aspect of the entire war on terror, exactly as Bin Laden would have scripted it.

All right, so just to recap. Krauthammer's fear is that these pictures will allow the propagandists in the Arab world, the Jihadist world, to point to their dumb peasantry and say, "See, what we've been telling you is true. Look at what – you let the Americans take over Iraq, and this is what's going to happen. The American women are going to be the models for our women, and our women are going to rise up against you and are going to have you on a leash. We've been telling you this." And he said, "This is the wrong signal to send." And I understand, I understand that thinking.

But see, I have a different take on this, and I mentioned this yesterday, and I'll say it again. I'm just – we're all just speculating. But folks, I am never, ever going to be part of a pack mentality on anything. And when I see a pack mentality that gets going like this one did, as fast as this one did, I get suspicious, and I naturally look for something almost totally opposite of what the purported truth is. Because I just, I am – I am – I'm so suspicious and dubious of the pack mentality, especially when led by the American media today.

And I am not of the impression – I do not subscribe to theory that the American military is a bunch of idiots. And I don't subscribe to the theory that they are a bunch of boobs. And I don't subscribe to the theory without knowing, without

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having it proven, and we haven't had the investigation on this yet, that this as a bunch of renegades running loose. It could well be that the whole purpose here, which has been said, was to humiliate these prisoners. And there is no better way of doing it than what was done. These are Arab males. What better way than to have a woman have authority over them?

What's the purpose here? What's the objective of this? The objective is to soften them up for interrogation later – later on. As I said, there was no horror. There was no terror. There was no death. There were no injuries, nothing. And given the profound fear of these jihadists and these prisoners, if you confront them with that fear, if you humiliate them that way, it might open them up. It might tell you – you might get keys to unlock what it is they have that they're not coming forth with information-wise.

Now, I understand Krauthammer's concern, and I understand that we have this compulsion about showing the world we're nice, and that they ought to like us, and they ought to trust us, and this, that, and the other thing. But you know, we're not over there preparing a propaganda film, we're not over there – I don't know.

The whole thing here just troubles me, because what could have been, or what could be, actually something pretty smart, is being cast now as one of the biggest, most egregious mistakes that's ever been made.

How many of you have heard the clichés or the stereotypes that what we ought to be doing is dipping blood, pig blood, bullets in pig blood and threatening to shoot them with that because they hate pigs. Had we done that, I guess there would be the same outrage, I guess there would be.

But who are these people? I mean, these are the people who have spent their lives trying to kill us. And many of the people in this prison are those who have more than likely committed some act of aggression against Americans in Iraq, or they've committed acts of aggression against other Iraqis. They're there for some degree of criminal activity. So.

On the other hand, and I just want to remind you this is Krauthammer's piece on sex, on the other hand, what you have here, and I mentioned this yesterday, if you look at these pictures, you cannot deny that there are elements of homo eroticism, and as was stated by a woman, and I forget her name, a column on *National View Online* yesterday, her point was, "I've seen stuff like this on American Websites. You can find these if you have the passwords to these various porn sites, you can see things like this." And her point was maybe the kids, the kids, the soldiers, the guards, whoever, who were in a certain age group who had grown up with access to this, were simply acting out what they've seen on Websites or something, just for the fun of it, or maybe other reasons.

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So now you've got Hillary Clinton calling what's in these pictures revolutive. You've got Liberal Democrats saying, "What's in these pictures in unconscionable." You've got Liberal Democrats saying that this is horrible. This is inhumane. How dare they do this. And I'm just saying, it's quite possible, I'm not saying probable, but it's possible they could end up eating those words some day. We'll just have to wait and find out, and find out we will. We'll be back in just a second. Stay with us, my friend.

(station break)

RUSH: Hi, welcome back. Rush Limbaugh, Open Line Friday. Your guiding light through times of trouble, confusion, murkiness, despair, tumult, chaos, abuse, torture, and the good times. By the way, a little note for you Dittocamers. There are some who claim that the Dittocam is out of focus. And I apologize for that. It's not out of focus. We're moving studios down here over there from here, and we moved some stuff when I was in New York to test it out. And Brian polished the lens with Vaseline. And this is – no, it's created a little soft focus out there, and it's not to hide any Botox surgery that I've had, or anything of the sort. It's just a little technical snafu that we – how soon can we get a new lens in here? Can we get a new lens in here by – yes, we can, Fed Ex.

All right, Martha in New Orleans. Hi, welcome to the EIB Network. Good to have you with us.

MARTHA: Rush.

RUSH: Yes.

MARTHA: Greetings from the Vietnam of America.

RUSH: (laughter) That's Kerry, Kerry was down there, remember that?

MARSHA: Yeah, he's back today. He couldn't stay away.

RUSH: I thought he was in Phoenix today.

MARSHA: Well, he'll be here later today.

RUSH: I see. Well, are you going to go? (dogs barking) What's going on over there?

MARSHA: My dogs started barking. I just wanted to tell you–

RUSH: Hold it, hold it.

MARSHA: I'm sorry?

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RUSH: How many dogs is that?

MARSHA: Two.

RUSH: What kind?

MARSHA: Huh?

RUSH: What kind?

MARSHA: Oh, they're mutts.

RUSH: What are they barking at?

MARSHA: My neighbor, Hillary. But anyway, I wanted to say shame on John McCain. He knows what torture is. He would probably have been thrilled to have a pair of ladies panties on his head. That would have been the best day of his incarceration in the Hanoi Hilton.

RUSH: Yeah. I've wondered about that. You know, that is, I've been wondering about this, and he could have made that point today. And I bet, you know, these guys were in the Hanoi Hilton. They got far more than what was going – He was in there for five years, and you're exactly right.

MARSHA: Right. You know, and he's making this – you know, this is so horrible, and you know, I just can't believe this. Like I said, that would have been the best day of his life when he was there, if that's all that had happened to him.

RUSH: Well, Martha, thanks for the call. I appreciate it. Thanks so much. Let me grab one more here before we have to go. George in Lynbrook, New York. Hello sir.

GEORGE: Oh, hi Rush. Megadittos and it's an honor to talk to you.

RUSH: Thank you, sir.

GEORGE: I'm a World War II disabled veteran, and you know, I'm talking about these wuses and these traitorous Liberals in Congress, that are saying that we're, ooh, taking their clothes off. I mean, did they ever hear about Malomi in the Bulge, when the Germans took 200 of our soldiers out in the woods and killed them? Or didn't they ever hear about the Batan Death March, what the Japs did to all the people over in the Philippines?

I mean, these people don't know what war is. War, it's like Sherman said, War is hell. I mean, when are they going to start learning that America has to defend itself? We're at war. And because we took their clothes off that they're worried about that. That's so terrible. I mean, you know, really, it's – didn't they ever hear

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the phrase “All’s fair in love and war?” I tell you Rush, I’m very, very disgusted with this country.

RUSH: I can hear, well, you’re disgusted with some people that –

GEORGE: I mean with some people in it, yeah. And God bless that Sergeant Dowd, and they should impeach that Starkis that’s his name. They should impeach that bum. I mean –

RUSH: Fortney Stark is his name.

GEORGE: I don’t know what his name is. I live in New York, not in California. We’ve got enough with Hillary here. We don’t need him.

RUSH: George, thanks. I’ve got to, I wish I could talk to you all day, I really do, but I don’t have the time. I wish I had gotten to you earlier. Thank you very much. We will be back.

(station break)

RUSH: All right folks, that’s it. Open Line Friday in the can, and a whole week’s worth of broadcasting. It’s – fast weeks is the name of the game here, fastest week in media. See you Monday. Have a fabulous weekend folks. Cheerio and audios.

END OF SHOW