

MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 05/10/04

THE RUSH LIMBAUGH SHOW 05/10/04

RUSH: And a quick hello, ladies and gentlemen, happy to have you along. This is the EIB Network and the Rush Limbaugh Program. The President of the United States is, at this moment, speaking at the Pentagon. He started about, oh, 10, 15 minutes ago. It shouldn't be too much longer. Let's listen in, my friends.

BUSH: – are keeping terrorists across the world on the run. They're helping the people of Afghanistan and Iraq build democratic societies. They're defending America with unselfish courage. And these achievements have brought pride and credit to this nation. I want our men and women in uniform to know that America's proud of you, and that I'm honored to be your commander in chief. Thank you.

RUSH: All right, so there you have it. The President's not going to take any questions. He started at – it was supposed to start at 11:30 and they got a little late. Let me tell you what this was. He came out and gave a ringing endorsement of Rumsfeld. Called him a great secretary of defense. Said the country owes him a lot for his tremendous leadership. He had – as you heard there, he praised the troops, told the troops he was honored to be their commander in chief. And – and wanted them to know that America's very proud of them.

So – you know, I – when the President started this press conference, what happened was, if you missed it, the first people that walked in – it was this room, like it looks like in the White House, although this is over at the Pentagon. They had – they had the Joint Chiefs Chairman Myers walked out, Colin Powell walked out, and then General Kimmett walked out, and the door closed, and that – that set up – there was one more person in that group.

And then after – about five minutes after that, the President came out with Cheney and Rumsfeld and strode to the microphone there in the Pentagon and launched into immediately a very strong endorsement and a series of statements of praise for Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld. Said he's a very strong Secretary of Defense, praised him for his leadership in the war on terror.

He, once again, spoke affirmatively and positively of the mission, both on the war on terror and in Iraq, and said that we are going to continue in this, we're not going to step back, we're not going to take any steps forward – or backwards. We're going to just keep plugging away, because we are committed, and we have a job to do, and we're going to do it.

And I tell you what, I – I know how all of you feel. I've gotten a dose of it here from the e-mail, Mr. Snerdley. Snerdley was suicidal today. Snerdley almost couldn't go through and turn on C – he watches C-SPAN every morning, he couldn't even barely do that. I made him. I said turn it on, live your life, go ahead and establish your routine.

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And I know a lot of you are down in the dumps. If you saw the President, you've got to be lifted up. I mean, he was – he was as decisive and confident as I've seen him in his opening remarks. He did say that those involved in this abuse at the prison in Iraq will answer for it. And he said that – that make sure that such things are – are not repeated.

So basically, the President with a timely appearance here to – to buck everybody up, which I think that those who are open-minded and genuinely curious and hopeful here were probably very much encouraged and inspired by what the President said. And if you could see him, it would be even better. We'll have audio sound bites as the program unfolds.

Greetings and I hope you had a great weekend, folks, despite – you know, I – I know how tough this is, and I – for you, because you think this is just never going to end and Bush is going to go down in flames, or whatever's going to happen. And I – I want to address all that today in a – in a number of different ways.

Now let me just tell you here at the – I'm going to give you the phone number. And by the way, welcome to those watching on the Dittocam. We fired it up at the get-go today. The phone number's 800-282-2882, and the e-mail address is rush@eibnet.com.

Now what you have to remember about this is what I was saying all of last week after this – after this story broke. This, ladies and gentlemen, is about politics. This is not about the abuse of prisoners. The people, the Democrats, that are wringing their hands, and pulling their hair out, and crying over all sorts of things about the abuse of prisoners here, are a little over the top. They – they – this is not what this is about. This is just a convenient opportunity to execute yet another attempted political hit during an election year on President Bush.

You know, I – I got here this morning, and one of the first things I asked Mr. Snerdley, because he was going on and on and on about, "Boy, you've got your work cut out for you today." I said, "No, I don't. It's going to be the same old normal kind of day that we've been going through here ever since Kerry got the nomination. If you stop and think about it, this is no different than what it's been like ever since Kerry got – you felt this way during Richard Clarke, you felt this way during the 9/11 hearings, felt this way during the Democrat primaries when Bush wasn't on TV and the Democrats owned it.

Remember, you – you felt this way for a long time. And I know it's starting to add up, but it isn't working. It isn't working, is the bottom line. I know it makes you feel bad, but it's – it's – and I – and I mean, I'm talking about the political context, it just isn't working.

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Kerry doesn't have a huge lead. You don't even see Kerry in the midst of all this, because he doesn't have what it takes to carry the water on this. So all of the Kerry surrogates are having to do this, mainly. And it's the same old voices. We've got Carl Levin, we've got Joe Biden, we have Chuck Hagel – Republican thrown in there – McCain now and then, and – and Ted Kennedy. And it's basically just – it's – it's the same people commenting over and over again, saying these – saying these things.

But the – the bottom line is that there's polling data out today that show Bush is just a point behind Kerry in California. That's right! And Bush's – Bush's approval numbers went up two points last week in a FOX News opinion dynamics poll.

So Snerdley's in there this morning – no, I did not lose my place. Snerdley comes in here and he says, "Oh, these people." And he's just talking about how rotten this is. Now let me ask you a question, Mr. Snerdley. What made you – and I want to ask all of you this. What made you feel more horrified, 9/11 or these photos coming out of Iraq and the prison? Folks, do me a favor, as hard as this is and as – as difficult as it is to bear up under this, try to – try your best to keep this in context, and try to – try your best to keep this in perspective.

This is a – this is a point in time where you – you need not go wobbly on what you really believe, and don't let yourself be talked out of what you know to be true and what you really believe by the usual barrage and onslaught that you're seeing in the partisan media, and from their willing accomplices in the Democratic Party.

Right, it's an election year. This is an attempt and an opportunity for them to get at Bush. If this were happening outside of an election year – well, it probably – it probably would get some attention, depending on how far it was away from the next election. We're only two years away from an election anyway, given the House races are every other year, and 33 members of the Senate are up every other year. So – or every two years, basically. We'd – we'd never be far away from an election. We just – it's – it's a new era. The Democrats cannot get over the fact that they're out of power, cannot get over the fact that Kerry cannot get ahead of Bush. They can't get –

And when you – when you get right down to it, people trying to understand what it is that Liberals and the Democrats are so mad about, and it really is no more complicated than this. It is – it is sort of intricate. I mean, there's a web here that they've woven that you've got to unravel to try to figure it all out, but it really boils down to this. You know that the Libs consider themselves the elitists. They're the smartest people in the world. They're the smartest and most sophisticated people in the world, and they think of Bush as a what? He's a dunce, he's an idiot, he's a cowboy from Texas, and yet he keeps outsmarting them. And that makes them

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madder than – that, and Florida, the fact that this cowboy dunce barbecue jockey outsmarts them at every turn has just got them livid.

And I'll – now what – what constitutes outsmarting them? Well, is Bush really outsmarting them? Maybe. I mean, you could look at it that way, but I think it's something I said long ago, and I have said it over and over again, the Democrats are trying to make the truth out of a bunch of lies. They're trying to pass themselves off as people they aren't. They're trying to convince people that they're going to do things they aren't going to do, or they're not going to do things that people think they're going to do. Whatever. The Democrats, the Liberals in this country are presenting a mirage, an illusion. They must mask who they are if they're to stand a chance.

Bush is the real deal. He's just – he's just who he is. He has no airs about him. He doesn't lie. He is not phony. He's – he's not out doing things primarily oriented to, in terms of the American people, make them like him. He's just who he is. And the American people respond to his genuineness, and they respond to his decency. And this is visible, seeable, viewable in all of the polling data that is – that is still out there on Bush. And that is part of the degree of frustration too.

So as their anger mounts and as their frustration mounts, and as – think of how they must feel. Look at the salvos they've – by this time, I think they actually thought that Bush would either have resigned himself in disgrace or maybe impeachment proceedings would be underway. He's still ahead of Kerry. It may be a minute number in some polls, still ahead of Kerry. Not the way it was supposed to be. They are just beside themselves. And they can't contain it.

And like I think – what you can look for is what they've done ever since the campaign of 2002, they're going to overplay their hand here, and they're going to keep opening the nose right into their own nose – door right into their own nose and bloodying themselves. They're going to overfloor it – go overblow – overplay it, go too far, because they think people aren't hearing them. They think all these – it's, “Well, the American people must not be paying attention. We've got to raise the volume.” And as they raise the volume on all this – you know what the – can – can I tell you if? If a poll were taken and people felt really free to be truthful with the pollster, and they weren't worried about what somebody would think of what they say, I will bet you that the majority of the American people think this is so overblown, and so exaggerated, and so much being made out of so relatively little, given what is at stake here, that if we could get a truthful poll on this, it would devastate the Democrats.

We've got to take a brief timeout, come back. Oh, I've got this stack on the prisoner stuff. We've got a lighthearted stack. And I vow to get to the lighthearted stack today. I'm not going to let – and I've got a Kerry stack, and we're going to get to the Kerry stack, because I'm not going to let this sidetrack me. I'm not

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going to let this take me off of the campaign, the Presidential campaign, because I – I’m – you know, a lot of people are being, I think – you know, becoming one-trick ponies on this. It’s the same story every day, over and over. Democrats keep throwing fuel on the fire, media keeps throwing fuel on the fire, the story keeps apparently getting bigger, and at – we’re going to deal with it, but we’re going to move on to other things, too. Not going to allow all of this to sidetrack us in the – I think there is an effort here to keep Kerry out of the news, frankly, on the Democrats. I do.

Look it, what – Howard – Howard Kurtz in *The Washington Post* today, front page – I don’t know if it’s the front page. I’m not sure it’s the front page. Howard Kurtz recounts all of the “Kerry has to go” stories that have appeared. Today. Today. In the middle of all this, in *The Washington Post*, are stories about how Kerry doesn’t have what it takes to be the Democratic Presidential nominee. So we always look for the positive on this program, and we’ve – I’ve found a lot of it. I’ll share it with you as the program unfolds. In the meantime, sit tight. A little timeout here, and we’ll be back and continue in just a moment.

(station break)

RUSH: All right, for those of you who missed it, here is the way the President of the United States began his – his remarks today at the Pentagon. It runs about 25 seconds, but this is important.

BUSH: Mr. Secretary, thank you for your hospitality. And thank you for your leadership. You are courageously leading our nation in the war against terror. You are doing a superb job. You are a strong Secretary of Defense, and our nation owes you a debt of gratitude.

RUSH: Let me tell you what I think’s behind this. I’m going to tell you what – remember, last week I was aghast, I was appalled, I couldn’t believe it had happened, and so I – when – when Bush privately, “privately” got out – had – had reamed Rummy. Supposedly, Bush had called Rummy to the White House. Rummy came up there, and – and really – really leaned into him for not showing him these pictures, and sort of keeping everything out. And of course, this was supposed to have been done in private, but it got out there.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, put blood in the water, and it really encouraged all these hearings last week, began all these catcalls for Rumsfeld’s resignation. I firmly believe that Bush doing that is what gave all of these anti-administration Senators and Congressmen and the – and the media the fuel to really gin up this assault on Rumsfeld. There was never any talk of Rumsfeld resigning until Bush did this.

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Well, Bush set it right today. This is setting it right. This is Bush saying, “Shut up. He’s not going anywhere, he’s not resigning, I’m not firing him, I love him. And besides, he served me a nice cup of coffee.”

One of the things I laughed at, “Mr. Secretary, thank you for your hospitality.” I mean, the President goes to the Pentagon and he’s not going to get what he wants? Thanks for your hospitality. I love this Washington-speak. Like the President of the United States is going to go to the Pentagon, visit the Secretary of State, and have to ask can – “Can I use the bathroom? Where is it? How about you mind if I sit over there? Have you got any coffee?”

Anyway, there’s some other news last week, by the way, before we get into this prisoner stack that I have here. And it’s a juicy stack. But you know, some of the – a lot of news got obscured last week. Great economic news. Tax revenues went through the roof. It means the deficit’s coming down. And what was it? Two hundred and – the economy added 288,000 jobs last month. And what?

The – did she really ask that? Oh, Dawn. Oh, no! She hasn’t been here long – this just shows that you have to repeat this stuff. This just goes – Dawn can’t understand how tax revenues went up with tax cuts. I’ll explain it some other time. We’re going to stay focused here, but it – it works every time it’s tried. Just never forget. It was the – it was – ask yourself how did Reagan’s tax cuts cause an economic boom. OK? That’s – that’s the foundation. I’ll explain it to you later.

This – there’s – there’s a professor at Yale, and economics professor at Yale, and this guy calculates Presidential race and makes predictions based on solely economic numbers. This guy’s out now, because of these latest numbers saying he’s projecting Bush to win with 60% of the vote in November. This – this – yeah, I have the story somewhere here in the stack. It’s this Yale economics professor.

Do you – you remember we’ve talked on this program about – about Rich Galen. Rich Galen used to work at GOPAC (sp?), and now he’s a blogger. He has a – an e-met new – e-mail newsletter called, *Mullings*. Well, guess where he’s been? He’s been in Iraq for the past many months, and he’s been working with the Coalition Authority. He’s back now, and he just reported this in his most recent *Mullings*.

“I’m now officially sick and tired of the self-serving and largely uninformed hand-wringing about the goings on at Abu Ghraib prison outside of Baghdad. As someone who’s actually been on the grounds of the prison, let me explain a few things. First of all, there’s no excuse for what a few soldiers did, but there’s also no reason to make this into the moral equivalent of the Black Plague.

“It should be pointed out that the prisoners at Abu Ghraib were not Boy Scouts rounded up for jaywalking. These are bad guys who either blew up or shot a

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coalition member, or were caught assembling an explosive device, or were caught in a place where the makings of the explosive devices were found, or were caught with a cache of weapons. You see the pattern here. In short, they were trying to kill me and others like me – Americans. And if they succeeded in doing that, they were going to come over here and try to kill you. Ugly thought? You bet. But that's the kind of prisoner being held in the terrorist section at Abu Ghraib."

Rich Galen, author of the political blog, Mullings.com. And he worked with the US civilian authorities in Iraq last month. That's exactly what I was asking everybody. Wait a minute. Stop this! Who are these guys? They're shooting at Americans. They have attempted to kill Americans. You've got to put this stuff in perspective. It has to be put in context. And all of this hand-wringing.

You know, everybody talks about the abuse of the prisoners, how horrible it is and how sickly and unseemly. Let me tell you, I am getting more upset and more offended and bothered by the – the unceasing hand-wringing over this in this touchy-feely little country of ours. This is a war. And thank God there are people who are able to put this in perspective and inform other people of it.

(station break)

RUSH: That's right, my friends, Rush Limbaugh, the EIB Network. I am the happiest and most optimistic member of the media establishment. A powerful, influential member of the media, I might add, as you well know.

Now another thing – I don't – folks, don't worry about this stock market business today. This is – if some of you are. This is – its, its crazy, but I – there's a reason for it. First place, one of the reasons the market's down is because of these new jobs. The forecast last week was for 173,000 new jobs. That's what Wall Street expected, and of course the report comes in, 288,000 new jobs. And what does that mean to Wall Street? Inflation. Oh, no, inflation. We've practically got deflation going on. A little inflation wouldn't hurt, if it can be contained. Bamo!

That, that plus the fact that Novak reported this morning that the Federal Reserve is probably going to raise the Fed's funds rate, interest rates in June. So that's put the (deep breath) brakes on, and some people are taking profits here in anticipation of the price going down, the market falling. But this is – don't buy this notion that all this is related to what's going on in Iraq. They're primarily economic indicators or factors that, that are having more of an impact on the Dow Jones Industrial average or the NASDAQ average today than what's happening in Iraq.

One more Bush sound bite. A portion of his remarks today at the Pentagon. I think he put this perfectly.

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BUSH: We have great respect for the people of Iraq and for all Arab peoples, respect for their culture, and for the history, and for the contribution they can make to the world. We believe that democracy will allow these gifts to flourish, that freedom is the answer to hopelessness and terror. That a free Iraq will lead the way to a new and better Middle East. And that a free Iraq will make our country more secure.

I understand the difficulty of the mission of our men and women in uniform. They're facing an enemy in sand and heat and blasting winds, often unable to tell friend from foe. I know how painful it is to see a small number dishonor the honorable cause in which so many are sacrificing. What took place in Iraqi prison, does not reflect the character of the more than 200,000 military personnel who have served in Iraq since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

RUSH: Amen. This, this is the White House answer to all that garbage that happened on Thursday and Friday. This is the White House answer. White House has said, "OK, well, you did your hearings. You want Rumsfeld to go. He's staying, and we're staying in Iraq, and we're going to win. And it's a small number of people that did this. And we're going to root them out. We're going to find out who did what. And we're going to punish them, and we're moving on. Do you hear me?"

So it's over, folks. It's over. Now I'm – when I say it's over, the Democrats are not through, but it's another failure. You have to look at this statement today is the quintessential George Bush looking these people in the eye and saying whatever you would say to somebody who's really had you fed up and you want to tell them just to go to hell, that's what Bush did today.

He just told them to go to hell. "I am who I am. We're in Iraq. There's a reason for our being in Iraq. It's a good reason. We are going to fulfill our mission. Rumsfeld is my Secretary of State. We have the best military in the world. You want to argue about it? Keep on, but those are the facts."

And the President of the United States stood up just now, said, "I'm not going to let Congressional hearings or the media or any critics demoralize the military of this country. They're the greatest military in the world. I am not going to let a bunch of people in an election year take me off course. I'm not going to let a bunch of people in an election year mess around with my Cabinet. I am who I am. I am President of the United States. I started a mission. We're going to finish the mission. It's an honorable mission. (blows raspberry) Pffff you."

That's what this message is. And I will guarantee you that after the President said this, you have to – a bunch of Democrats over the weekend, "We got them on the run now. We've got him on the run. Rumsfeld, we can see Rumsfeld's almost in our rearview mirror. We're going to get this Iraq thing fixed. We're going to pull out of Iraq. We're going to make Bush admit this is a failure if it's the last thing we do."

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And they thought they were getting close, and Bush stands up today and just sort of smiles. He wasn't smiling, but he was decisive and there it is. These – I mean, there's no other way to put this. "You guys can say what you want," he said. "You can do all you want, you can have all the hearings you want. You can make all the criticism of me you want. You can try to take this little episode of these prisoner pictures and you can try to say that it represents a whole country. You can try to say it represents a whole military. You can try to say that is a sign of how wrong America is in this, but you're wrong. And we're right. And I'm right. And I'm staying the course. (blows raspberry) Pppff-you."

So you wait. Liberal reaction to this will be even further outrage. "He's so thick-headed, he just doesn't get it." And they'll ramp it up even more. I'm sure after last – when were those hearings, is it Thursday or Friday? They were Friday.

I'm sure after Friday they thought they were on the verge, folks, of taking over the country. They were on the verge of it. They were on the verge of taking this military policy in Iraq and destroying it. They were on the verge of seeing to it that we were going to be labeled as failures in Iraq, that Bush was going to have to admit it, and take appropriate action associated with failure. Ain't happening. President of the United States understands perspective and is not going to let a story such as this prisoner abuse derail the objective, because we can't afford to.

All right. Other items here in this stack. "In the months after September 11, when the shock of the worst attack in US history still angered most Americans, even the most vigorous civil libertarians were in favor of getting tough with detainees in the war on terrorism, even to the point of actually recommending torture. It is a measure of how much the outrage of that dark day has faded that a handful of demeaning photos of detained Iraqi terrorist suspects has sent the nation into a convulsion of hand-wringing and recrimination." I still don't think the nation has descended to that.

Two-thirds of the people still support Rumsfeld. I don't think the whole country is wringing its hands, and I don't think the whole country is in convulsions over this. Some, yeah, but mostly, I would say that mostly those who have political ambitions or desires are the ones that are acting all upset. And I'm – I'm going to submit here, I don't care who quotes me, I don't care where they repeat it – there's a lot of acting going on here, and there's a lot of false, phony concern for these Iraqi detainees.

This is not about people genuinely outraged about this. My – let me, let me just put it to you this way, friends. I sent an e-mail to Flea Levin. Flea, Flea and I were discussing this over the weekend, and I sent him a quick e-mail. And I said, "Yeah, this abuse is bad, there's no question, but it doesn't warrant our losing the war over it or losing additional lives. The Democrats and the media don't give a rat's rear

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end about what happened to those prisoners. All this is is the latest weapon they can use politically to harm Bush, and which is why they're trying to harm me, in fact. It's all political. They don't give – they don't care a hoot about these prisoners. If they cared about actually winning the war, if the media and the Democrats actually cared about winning this war, they would be co-operating in putting this incident in perspective.”

The fact that – that this is, you know, upsetting stuff and that I have said that, of course, and what the President says, is all left out of the criticism. And I still maintain that including me in all this and what I say demonstrates this is all political. You know, on *The Capital Gang* – I didn't see this Saturday night, but Mark – I was the outrage of the week. For Mark Shields for this Skull and Bones comment. And Bill Moyers talked about it.

We have, because we have to for the Website, we got – we have a – we search, we scour the 'net, we do a key word search on my name. There were editorials in Pascagoula, Mississippi, talking about what a rotten SOB. I am for the Skull and Bones comment. Or the college fraternity prank comment. Must have been 75 hits, all using the same quote out of context and without the perspective that I have offered in making it. But why do this? You know, I'm sitting here saying, like I said, I'm just a kid from Missouri who wanted to be on the radio.

And now all of a sudden I have to be discredited along with the administration. And we played you the clip from last Friday at the – or last – well, we played it Friday, so from last Thursday at the White House press briefing where this urban – American Urban Radio Network gal, what's her name, Gail Somebody, April who? April what's her name. She got up there – April Ryan, thank you, somebody knows. She got up there and demanded the White House press spokesman repudiate me as the, as the proverbial leader of the “Conservative Party of America.”

And it was about this business of the Skull and Bones and, and this fraternity comments really bugged a lot of these Liberals. The Skull and Bones and a fraternity prank just really, really bugged them. That's the only thing of what I've said today. Boy, they've got all over everywhere, and McClellan wouldn't do it, but doesn't matter what McClellan did. The fact that I have to brought up, condemned and – and discredited is all the evidence anybody should need this is political, because I don't have the power to do anything. I don't have – I'm not the Joint Chiefs, I'm not in the military chain. I can't make policy, I can't affect policy, I can't implement policy, none of that. I don't – I've never met anybody in the Joint Chiefs. Ever. I don't know Colin Powell. I don't know Rumsfeld. Never met him. Talked to him on the phone one time.

And yet they lump me in with all this, and I'll tell you why. You know why? Take a guess, Mr. Snerdley, why are they – aside from what I've said, it's obviously

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political, but there's – it – it – and if that doesn't prove to you it's political, folks, then you've got to open your eyes. That this is – the attempt to discredit what we're doing in Iraq is political, not based on whether they think we're really right or wrong. They're trying to discredit it so that Bush doesn't, doesn't win from this, because he's winning on everything else. The Democrats with Kerry have tried to chink Bush everywhere, and they've been able, unable to do it.

Why do you think, Mr. Snerdley, that they are continually focusing on me in this? No, they – they, they, they – that – I know that was Kit saying I need a new Newt Gingrich, H.R.'s starting to answer for everybody around here now. Mr. Snerdley tell me, who, what do you think it is? Mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm, mmm-hmm. Well, of course, of course that's what, I mean. Mr. Snerdley, with a typical sycophantic answer said, "Well, it's because you're effective with the people they need to reach in November if Kerry's to win."

There's no question about that. But that – that's not my answer. The answer is this. Why do they discredit me, and why do they keep quoting me, and why do they keep quoting this one little comment about – and by the way, this – my comment about the Skull and Bones Society and this – and this fraternity thing was before the – that was when we just had those two pictures. You know, of the guys in the – I can't believe they didn't quote me on the hoods comment. I said there's more hoods at a Robert Byrd birthday party 40 or 50 years ago than there is in Iraq. I can't believe they let that go. Well, I do know why they let that go, because they're not going to remind people who Robert Byrd is. But – or was.

But, but nevertheless, they still focus on this. It's because of this, folks, in their minds, Democrats, Liberals, some of the media, what I'm saying is what Bush really believes and can't say himself. What I'm saying is what Conservative Republicans really think, that Bush really didn't think this is a bad – that his wife didn't really think it's a bad deal. That this is just a bunch of people making a mountain out of a molehill, and that they are using me to say what Bush can't say, so I have to be discredited because that's the way of discrediting what Bush really wants to say, but can't say. That's what it is, and make no mistake about it.

We'll be back right after this. Don't go away.

(station break)

RUSH: Taking care of business. "You Ain't Seen Nothing Yet." Bachman-Turner-Overdrive, Rush Limbaugh, and more fun that a human being should be allowed to have.

Look, folks, let's cut to the chase here, OK? I've been trying to very slowly and gently maneuver all of you into now. Here's cut to the chase time. We all know what goes on in war. We all know that what's in these pictures that we've seen –

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and we haven't seen the pictures of death – but, you know, even this latest picture of the dog and a nude Iraqi – have you seen that one?

A couple of American are holding, it looks like German Shepherds, some kind of vicious, big dogs, and the dogs are barking “Bow, wow, arrf, arrf.” And the Iraqi prisoner's cowering there in fear. He's all nude. And the picture caption's “Dog Attack Iraqi.” No, the dog isn't attacking anybody. The dog's on a leash. The dog is scaring an Iraqi prisoner. “Noooo, we're scaring them too? Is that allowed in the Geneva Convention? We're scaring them with dogs?” Yes, my friends, we are. The dog didn't attack anybody. The dog's not attacking anybody. The dog's on a leash. Both of them are. I've seen the picture.

So yeah, I mean, these, these Iraqis – I'd be scared, too, if I were nude and a couple of German Shepherds, and I'd been – you know, I'd been committing crimes against Americans, now the Americans have me in their prison, a couple of dogs barking at me. Yeah, I – I might be a little scared. So what, it's war. We all know, we all know what goes on in war. So here's what's happening. And I don't know how many of you are part of this group. I'm not part of this group. But there are a significant number of Americans – let's leave the press and the Dems out of this because they're acting politically here – they're acting. And so are a lot of people. A lot of people are acting. They have to act outraged and surprised because that's what you think is expected of you.

How many of you went out to social occasions over the weekend? And this subject, this story came up. And how many of you wanted to really say, “I don't see the big deal here. This is war. These are people who tried to kill Americans. But you didn't say it or some variation of that because you were afraid that you were with a bunch of people that would start yelling at you for being insensitive, or coarse, or crude, or whatever, so you said what you thought you had to say in order to get along during a controversial situation if this conversation came up wherever you were. How many of you did that. How many of you did that? Admit it to yourself. You don't have to raise your hands out there. I'm not – I'm not – we're not – we're not counting hands here. I just want you to think about it.

Because the fact of the matter is, that's what I think most people are doing. I think most people – see this is where my optimism and faith in the people of this country, remains steadfast. I don't think most people are that outraged by it. I don't think the – let's put it this way. The public outrage nowhere near matches what we watched on television on Friday and yesterday, exhibited by these holier-than-thou, sanctimonious elected officials who are themselves acting, and saying what they think you, their voters, want them to say. And what you their voters expect to hear.

Let's face it, folks, we live in a society where sometimes the truth has to be shaded, denied, covered up, in order to protect people's feelings. In order to just keep things on an even keel. Remember, during the Clinton years had all these stories

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about how lying is good for America? And about saves people's hurt feelings, spares people pain. Lies here and there are actually good. Well, I think that was, that was a – a series of stories designed to mitigate damage against Clinton because he'd been found in contempt of court for lying.

Just like – there's the most incredible story, and I actually had this – got it over the weekend – where is this story? Oral sex – can I say “oral” now without getting deelted at Indianapolis? You heard about this? Did you ever see the – did you see the front page of *The New York Times* today? I got deelted 11 times in Indianapolis for using the word “orgy,” “damn,” and what's the other word? I forget. “Urinate.” Because it's an Emmis owned station, and the Emmis stations have been fined, so they're not taking any chances.

So I got this headline here “Oral Sex Lessons to Cut Rates of Teenage Pregnancy,” and I said, “hmm, can I say ‘oral’?” I'm sure I can say “oral,” but can I say “sex”? I can say “oral cavity.”

How many people – you, you go out and say “epidermis” and a lot of people think you're making a sex joke, because they don't know what epidermis is. Oral – but, but – but look at this, this is from the UK *Guardian*. “Oral Sex Lessons to Cut Rates of Teenage Pregnancy.” You here this, Don, you have young daughters. Oral sex recommended to cut rates of teenage pregnancy. And you watch, this will be – it won't be long before this will be heralded as one of the great legacies of the Clinton years.

Folks, if somebody asks you what you think about this prisoner thing, just tell them the truth and I guarantee you more people that you tell the truth will say, “Yeah, I agree with you” than you know.

Back in a second.

(station break)

RUSH: All right, that's it folks, our first hour *fini*. Complete. In the can. Soon to be on its way to the Hall of Fame, Limbaugh Wing of the Museum of Broadcasting. But we've got two hours to go on the fastest three hours in media today. Back right after this.

HOOR 2

RUSH: I'm just no – I'm just looking at – CNN's running that picture, *The New Yorker* picture of the – the nude Iraqi with the two dogs on the leashes, and the guy's cowering in fear in front of his jail cell. He's just – he's just scared. You know, he's just scared. The dogs are not attacking him.

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Anyway, greetings, folks. Welcome back. Hubba-hubba, dooba-dooba. It's the EIB Network and Rush Limbaugh, the nation's most eagerly anticipated radio talk show program, which meets and surpasses all audience expectations on a daily basis. Thrilled and delighted to have you with us. Here's our telephone number if you want to be on the program. It's 800-282-2882. And the e-mail address, rush@eibnet.com

All right, now I'm going to – I'm going to finish this story about torture. I got – I got sidetracked because I disagreed with a little bit of it, and that took me off in whole bunch of different areas because of my extremely active, fertile, brilliant mind. And I want to get back to it now, and I've got these audio sound bites. I love this. I was the Outrage of the Week from Art Shields on the Mark Maxishields on the *Capital Gang*. Bill Moyers ripped into me, and Mort Zuckerman of *The New York Daily News* ripped into me as well. He was a guest on John McLaughlin on *The McLaughlin Group*. I didn't even know that show was still on. And no offense, but I didn't know it was still on.

Anyway, this – this story is from our old buddies at *Newsweek*. And they went back and they've recounted all the comments from Liberal Democrats who were in favor of torture in the immediate aftermath of 9/11. And they write, "Things were different when America still realized it was under attack from its enemies at home and abroad. Leading Civil Libertarian Harvard Law Professor, Alan Dershowitz, actually argued that the torture of terrorist suspects was legal under the US Constitution and should be employed when a suspect refused to divulge information about potentially deadly terrorist plots.

"Dershowitz said," – and this is the November 8, 2001, *Los Angeles Times* op ed piece – "Is it justified to resort to unconventional techniques, such as truth serum, moderate physical pressure, and outright torture? The Constitutional answer to this question may surprise people who are not familiar with the current US Supreme Court interpretation of the 5th Amendment privilege against self-incrimination.' But he continued writing, 'Any interrogation technique, including the use of truth serum or even torture, is not prohibited by the US Constitution.'

"Dershowitz explained that while evidence obtained through torture could not be used in a criminal prosecution, it could be used against that suspect in a non-criminal case, such as a deportation hearing, or against somebody else, or used to protect the lives of Americans who might benefit from knowing what information this terrorist suspect had. Now, since there was no Constitutional ban against torture, Dershowitz argues that the US courts could issue torture warrants in cases where terrorist suspects refused to talk."

Do you see how things have changed? This is – this is a – again, this is on – I think it's November of 2001. Let me get the exact date again here for you, my good buddies. Yeah, November 8th, 2001. September, October – yeah, not even two

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months after this. And – and we’re talking about torturing these people if we could just find them. And now look at us. “Oh, no! They’re nude and wearing hoods and they’re in a pyramid. Oh, no, what are we going to do, put them into a phone booth next? Or maybe one of those little Cooper Minis? How awful are we?”

And then he says this. “What if torture was limited to the rare ticking bomb case, the situation in which a captured terrorist who knows of an imminent large-scale threat refuses to disclose it? Would torturing one guilty terrorist to prevent the deaths of a thousand innocent civilians shock the conscience of all decent people? With the wreckage of Ground Zero still smoldering, few, if any Americans,” he said, “would object.

“Likewise, *Newsweek* mega-Liberal, Jonathan Alter, argued that it was time to take the gloves off with enemy detainees. He said, ‘It’s a new world and survival may well require old techniques that seemed out of the question.’” He wrote this the same week that Dershowitz spoke out. “‘In this autumn of anger, even a Liberal can find his thoughts turning to torture,’ wrote Jonathan Alter.”

So see, folks, I’m telling you, if you don’t think this is that big a deal – I mean, as big a deal as the hand-wringers-in-chief are doing out there, you are right. This is war. And, you know, the closer you get to 9/11, the more everybody was willing to speak out about this. But now 9/11’s in the past, and we’re doing this in Iraq, and I – you – you look at – we all know what war is, and you know it – like I asked you last hour, if you go – had any social occasions this weekend, you ran into people and you were talking about this, you probably didn’t tell them what you really thought of it because you were afraid how they would react. You would think that they’d think you were barbarians, so you want to sound all reasonable, and erudite and learned. And so you say, “I was horrified by what I saw, I was outraged. Why, what are we Americans becoming? What – what is happening to our civility?”

I can just hear you all. Not all of you, but some of you people. You know who you are. All the while wishing you had the courage to say what you really felt, but you didn’t because you’re afraid of what they would think of you, when in truth, they’re thinking the same thing but they’re afraid to tell you the truth because of what you’re going to think of them. So everybody’s out there sort of massaging everybody else, trying to sound reasonable and not reactionary, mean, cruel, cold, brutal. All the while, we are in a war, and we are in a war for our way of life, and so – that’s why I say just keep all this in perspective.

But I mean, here you have Dershowitz, and Alter and everybody else, a lot of people writing about maybe we should torture these guys. Now, granted, this is 9/11, this is al-Qaeda. I don’t want to – I – I’m not – I don’t want to try to purposely misrepresent what these guys are saying or – or to fool you, but the fact of the matter is, it’s the same war. Now, you have some people that won’t admit that, but it’s the same war. And these people are firing on Americans, trying to

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blow up Americans, trying to kill Americans, and it's interesting. Two, three years ago, it's OK. Constitution even says let's torture these people. Let – let's really get tough with – even a mega-Liberal went out and said it.

Now, all of a sudden, it's an election year, they think Bush is vulnerable. "This is horrible. Who could ever even conceive of something like this?" These Liberals want us to think these thoughts never crossed their minds, because they're way above us, folks. They're elite sophisticates. They never, ever think of this kind of horror. It never crosses their minds, and so when they see it, they're duly outraged. BS. It's on their minds. It's what they'd love to do to Bush. Torture. It's what they're trying to do to Bush.

All right, let's go now – and by the way, this – this is audio – there – *The New York Times* piece that – what is it? Is this the 10th? Ever since Brian took my calendar, I don't even know what day it is here. Yeah, we're moving and he – he got a head start – I don't know why it was so important to move the calendar, but it's over there. We're not going to be over there for – is it still going to be next week? OK. So this is the 10th?

All right, so this is from Saturday. A story in *The New York Times*. "Soldier's Family Set in Motion Chain of Events on Disclosure. Ivan Frederick was distraught. His son, an Army reservist turned prison guard in Iraq, was under investigation earlier this year for mistreating prisoners. Photographs of the abuse were beginning to circulate among soldiers and military investigators. So the father went to his brother-in-law, William Lawson, who was afraid that reservists like his nephew would end up taking the fall for what he considered command lapses, Mr. Lawson recounted in an interview on Friday.

"He knew whom to turn to, David Hackworth. David Hackworth, a retired colonel and a muckraker who was always willing to take on the military establishment. Mr. Lawson sent an e-mail message in March to Mr. Hackworth's Website, got a call back from an associate there in minutes. That e-mail message would put Mr. Lawson in touch with *60 Minutes II*, and helped set in motion events that led to the public disclosure of the graphic photographs and an international crisis for the Bush administration."

But if you read far enough into this story, listen to this. (gasps) Now, I'm not surprised they buried this in the Saturday paper, which is fish wrap. "The irony," Mr. Lawson said, "is that the public spectacle might have been avoided if the military and the federal government had been responsive to his claims that his nephew was simply following orders." Mr. Lawson said he sent letters to 17 members of Congress about this case earlier this year with virtually no response, and that he ultimately contacted Hackworth's Website out of frustration, leading him to cooperate with a consultant for *60 Minutes II*."

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Yet, on Friday, we heard from the holier-than-thou Senate and House committees on how they were kept in the dark and they didn't know anything, and if they would only have been contacted and brought in, why, they might have been able to help. Well, it turns out, again, in *The New York Times* Saturday, the uncle of the soldier who revealed the mistreatment said that 17 members of Congress, both parties, Democrats and Republicans, were contacted about this, but they blew him off.

Who were they? I want to know who these 17 senators and – or members of Congress. Whoever they are – Senators, House of Representatives people – I want to know who they are, because the idea – this idea that's now running around out there that Congress didn't know is belied by this allegation. Seventeen members of Congress apparently ignored this while the military didn't. The military's been investigating this since January. And who's investigating who here on Friday?

Seventeen members of Congress knew. This is sort of like the members of the Senate and House Intelligence Committees acting like they knew nothing before 9/11, that they had been given no data. This is like all these senators who voted for the war in Iraq after being shown the intelligence, saying, "We didn't know anything. We've got to investigate the White House." You know, Congress gets all those briefings, Congress gets all that intel. And now we find out 17 members of Congress, buried in the Saturday *New York Times*, were first told about these pictures before *60 Minutes II* got them. And the guy that told them about it – uncle, father, I don't know what he is of the guy that – that was about to get railroaded here, was blown off. Nobody responded to him. And yet, they're out there saying, all Friday, "This is outrageous. The administration didn't tell us. They didn't tell the Pentagon. The Pentagon didn't tell anybody else. We were in the dark. This is no good." Well, there's 17 of them knew.

Now, why did those 17 who were informed not react? Let me – let me – just, folks, a simple question. If this is as outrageous as it is on the merits, why wasn't it way back earlier this year when these 17 members of Congress found out about it? Why weren't they so repulsed and revulsed back then, but they are now? And I will tell you why. It's because when they first heard about it, they said, "This is a war, these things happen. Yippee." But now, now that everybody's having a giant conniption fit over it, everybody's got to get in on the act of acting like they too have never heard of something like this – never seen anything like this before. "This is horrible! I do not understand my country anymore. How can this be?" It's all an act, because it's an election year.

We'll be back. We'll continue. Rush Limbaugh, the happiest and most optimistic member of the media. Stay with us.

(station break)

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RUSH: And we are back, Rush Limbaugh, the cutting edge of societal evolution.

Apparently, ladies and gentlemen, I need to offer a modification. Apparently, the – the pictures that are – the picture going around of the – the nude Iraqi prisoner cowering in fear of a couple of dogs? The caption to that picture that I've seen going around intimates that the dogs were on the verge of attacking this guy, and he was very scared and so forth. In the picture I saw, the dogs are leashed. And the correct caption would be, "Nude Iraqi Prisoner Scared of Dog, But Not Attacked."

Apparently – there's not a picture of it, but apparently – well, there's – there's another picture later with the nude Iraqi pic – prisoner no longer cowering in the corner against his cell. He's writhing on the floor with a pool of blood, and apparently the dog did bite his leg. But there's no picture of that. I have just been informed of this. I wanted to pass that on and make sure that the facts are out there. There's no picture of it, but that's apparently what – what happened.

We were told there are going to be a lot of pictures coming and that they will be worse than what we've seen, and this sort of thing. So, sorry for the error. I have not seen the entire *New Yorker* piece. In fact, the link I have for it still won't load, but – so I'm just reacting to the caption of that one picture.

Here now, the audio sound bites that I have been telling you about. This is Bill Moyers from Friday night's PBS *Now with Bill Moyers*. And after Moyers spends 30 minutes – 30 minutes straight on how much the Bush administration is screwing up the war in Iraq, and how Rumsfeld is responsible for the behavior of all of these soldiers, Moyers decides, after 30 minutes, it's time for some balance.

MOYERS: For an alternative view, which, in the interest of fairness and balance, we feel obliged to share with you. It comes from that noted moralist and darling of the Right, Rush Limbaugh. Let's listen to his show from Tuesday as we look at what he's talking about.

CALLER: It was like a college fraternity prank to stack up naked men and –

RUSH (on tape): Exactly!

CALLER: But it was – but it was (inaudible; overlapping dialogue) –

RUSH (on tape): Exactly my point! This is no different than what happens at the Skull and Bones initiation, and we're going to ruin people's lives over it, and we're going to hamper our military effort. And then we are going to really hammer them because they had a good time. You know, these people are being fired at every day. I'm talking about the people having a good time. These people – have you ever heard of emotional release? Have you ever heard of the need to blow some steam off?

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RUSH: I was talking there about these American troops that are being blown up, attempted to be blown up, shot at, in some cases killed every day by the people in this prison. That was audio from last Tuesday when we had seen two or three pictures. Then on Saturday night, CNN's *Capitol Gang*, I'm the Outrage of the Week for Mark Maxi-shields.

SHIELDS: And now for the Outrage of the Week. Senator John McCain, the Arizona Republican and authentic American naval hero, who spent five and a half years being tortured in a North Vietnamese prison, is outraged, truly outraged by what Americans did to Iraqi detainees in the famous Abu Ghraib – infamous Abu Ghraib prison.

But Rush Limbaugh, Conservative talk master and armchair commando, disagrees. Limbaugh dismissively compares the sadism to a college fraternity hazing at Yale. "This is no different than what happens at the Skull and Bones initiation." John McCain embodies American values. Too bad Rush Limbaugh doesn't begin to understand this nation's values.

RUSH: He needs to get better at reading his teleprompter is my – is my first observation. This Skull and Bones business, they only – it's – it's the quote that they take – I know where they're getting it. It – I said Skull and Bones on purpose. I thought it'd give the media an additional opportunity to bash Bush, since he's Skull and Bones. But so's Kerry, so I guess they can't do that. And then this – this is from *The McLaughlin Group*. He said this to his guest, Mort Zuckerman, who owns *The New York Daily News* and *US News and World Report*.

MCLAUGHLIN: Rush says there's less here than meets the eye.

RUSH (on tape): They are 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.

MCLAUGHLIN: Question. Is Limbaugh's appraisal plausible? Mort?

ZUCKERMAN: Not to me. If these aren't pictures of horror and violence, I don't know what is.

MCLAUGHLIN: Oh, so there have been killings and they – what they call a couple of homicides but it looks like murder.

ZUCKERMAN: Right. We – we don't know the evidence on that. But, I mean I think the issue is when you talk about its worldwide impact, there are a lot of people who watched four Americans being burnt to death and hung out from – from a lamppost who never said a word, and never said a word about all the atrocities in that part of the world. So there are people who are going to use this who are already against

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the United States. But there's no doubt that it's going to have a huge and negative effect.

RUSH: I don't – I don't get what he's trying to say here. He's – he's complaining that nobody complained when those four people that were burned and charred to a crisp were hung from the bridge and torched and all dragged around through the streets and so forth, and yet he's upset with what I said about this, and it's going to cause a huge negative effect on America. We'll see.

(station break)

RUSH: You know, isn't it interesting, folks? I've been around here for 15-and-a-half years. I've never been so often quoted on a single story. I think what happens is that the media has come across a new Website that's supposedly chronicling what I say. And they all go there and they read it and they see it, and then they take the propaganda of that Website and repackage it and call it news. And they leave the context of my remarks out.

For example, nowhere where I've been quoted have I been quoted as saying I – that I think what happened there is not good. I don't support it and I don't encourage more of it. I have not said that--or I have said that, they've not quoted me on that. There's a number of things that they've left out, most of it context. But it just – it's amazing. I mean, all these years, they could just tune into my show and listen, but no, that's too tough. But now that there's a simple clearinghouse for out-of-context quotes from this program, if you go there, have them present as news when it's just repackaged propaganda.

At any rate, we just heard from Mort Zuckerman, who's the president of *The New York Daily News* and *US News and World Report*. He said there's no doubt that this is going to have a huge and negative effect on America.

I have a story here. This is from the DesertNews.com. This is a Salt Lake City newspaper. And it's by Robert Gross. Robert Gross is a Utahan, senior advisor Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs for the coalition provisional authority in Iraq.

Headlined in his little op-ed that ran on – I guess this is yesterday. Yeah, ran Sunday May the 9th. Headline, "To Iraqis, Prisoner Abuse is Largely a Non-Issue. It's Friday May 7th, 2004. The Muslim weekend. And the news here is apparently much different than there." Meaning America. "From my early morning looks at the news channels, looks like the prisoner story's dominating the national news. It appears to us to be taking on all the signs of an overreaction to a very negative and unfortunate incident. It's amazing to us that people are calling for Rumsfeld's resignation or firing. Interestingly, it's mostly a non-event for most of the Iraqis with whom we work or meet.

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A typical reaction came from one of our key staff I'll call Abdul. He has a degree in English literature, is in his mid-30s. He served in the Iraqi army during the Iraq/Iran war, has a side business in women's cosmetics and – "Amazing, that. "And works with us in the coordination of several of our social institutions. He's somewhat typical of the many more educated Iraqis. And when I questioned him about how most Iraqis view the prisoner abuse story, his first reaction was a startled stare. He didn't really even connect with my question.

When I explained more fully, he said, 'Well, actually, sir, to be quite honest with you, we think it represents small dot on a large piece of paper. We know the hearts of almost all Americans are good and they do so much good for our people. Remember, sir, we lived under Saddam for nearly 30 years. To be quite honest with you sir, we – we believe that the media is not fair and has not been fair for this entire war. After all, we Iraqis watch every despicable act committed by terrorists as they are glorified by Al Jazeera.' Nearly all our translators and Iraqi staff indicate basically the same thing. Many Iraqis, even those who have TVs and watch Al Jazeera, are mostly nonplussed by the prisoner story.

"Now, I don't mean to excuse or justify these acts in any way," he writes. "It's an obvious black eye and tarnishes all that we're attempting to do here. Overwhelming consensus among the military working here in the palace is abhorrence and an attitude that the enlisted personnel and their commanders ought to be dealt with appropriately and severely after a full investigation.

"But Abdul's right, I mean we just wish this could be kept in proper perspective. What are we thinking about – or what we are thinking about often doesn't make the news. Many of you I know are interested in what we're doing in Fallujah and Najaf, Sadr's current headquarters in Fallujah. It's not a matter of if, but when we eventually go in. We currently are working with an Iraqi general who's standing up all-Iraqi force to patrol the city. We hope to neutralize the opposition as much as possible, thereby – by preventing collateral damage. Eventually, however, it'll be necessary for the marines to regain control of the city.

Same can be said for Najaf, but for slightly different reasons. The Ayatollah Sistani has made it clear he doesn't want to see coalition forces enter the city, one of the Shia's holy sites. And each day passes, however, Sadr apparently appears probably to be losing followers and influence. He's still a danger, however, and poses a threat. Yesterday some of his militia attacked one of our coalition convoys close to Najaf. The score was 40 to 0 in favor of the coalition. He's probably gradually and painfully getting it. Leadership sometimes requires great patience. This is one of those times."

So it – it basically – again, this – this is Robert – Robert Gross, who is from the state of Utah, senior advisor Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs for the coalition

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provisional authority in Iraq saying this prisoner story has got the Iraqis, the educated Iraqis, scratching their heads.

Grab a couple phone calls because it's been a while. People have been patiently waiting. We'll start in Green Bay with Dennis. Nice to have you on the program, sir. Hello.

DENNIS: Megadittos, Rush, thanks for taking my call.

RUSH: You bet.

DENNIS: What I'd like to know is, is there a plan or is anybody interested in holding these photographers accountable for torturing those prisoners? And what I mean by that is it's bad enough to be humiliated and put into an embarrassing position, but to know some joker photographer's standing over me taking a picture to show the whole world would absolutely ruin me.

RUSH: (laughter) That's a nice try. You actually – you're – you're making a joke, right?

DENNIS: I'm not making a joke.

RUSH: You think – you think the photographer also needs to be called up on this?

DENNIS: Well, quite certainly. Did you ever take a picture that you didn't plan to show?

RUSH: Well, I think it's a little premature to start dumping on the photographers here.

DENNIS: No, I – I – I disagree. Those – those soldiers were posed for those photos. And you – you don't pose for a photo unless you're asked to be posed for it.

RUSH: Now, now, now, wait, see, that's what I mean. You can't – we can't possibly know that yet. We can't possibly – we can't possibly know – who do you – we can't possibly know that the photographers arranged all of this.

DENNIS: Well, the – I'll tell you what. The – the soldiers claim they were given orders, and the photographers acted out of intentions then what I would think would be malicious. Those photos that I saw were no less embarrassing than the physical I took to get my job. I – I didn't like it. It was uncomfortable, but to know that those pictures were taken and to hear those shutters flashing, and to know the only reason you take a picture is to show it, and to wait weeks and months for the world to see them. Moreover, the other prisoners now have to wait, wondering if their photo's coming up next, if CNN's going to blast it all over the country and embarrass these soldiers even more. (inaudible; overlapping dialogue)

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RUSH: Well, now, wait, wait just a second. I'm having a real problem here, because most of these if not all of these prisoners were wearing hoods.

DENNIS: Quit clicking your (inaudible), how good's your hearing, Rush?

RUSH: What?

DENNIS: I can hear a picture being taken of me whether not my eyes are open.

RUSH: No, no. Wait, wait, you're not hearing me. Let me – let me finish my point. You're talking about the prisoners being humiliated because a picture's being taken, but who – who – unless they say, "Look, that is me," who will know who they were? They're wearing hoods.

DENNIS: Oh, that's an excellent point in that – in that particular component. However, the likelihood –

RUSH: The only reason – the only reason I – the only reason I bring this up is I – I'm not – I'm not quite following what you're angry at here. Are you saying the photographers need to also be brought up along with the guards who did this?

DENNIS: Absolutely. Absolutely.

RUSH: Well, all right, if – if – if – if that's what we want to do, let's just wring everybody up who was involved in it, if we're – if that's what we're going to do, we have to. I'm not – we're – we're – who – who has established that photographers get off on this? I know that some people want to treat the photographers maybe as heroes or as almost journalists for uncovering the truth and so forth. And what you're saying is, "Hey, photographers had to be in on it, and as such, if we're going to be – if we're going to start punishing people, let's include them." Is that basically your point?

DENNIS: Not only is it my point, it – it almost stands that they're allowed to make a profit at the expense of the humiliation of – of these Iraqi prisoners.

RUSH: Now how are you getting – how – how – how are you getting there? I know one of these prisoners went public, but see, the – the point – one of the – I'm responding to some things in my – in my ear here. I know not all of them were wearing hoods, but in the early series of pictures, the first series of pictures, they – most of them were. And even at that, if – if I – well, this one guy says, "Yup, that's me. That's me." How do we – how do we really know? I mean I – I – this just – this is – we're a little premature here on –

DENNIS: No, I don't think. I don't think. And the reason I say that is if they're wearing hoods, then there's no reason that they were humiliated at all because they could all

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say, "Well, that's not me." And then therefore there is no humiliation and therefore there is no torture.

RUSH: Except for the existence of the photographs, right?

DENNIS: Well – well, right. And the intention to take the picture, you have to take the picture –

RUSH: But it's – see –

DENNIS: – to intentionally show it later.

RUSH: Well, but see, now that raises another interesting point because if you say, "Well, there can't really be any humiliation because they're – they're wearing hoods. We don't know who these people are and nobody knew who they were." But that's not going to fly. I mean, too many people want this to be horrible, terrible, dehumanizing humiliation, so it's going to be. It's written in stone. It's going to be. And so if – if we can't say it is because now the world knows who these people are and how they were treated, it'll have to be defined as, you just don't do this, one human being to another. You just – you just don't do this.

DENNIS: I wouldn't think that the paparazzi ever snapped a photo of Susan Sarandon without the idea of putting her in a compromising position to make a dollar off it. And I would expect that the same photos that were taken for the same exact reason, somebody wanted to not only humiliate the United States military, but also you can't humiliate the military without humiliating the prisoners.

RUSH: It's interesting. It's – it' – well, it's an interesting thought because we all see the pictures of the troops. We don't see the pictures of the hooded Iraqis. So all right, let me ask you this. Are you suggesting that whoever took these pictures was not US military?

DENNIS: Absolutely.

RUSH: Oh, OK. Well, that's – I should have asked you that first because I've been assuming that – that whoever took the pictures is part of the military, too. Who else would be in there? You – you don't think they're journalists, do you?

DENNIS: I would expect they'd be journalists.

RUSH: No. They'd come out long before – if they were journalists, we'd have heard of these pictures two days after they were taken. These couldn't have been – couldn't – couldn't be – couldn't be journalists.

DENNIS: You think the US military took them, are going to leak them out day by day –

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RUSH: That's what – I just assumed that it's somebody in the military that took the pictures, somebody that's in a – in there on a – in an official capacity. He's got digital camera. Little miniature digital camera. They line them up. Here, take these pictures. And I think if – I don't think it was ever intended these pictures'd get out. I – I think – I think it was the –

DENNIS: (inaudible; overlapping dialogue) government property? If that's the case, if a military official took the pictures, then aren't they military property? In which case they're not to be used for public until they're declassified, I imagine. Of course I don't know, I'm making a leap there.

RUSH: Well, aren't – wait a sec. Are we not getting sidetracked by talking about – the pictures are just – you know, the – the – the – I know that the pictures are why everybody's all excited about this, because until there were – I mean, the – the details of all of this were written, they were published, and nobody cared. We saw the pictures, but all the pictures do is establish that it happened. If we get off on – are we not getting off on a tangent here to discuss what ifs, if they – who they were, what if they are, what if they're not military, who's property are – it's – it's – it's all – the cover's blown, doesn't matter now.

The effect these pictures have had is real. It's – it's happening now. They're – they're out there. And it'll be part of the investigation to find out who. If – if it's not the people that took the pictures that released – so many new pictures are being took – taken, and – and blew the whistle, there's obvious – you know there's a whistle-blower here, we know that much. So, at any rate, look, I'm glad you waited, Dennis, I appreciate the call.

We'll take a brief – brief break and be back after this, and resume momentarily.

(station break)

RUSH: All right. So we got – what are there? There's something like a thousand pictures. Is that what I've heard? A thousand pictures and videotape. And you know, if it's – if it's digital, you know, I'm – these digital cards, you can get 300 – 256, 350 pictures on a – on just one little digital card. It's rolls of film. It's a – it's another matter. This is probably a digital camera. And apparently they – they – the woman who – it's a woman, another woman who took the pictures. *The New York Post* has a story about her. Apparently she is a woman who specializes in – in prison abuse photos.

That's – so, OK, some of you may be interested in going where. You may – some may – I'm just – I'm going to caution you on this. If – if – if – if any of you think that there's a safety valve or a – a way out of this based on who took the pictures, I wouldn't waste a whole lot of hope on that because the pictures are what they are.

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Unless somebody can establish this whole thing is – and I'm not even going to mention it because it's so out of the realm of possibility – that the Iraqis participated, this was all one giant party, and there was not torture. This is just a bunch of people playing around for some nutcase photographer. I mean, I don't know where some of – I don't know where some people hope to take this.

Anyway, here's Sue in New Lebanon, Ohio. I'm glad you called, and welcome to the program.

SUE: Hi, Rush. How are you?

RUSH: Good, thank you.

SUE: It's great talking with you.

RUSH: Thank you.

SUE: I'll be real quick. I think we're missing the whole story. The whole story is, is how well our system works. There has been no attempt to cover up. The general that in theater, within three days of after learning of the potential abuse, started an investigation. It went all the way up to the White House. No one has tried to suppress it. I think we are setting a wonderful example to the Iraqi people, "This is what we want for you." So why should we be wringing our hands for being the good people that we are?

RUSH: OK, answer your own question. I – you know, please, answer your own – you know the answer to this, don't you?

SUE: Well, I'm proud of us. We – we are a good people. We are –

RUSH: No, no, no. Yes, yes, we are, but no, but why are we wringing our hands. Why are –

SUE: Oh, it's political.

RUSH: All right!

SUE: It's very political, and – and it's an attempt to destroy President Bush –

RUSH: Yes.

SUE: – and Rumsfeld, and this total administration. They don't want us to be successful. But you know, we are. We are successful. And we will prevail.

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RUSH: You know, I can just see this. Let's say you're a guest on TV. Let's say they hear you, Sue, and some show calls, "Sue, we heard you on *The Rush Limbaugh Show*, and we don't care much for Limbaugh because he's a wacko, but we want you to come on and be a guest on a show. Would you just repeat what you said on Limbaugh's show?" And they got all these Liberal hosts and the guests there, and you say just what you said here. "I think this is great. I think this shows how our system works. There's no cover-up. There's not an attempt to blame anybody else. There aren't any scapegoats. This is a – this is what we want to show the Iraqis what we want to do for them." Do you know what would happen to you on this show if you were the guest?

SUE: Oh, I would be murdered. (laughter)

RUSH: On – OK, but why? Why would you be – and we're talking figuratively here.

SUE: Well, because the Liberals cannot stand truth. Period.

RUSH: That's – well, yeah. But more specifically, you're taking a story and turning it into a positive when all they want of it is negative after negative after – instead of you say – if you – like if you said, "Wow, this is great because this shows our system works where people that did this accept responsibility for it, they're going to pay for it, da da da da da." The Liberals would say, "You're missing a point. That we are even capable of this is unconscionable. What has happened to us as a country? And it's all because of Bush."

SUE: And they're missing the point because of political reasons. And as far as I'm concerned – and I think the rest of the world are looking at this reaction and laughing at us, those crazy Americans. They just don't – don't get it.

RUSH: I – I can tell you, I know a couple people are laughing. If Saddam's got a TV, and he probably does because he's in an American prison, so he's – he's – he's – he's – he's – he's laughing, and bin Laden's laughing. And probably the French and the Germans are probably laughing. If John Kerry heard about that, he'd probably be ashamed.

SUE: Well, that's probably true, but it's a sad state that we have reached when the – I mean the loudness of this negativity has reached this level. And you know, we should be promoting the positive things about our country and not tearing them down, irregardless of the political party. I know that's not reality.

RUSH: No, it's National Honor Society, or even Miss American Pageant, the – the – the – whatever the perform – the oral test, or whatever it is.

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SUE: Well, it reflects probably the age I grew up in where we were taught to be proud of our country, to stand up for it, and – and our brave young men and women who are fighting there deserve better than they're getting.

RUSH: Yeah, it is a different generation. The country's no longer great. We are corrupt. We're imperialistic. We're destroying the world. We're polluting the world. We're causing global warming and freezing. Even making movies about it now. We're going to cause volcanoes, we're going to cause the Space Needle, the Golden Gate Bridge to collapse. And our soldiers may be brave, but they're the least qualified among us. They're those that come from poverty and the ethnical back – ethical back – ethnic backgrounds. They have no business being there. The sons and daughters of the rich aren't – this is the America the Liberals want you to think of, not – not what – the America you just spoke of. And that really ill – illustrates the – it's a bit of an exaggeration, but it illustrates the divide.

Sue, I got to run because of the constraints of time. Not very many broadcast minutes left here. We'll be right back. We'll continue in just a second.

(station break)

RUSH: It is amazing. It is amazing how many women are involved in this story. The photographer of these pictures is a woman. It's just amazing. Surprising, I'm sure, a lot of men, isn't it?

HOUR 3

RUSH: Hi, welcome back ladies and gentlemen. Rush Limbaugh here from the – the EIB Southern Command. We are firmly ensconced behind the golden EIB microphone today in the prestigious Attila the Hun chair at the Limbaugh Institute for Advanced Conservative Studies doing what I was born to do, having more fun than a human being should be allowed to have, utilizing talent on loan from God, with half my brain tied behind my back just to keep it fair. Quote that. Here's the telephone number (800) 282-2882 and the e-mail address rush@eibnet.com.

All right, so a lot of people now interested in who took the pictures. And I just want to caution you again, if – if you – if some of you are thinking, well, it might be something we don't know here that's going to mitigate the damage in the pictures, I wouldn't go there because I don't think that's possible now.

But there – there was a story in *The New York Post* yesterday about – about the woman who took these pictures. The woman who took these pictures. And *The New York Post* headline is “The Ghoul Next Door Was Jail Abuse Photog.” “The shocking photos of US soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners that rocked the world were snapped by a former pizza house manager who grew up exposed to gruesome

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pictures of dead people. Specialist Sabrina Harmon, 26, an MP at the infamous Abu Ghraib Prison has been accused by the army of taking pictures of a nude human pyramid. She also captured in photo” – shouldn’t she be given a medal? Well, just hold that thought.

“She also captured in photos and video tapes prisoners forced to strip and masturbate as fellow detainees and soldiers looked on, according to a charge sheet obtained by *The Washington Post*.” That’d be *Washington Post* for everybody but Rio Lindans. “Harmon, an army reservist from Alexandria, Virginia” – near the Beltway – “is also accused of photographing a corpse and then posing for a picture with it as well as jumping on prisoners as they lay in a pile. She also wrote the word ‘rapist’ and misspelled it, leaving in the letter ‘e’ on one detainee’s leg. Army documents say that Harmon also attached wires to a prisoner’s hands while he stood on a box with his head covered, then told the prisoner he would be electrocuted if he fell off.”

I ought to tell you something here, folks. There’s something about all of them, and then all of this is odd, let’s be honest. All this is very weird. But there’s one thing that really just reaches out at me. One thing in all of this that just (laughter) – I’m sorry. I’m not laughing. There’s something here that really horrifies me, something that just – I’m just – I’m – I’m – I’m – I’m appalled. I – I – and that’s posing next to a corpse. She posed next – she – is she grew up exposed to gruesome pictures of dead people and then she – she posed next to a corpse.

Ahem. “In the meantime, a young soldier’s family said that she always had a fascination with stomach-churning photography. The young soldier’s family said she always had a fascination with stomach-churning photography. Growing up, her homicide detective dad and forensic science buff mom constantly shared with their daughter grisly crime scene photos. ‘She’s been looking at autopsies and crime scene pictures since she was a kid,’ her mother said.” It’s normal?

“She said that her daughter claims that she took the photos of the prisons as evidence of the atrocities being committed there. ‘Yes, Sabrina said she had to prove this,’ said her mother. ‘I – I told her to bring the pictures home, hide them and stay out of it.’

“Harmon came home with hundreds of pictures during a leave last November. On January 16th, a CD of her photos and her laptop were taken by an army investigator. Harmon, along with several others charged with abuse in the scandal said the inhumane treatment was a direct order from army intelligence officers, CIA operatives and civilian contractors who all conducted interrogations. Harmon told the paper in an e-mail from Iraq that they bring in one to several prisoners at a time, already hooded and cuffed. The job of the MP was to keep them awake, make it hell so that they would talk. Aside from being the main photographer, Harmon also posed beside the pyramid of naked Iraqi detainees.”

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Now, something – something doesn't jibe here. I mean, if she was not really – if she was forced to do this and really didn't like it, how come she took such an active role in some of the pictures, going so far as to appear in some of them? And then that picture we've seen of the hooded prisoner with wires attached everywhere. She did that. All the while we're being asked to believe by her parents that she was doing this to document the abuse because she had to because she was appalled by what she was seeing, and yet – she was appalled by it but she's had a fascination with stomach-churning photography all of her life and has gone so far as to pose next to corpses.

You know, folks, I – I just want to remind you, since there's so much quoting of me that is out of context here, I – I just want to go back to last week. I just want to remind you of something I said. And I might have said this not all in the same monologue, not all at the same time, but I – I remember saying these things. One, that when – when – when the truth of what happened here is learned, that there might be a whole lot of shocked people and when people who have been claiming that these pictures are revolutive and sickening, they may end up slightly regretting that description when they learn a little bit more about this.

And I also made the observation that a lot of these pictures that – and then – it was the early ones that I was commenting on and the hooded pictures, the pyramid pictures, the person covered in black with the wires. Those were the first three that we saw and did most of the comments on. I made the remark this – it looks to be some homoeroticism here and even pornography. And I made mention of the fact there was a column by a woman in *National View Online* whose point was with the first batch of pictures that were released, that this is really not uncommon for the age group of people in Iraq. They've grown up with the Internet, they've grown up being more easily able to access pornography than it has ever been, and that some of these pictures do definitely have a pornographic appearance and look familiar to people who have seen pornography.

So that – there may be some real twisted stuff going on – there's no question. It may – it may end up surprising a lot of people if and when the full truth of this is ever really known. I mean, I think it will be learned, I just don't know if once it is we'll – we'll be told of it all. (laughter) It's bad enough what it is. If we learn what actually is behind this, it may – there may be too big a political price to pay say so. It may be too big a political price to actually identify what's going on here behind the scenes that we haven't been told about yet. Just – I mean, it's just a possibility. I'm just throwing it out there. We'll see in due course.

Go down to line five. I want to grab a quick phone call here before we have to split for the break. This is Nancy in Boston. I'm glad you called. Welcome to the program.

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NANCY: Thank you. First off, I find it offensive that you keep mentioning women in the pictures, women in the military, and so on. Women have contributed greatly to the – to all wars and peacetime.

And also, I don't know why you're saying that this stuff has been – they've been investigating it forever. You know, Myers admitted on *Meet the Press* a week and a half, two weeks ago that he hadn't read Taguba's report. And this week they hadn't even looked at the photos until 7:30 PM, the night before the Congressional hearings.

RUSH: So? That doesn't mean – but wait a minute. That has nothing to do with the fact that the report – that the investigation that by the Army started back in January. Everybody's admitted that. That's documented.

NANCY: But some of this abuse happened into February and March. Nobody did anything about it

RUSH: Are we going to – Look here. Wait a minute. Let's – OK, so it happened in February March. It happened. All right? What does it matter – what does it – what does it matter when?

NANCY: Because –

RUSH: The point is it's being looked into. What are you so upset about – wait a minute. What are you so upset about me mentioning women being involved here?

NANCY: Because, I mean come on. Let's – look – go – most of the pictures involve men.

RUSH: Yeah, being posed, as it turns out, by women.

NANCY: So –

RUSH: Most of the pictures – most of the pictures are male prisoners and it's a woman photographer and it's a woman photographer, and it's a woman jail guard. Yes. I mean it – it – I can't deny this, Nancy. I'm sorry.

NANCY: No. It's not just women. OK?

RUSH: I didn't say it was just women. I didn't – I said mostly – that's what the pictures we've seen is mostly.

NANCY: Well you haven't seen all the pictures. There's a Website and I'm sure you know what it is and you can go look at it, and there are more men involved in this than there are women.

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RUSH: OK. All right. All right. Fine. I take it back. I take it back. Women are harmless, innocent little angels and flowers. And men are the brutes and never shall I again be confused.

NANCY: No, I didn't say that.

RUSH: I'm sorry.

NANCY: I think this psycho should go to jail, and all the other psychos involved in this abuse should go to jail, but this has been going on and should not have been ignored for months.

RUSH: All right. Nancy, you say women have been in the military for a long time and in peacetime and that's true, but they've not been in combat up until the – the – the mid-'90s, early '90s with the Clinton administration. Women certainly have not been in these roles, prison guards and this sort of thing.

NANCY: She wasn't a prison guard. She was a clerk visiting her boyfriend. That should not have been allowed.

RUSH: Well, hello. But it was. And why is that? And guess what? They, together, made a child. And she is five months pregnant.

NANCY: Well, you know what? That should not have been allowed.

RUSH: What?

NANCY: And that should not have been allowed.

RUSH: Do you know what goes on on Navy ships these days?

NANCY: Yes, I do.

RUSH: Well?

NANCY: I spent 11 years in the military. I'm just saying the CIA, CACI, MI, whoever, all the way to the top – I don't care who it is, let the chips fall where they may. These people knew and did nothing for months and have shamed us more than we needed to be shamed.

RUSH: Are you this shamed?

NANCY: I am so ashamed of the military it isn't even funny.

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RUSH: Well, but when have you not been ashamed of the military. You're a Liberal.

NANCY: That's not true. I – if I had been ashamed of the military all my life, I wouldn't have gave them 11 years of it.

RUSH: Well, then how can you be a Liberal and have been in the military?

NANCY: What are you talking about? Lots of Liberals are in the military. Why do you have this misconceived notion that Liberals don't care about their country?

RUSH: Well, I didn't say that.

NANCY: Well, you're acting like just because I'm a Liberal or I'm non-Republican, that I couldn't have served in the military. That's ludicrous.

RUSH: I didn't – I did not – I didn't say – I just know that most Liberals are not in favor of military victory. They're not in favor of military force, and most Liberals think the view as military is the focus of evil in the modern world. If you are an exception, I'm sorry. Does that help?

NANCY: Yes it does, but –

RUSH: OK, I didn't – (laughter) I knew it would. I knew it would. I'll apologize as often as I have to, because that's America today. The real America is one of apology.

NANCY: But Rush, you know what? I think that this – this is not – this didn't just start happening. This has been going on for months and months and we –

RUSH: Well, I think this has been going on – Nancy, let's be honest. Can we?

NANCY: Sure.

RUSH: This has been going on at least since the Reagan years.

NANCY: Yes. It's been going on forever. Every war.

RUSH: (laughter) (clapping) (laughter)

NANCY: Tiger cages in Vietnam, OK? Abusing prisoners. It's been going on forever.

RUSH: John Kerry's admitted doing far worse than what we've seen in these pictures. Are you aware of that?

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NANCY: So has – so has – so has the military. I mean, those 1400 people killed in Fallujah, they're not all insurgents, some were women and children. Innocent people die in combat, but I think there's a bit difference between combat and guarding prisoners.

RUSH: Well, maybe so. There's no question about that. You're supposed – you're not supposed to be firing on prisoners and all this sort of stuff, but –

NANCY: Correct.

RUSH: Look it. You – you've been in the military. You know who prisoners of war are, and why they're taken, and what information they have. You could do us a great service if you would tell us honestly what really goes on in these prisons and has since the beginning of time, no matter who is on what side of the war. What really goes on, especially if the prisoners are those who have been attempting to kill Americans, blow up Americans or what have you.

NANCY: Well, that's the whole thing, Rush. The – I mean, they're releasing – they just said they're going to halve, cut in half the number of people who are in Abu Ghraib right now. They just came up with it on the news. So obviously, half of them shouldn't be there. I mean, we're not talking prisoners of war. We're not talking insurgents. We're talking people who were swept up after curfew. Fifteen-year-old boys that were – that was – you know, are supposedly, I don't know if it's true or not, raped by another detainee at the request of a military soldier. You know? I mean, there's this – I think we've just – this just – whole thing just reeks. And by letting this go on and on, everybody who has ever served in the military looks like a scumbag.

RUSH: Now, come – that's – that's where you guys go off the deep end.

NANCY: Well, maybe so, but that's how I feel. And you know what?

RUSH: Well, but that doesn't – it doesn't make every – this is – this is the problem. This is the real, real problem I have, and I – and I'm serious about this. I've been having fun with you during the call, but this really bothers me because I don't take personally what these men – what these Americans – doesn't make me feel bad about me and it doesn't make me feel bad about my country. I'm able to separate it. I know that this kind of thing is not typical of what happens in this country. It's the – hell, prisoners in this country have a better life than half the people on welfare, for crying out loud. I know full well that this is not how America is. And is – and Nancy, it doesn't do anybody any good to sit there and say that this tarnishes the whole country, tarnishes the whole military. That's what the critics of this want to happen but that's a disservice. It's only the people who did this who are responsible. It's not everybody in the military.

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NANCY: But you know what? The people in the Middle East, they're not going to decipher between who's the good guy and who isn't. They're just not.

RUSH: You know, that's – that's – that, to me, is irrelevant at this point. We know we're the good guys. We know we're doing what's right. We know that our objective and our vision is moral and decent and good for the whole Middle East region. We know it. If they don't, give them time. We can't change who we are to satisfy them, because there's no satisfying them. And I'm talking about the people over there who don't like us.

The Iraqis – there are plenty of Iraqis over there who are very happy we're there and are puzzled at the overreaction to this whole incident going on in this country. We – it – it – this is what it is and it's bad, but let's contain it and not – and not lose our – our cookies over this because of what is being said in terms of how it represents the whole country, the whole culture, the whole society. It's not true.

And this is – this is the thing that really bothers me about it. Everybody's wringing their hands as though – “Oh no, what's the world going to think of me. It's not that. You can't control anyway.

I got to go. Nancy, I appreciate – we're way long here folks. We'll be back in just a second.

(station break)

RUSH: Hi, welcome back. Rush Limbaugh, the Excellence in Broadcasting Network. A half hour to go here. We'll make the most of it. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has protested a butterfly release – an annual butterfly release.

“Saturday's conclusion of the Flight of the Butterfly Festival. The animal rights group said that the release of 1000 butterflies is intolerable because it's inhumane and cruel, so instead festival organizers at the Lake Elsinore Outlets will float butterfly-shaped balloons instead. PETA spokesman said, ‘butterflies have to struggle to get out of envelopes and boxes, and it's just – it's inhumane.’”

I – I haven't seen this in a while, not since I was in biology class in junior high. Don't – don't – don't butterflies have to struggle to get out of their cocoon? That's not an easy thing to do. You ever seen that? I mean – it doesn't just happen to get out of there, but it's – it's nature and so forth. This is asinine. This is literally asinine. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals stopping a butterfly release. I don't know, folks. Some days – some days.

(station break)

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RUSH: Now, folks, in the midst of all of this, I just – I just now today turned on CNN. And do you know what they're talking about now? Judy Woodruff is talking to the anchor. I don't know who the anchor is, but she's talking to the anchor about John Kerry's problems. In the midst of all this, they are discussing John Kerry's problems, and how he's doing things incorrectly, and running too many risks, angering Democrats, encouraging Ralph Nader supporters to go for Nader. There's a – apparently the Kerry campaign is circulating a nationwide petition to try to get Rumsfeld to resign. Ha! (laughter) This is – this is incredible. In the midst of all of this – and this was my point at the top of the program.

For all of you that are feeling so down in the dumps, people want you to feel that way, you have to understand it. Because if you feel at all depressed and at your wit's end about this – about this, understand that that's the effect that is desired by the enemies, the opponents of George W. Bush.

But let me share with you some things from my John Kerry stack. Eleanor Clift, writing – I think this is a Web exclusive, it says here, on *Newsweek* – and this goes back to Friday – seven, eight, nine – yeah, Friday.

“Somewhere in the mountains of Pakistan or Afghanistan, Osama bin Laden's having the second best week of his life. American soldiers using Saddam's torture chambers to abuse and sexually humiliate Iraqis pushes the US presence in Iraq beyond the point where it can be saved. Capitol Hill's in an uproar and the White House is panicking. Even Carl Rove makes rare appearances in print now, opining in remarks to an unnamed Bush advisor that it will take a generation for the Arab world to get over the revelations of last week and fretting about the perils of premising President Bush's reelection campaign on national security.”

“A year after the celebratory landing on the USS Lincoln, the headlines are about torture in Iraq, and this time it's not Saddam's fault. The news is jarring for the American people. Bush was supposed to be a competent, can-do guy and his administration looked like it's spinning out of control. After hearing that videotapes will soon surface depicting sexually explicit scenes” – and I'm telling you folks, there's something behind all that that is not going to be pleasing to a lot of people, more so than it already is not pleasing. Just mark my words, OK? “Some Capitol Hill aides turned to black humor. ‘Now that the porn industry is shut down in California because of an AIDS scare, it's picked up and moved to Baghdad,’ said one aide, glumly.” (deep breath) Confirmation. Looks like pornography over there.

She goes on and on and on and then says, “If there was ever a moment for John Kerry to come out swinging, this is it. It's the biggest story of the war and he's essentially silent. The independent voters who will decide this election want somebody who's bold, decisive and a leader. They want somebody like McCain.”

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This is Eleanor Clift, now. “Who even though he wears a Republican team shirt has been candid and blunt in assessing the fallout from the Bush fiascoes.

“Here’s where Kerry’s vaunted caution comes into play. He held a press conference Wednesday in Los Angeles where he voiced boilerplate outrage and accused the administration of being slow and inappropriate in its response. He did call for Rumsfeld’s resignation, but he’s done that before. This is the language of a diplomat, when the situation requires a warrior. There are differences between Kerry and Bush on the war, but most people don’t see them. The administration’s colossal mishandling of Iraq will only boost the Nader vote if Kerry doesn’t sharpen his position.”

Now what did we just – what did I just see on CNN? The same lament. “Oh no, he’s so inept, why this is going to encourage Ralph Nader.” The Libs, despite what they want you to believe, are in a meltdown. This is how many – how many efforts now have they – how many – how many hanging curveballs have they given John Kerry?

They’ve given him the 9/11 Commission. They’ve given him Richard Clarke. They gave him Condoleezza Rice. They gave him Bob Woodward. They gave him the 9/11 families. They gave him the pro-abort rally in Washington. And now he’s got this episode and the Libs are saying, “Where is he? Where is our candidate?”

And they are right. If your presidential candidate is not front and center during all this, if the people who are front and center are the usual tired, worn-out suspects like Ted Kennedy and Joe Biden-pants and – pick the names. Carl Levin? I mean he may be a fine Senator for you Democrats in Michigan, but let’s face it. He is not the guy around whom a successful – neither – none of these people are – around whom a successful presidential candidacy is going to swirl. And Kerry’s nowhere to be seen. In fact, this list of – petition demanding Rumsfeld’s resignation is actually his campaign’s doing it. He made a – I think he had one verbal, maybe two verbal references to it, but that’s it. He’s nowhere to be seen. I mean, these – these are not just hanging curveballs. This is slow pitch softball. He’s being grooved homerun pitches and he’s not even at the plate, much less taking swings at it.

And these Democrats, these Libs are pulling their hair out. They can’t figure – “Where is he?” And when he does open his mouth, nobody hears him say anything because it’s diplomatic speak. When he does open his mouth, people say, “What? Who said that?” But what – what was that person trying to say? And they realize that was their presidential candidate. Nobody knows who he is or what he’s trying to say. He’s still running ads on TV that say here’s who I am. And guess what? *Insight Magazine* has a – a – a feature they call “The Insider.” And this is from most recent issue.

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Hang on, folks. I feel a sneeze. Oh no. Oh no. Oh – oh, no. This cannot be happening to me right in the middle of a killer monologue on Kerry. I was up late last night with people who were consuming adult beverages and – OK, I think I staved it off. I am – I don't think I've sneezed but one time on this program.

Anyway, “The newest \$25 million John Kerry advertising buy includes film of a young John Kerry, rifle in hand, strutting through a Vietnamese jungle village in full field regalia. Boston journalists who have seen it are laughing because when Kerry has shown them this footage over the years, he has described it to him as a reenactment, staged by him, with a Super Eight home movie camera.

Others say the original shots may have been part of his defense for an anticipated court martial. Kerry says in his latest ads, (as Kerry) ‘I enlisted because I believe in service to country.’” Let's see, that and because his draft board had turned him down for a year in France, and he was about to be drafted to go to Vietnam as a common soldier, reminding everybody he had prepped at Fessenden and St. Paul's and was tapped Skull and Bones at Yale, he opted, like any elitist, to enter the navy as an officer candidate rather than be drafted.

“Then the ad says that Kerry joined John McCain to find the truth about POWs and MIAs in Vietnam. What he did, in fact, was to have the committee records shredded to prevent the truth from being known that the United States knowingly left POWs behind in Communist hands. The Kerry ads even claim that he cast the decisive vote in the 1993 Deficit Reduction Bill. A vote, which in fact was cast by Senator Bob Kerrey of Nebraska.”

Remember that? We played that ad. “That he cast the deciding vote to create 20 million new jobs.” Remember we heard that? How do you do that? How do you cast one vote out of 100 in the Senate and who knows how many in the Senate – in the House – and claim your vote created 20 million new jobs? It was Bob Kerrey – it didn't even say it was the last vote. It was Bob Kerrey who was the last vote. But he's using reenacted footage in that ad, of him walking through the Vietnamese jungle carrying a rifle. It is fake. He's a fraud. He's phony.

And these journalists in Boston, he's shown this, because – if you ever went to his office, and what I understand, if you were a journalist over the years and got invited – you wanted to do an interview, got invited to his office, he showed you his – his scrapbook and videos from Vietnam. He was – he was almost obsessed with doing this.

So we got Judy Woodruff, we've got Eleanor Clift begging for Kerry to stand up and be seen, be heard, say something, head Ralph Nader off at the pass. “They're all saying God, where is the guy?” I mean, it – Bill Clinton would have been out there on this like white on rice. And Kerry's nowhere. And now it's come out that he's using fake footage in his ad and trying to make people think that Bob Kerrey is

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John Kerry on this last Senate vote. Anyway, it's not pretty out there for Kerry, folks, even amidst all this.

You'd think the Libs would be just as happy as it can be. You'd think the Libs would be on cloud nine. You would think they're thinking they're on the verge of taking over the country. Then they look at their candidate and they are miserable. If you're miserable because of this prisoner story, and these photographs – or photographs the – the – that photographers have taken all this stuff. If you are down in the dumps about it, just understand this. The Libs are even more distressed than you are, because it's true. They're making no bones about it.

Howard Kurtz, in *The Washington Post* today – today, in the midst of this “we're going to get Bush once and for all” frenzy – today Howard Kurtz has a story that lists every other media column and story suggesting it's time for Kerry to quit and asks the question, “Are they right? Is it time?” In the midst – again, in the last week we have the Torricelli option. If people up there can – OK, we've got a precedent now for getting rid of a Democrat who's doing badly.

And the reason I'm saying – you may be seeing polls that show close as Florida, close as 2000, close as this. It is. Kerry's only up by one point in California. He's not winning New Jersey. It is close where it ought not be. And the Libs think that Kerry ought to be 15, 20 points ahead. And you know, by all rights, he should be. We be honest, with all this, with this onslaught that's gone on just since the beginning of this year, the Democratic presumptive, assumed nominee, ought to be 15 points ahead of Bush. And he's barely tied, in most places down a point or two. This is not how the script was written. Back here in just a second folks, don't go away.

(station break)

RUSH: OK. I have another question, and I'm genuinely asking this as a question. I – I don't want anybody inferring an opinion behind this question. We've heard that among the torturous, abusive techniques used by American prison – prison guards was the practice of making male Iraqi prisoners wear women's underwear. And also wear women's underwear on their heads. Now, my question is is that abusive and is that humiliating? Is that bad stuff? To force male Iraqis to wear women's underwear and also on their – on their heads.

OK. Here's the Kerry ad – we're going to play this for you. Here's where Kerry claims that he created 20 million new jobs with a vote. And we also learned in this ad, by the way, that Kerry served in Vietnam.

ANNOUNCER: He was born in an army hospital in Colorado. His father was an Army Air Corps pilot, his mother a community leader. He went to college at Yale and volunteered to serve in Vietnam.

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ANNOUNCER: The decisions that he made saved our lives.

SOLDIER: When he pulled me out of the river he risked his life to save mine.

ANNOUNCER: In combat, he earned the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts. Then he came home determined to end that war. For more than 30 years, John Kerry has served America. As a tough prosecutor, he fought for victims' rights. In the Senate, he was a leader in the fight for health care for children. He joined with John McCain to find the truth about POWs and MIAs in Vietnam. He broke with his own party to support a balanced budget. Then in the 1990s, cast the decisive vote that created 20 million new jobs. A lifetime of service and strength. John Kerry for President.

RUSH: It was actually Bob Kerrey that cast that vote, but it's silly to say that one vote – just because it came last, was the one that cast – that gave us 20 million new jobs. That's silly.

Little side note story here, folks, from Milwaukee. "Milwaukee's most famous sausage has decided to retire. Mandy Block, the woman in the Italian sausage costume hit by Pittsburgh Pirates first baseman Randall Simon with a bat last July will not be in the Milwaukee Brewer's sausage races this summer. She has decided to retire from competitive sausage racing at the ballpark to take psychology classes at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She said, 'It's too bad. It kind of ended with a bang, though.' She received attention after Randall Simon hit her over the head with his bat as she passed by the visitor's dugout in a sausage race last year. Veronica Chandler, the hot dog who tripped over the sausage, never ran again."

So, a sad day in Milwaukee. The sausage has retired from the hot dog sausage races, and I wanted to pass it on to you. In a related story, now obesity is a global problem. "It's a bitter truth to swallow, about every fourth person on Earth is too fat. Obesity fast becoming one of the world's leading reasons why people die. In an astonishing testament to globalization, this outbreak of girth is occurring just as doctors everywhere but sub-Saharan Africa are winning the fight against infectious diseases from small pox to malaria."

So we're not going to compare – we're going to compare obesity to small pox and malaria. Globalization. This is America's fault. Now this from the same bunch of people that's constantly concerned about overpopulation. They are constantly worried – they're warning us about overpopulation since the '70s. Even further back than that. Now they're worried that people are dying. I'm confused.

Mary in Manchester, Maryland. Hi, welcome to the Rush Limbaugh program. Nice to have you with us.

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MARY: How you doing, Rush?

RUSH: Good.

MARY: When I saw those pictures, the Iraqi supposedly torture pictures, I felt no shame. The only thing I could think was they were getting a little taste of their own medicine and those Iraqi women must be cheering.

RUSH: Yup. I made that point last week, but it didn't go over well with the Rush monitors. I did that – see, made that point. That point has not been quoted. I said, you know, this might not be bad – well, it's going to happen again. I said if you look at the role Iraq – Arab men make their women play, the roles they play, the roles they have to live, to make American prison guards females, and to give those women utter power over Arab men, some might call that torture. Some might call that decent punishment. Some might say here's a taste of your own medicine. This is what you've been doing to your women for time immemorial. Only now the tables have turned. But all that's been lost because, "this is horrible. This is – this is disgusting. This is outrageous. This is mean."

We'll be back in just a second. Stay with us.

(station break)

RUSH: I want to go to Cleveland here as we wrap it up today. Dwayne, hi. Welcome to the Rush Limbaugh program. You're up.

DWAYNE: Hello, Rush.

RUSH: Hi.

DWAYNE: I wanted to ask you a question based on the fact that at the end of this month, we will see a significant decrease in attacks – individual attacks, and a subsequent decrease in casualties because of the deterrent factor of these photographs. How do we formulate best the argument against the Left without seeming to justify or condone the actions of the military police?

RUSH: I – I don't know. Since you – since you mention that, I'm – I'm – I'm already a couple steps ahead of you, and I'm imagining that case, imagining somebody like me (laughter) you have this –

DWAYNE: You're the only one. I mean –

RUSH: Folks, guess what. You don't – well, no – if I say it, it'll be recast, "Limbaugh again supports torture."

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DWAYNE: We need to get that message out because we've already seen a decrease in the last six days.

RUSH: Well – well – well – but who's – no, the real point is, if somebody were to say it, who's going to believe it? You have to – the mentality –

DWAYNE: The numbers will show it.

RUSH: Yeah, but – but what I'm saying is I don't – we're hearing reports of fewer bombings, too, but the Left is so – got so much wired into this. They're so dependent on this, they can't allow any good news to come from it in any way, shape, manner form. So if somebody dares say, "hey, you know, there might have been some decency for us that came out of this, some decent things. I mean, have you noticed when these pictures went public the number of attacks on Americans went down?" There will be, whoever says that – OK, I'll do it. I'll do it. I'll do it.

END OF SHOW