

# Papers: Bush, Cheney directed Libby's campaign on Iraq critics

WASHINGTON (AP) — I. Lewis “Scooter” Libby apparently had serious qualms about leaking classified intelligence to the press, but he was quickly persuaded to drop them. There was pressure from his boss, Vice President Dick Cheney, who advised him that the president had authorized Libby to do so. End of discussion.

That’s the picture that emerges from court papers filed by the prosecutor in the CIA leak case against Libby, who is depicted as doing the bidding of President Bush and Cheney in striking back at administration critic Joseph Wilson.

On Thursday, disclosure of official authorization for Libby’s leaks to reporters brought strong criticism from administration political foes, but little likelihood that their demands for explanations will be met.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., citing Bush’s call two years ago to find the person who leaked the CIA identity of Wilson’s wife, Valerie Plame, said the latest disclosures means the president needs to go no further than a mirror.

In his court filing, Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald asserted that “the president was unaware of the role” that Libby “had in fact played in disclosing” Plame’s CIA status. The prosecutor gave no such assurance, though, regarding Cheney.

Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada said that “in light of today’s shocking revelation, President Bush must fully disclose his participation in the selective leaking of classified information. The American people must know the truth.”

Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said the president has the

“inherent authority to decide who should have classified information.” The White House declined to comment, citing the ongoing criminal probe into the leak of Plame’s identity.

In July 2003, Wilson’s accusation that the Bush administration had twisted prewar intelligence to exaggerate the Iraqi threat “was viewed in the office of vice president as a direct attack on the credibility of the vice president, and the president,” Fitzgerald’s court papers stated.

Part of the counterattack was a July 8, 2003, meeting with New York Times reporter Judith Miller at which Libby discussed the contents of a then-classified CIA report that seemed to undercut what Wilson was saying in public.

Separately, Libby said he understood he also was to tell Miller that prewar intelligence assessments

had been that Iraq was “vigorously trying to procure” uranium, the prosecutor stated. In the run-up to the war, Cheney had insisted Iraq was trying to build a nuclear bomb.

The conclusion on uranium was contained in a National Intelligence Estimate, a consensus document of the U.S. intelligence community. Libby’s statements came in grand jury testimony before he was charged with five counts of perjury, obstruction and lying to the FBI in the Plame probe.

Libby at first told the vice president that he could not have the July 8, 2003, conversation with Miller because of the classified nature of the National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq, Fitzgerald said. Libby testified to the grand jury “that the vice president later advised him that the president had authorized defendant to disclose the relevant portions” of

the NIE.

Libby testified that he also spoke to David Addington, then counsel to the vice president, “whom defendant considered to be an expert in national security law, and Mr. Addington opined that presidential authorization to publicly disclose a document amounted to a declassification of the document.”

Libby testified that he was specifically authorized to disclose the key judgments of the classified intelligence document because it was thought that its conclusions were “fairly definitive” against what Wilson had said and the vice president thought that it was “very important” for those key judgments to come out, the court papers stated.

After Wilson began attacking the administration, Cheney had a conversation with Libby, expressing concerns on whether a CIA-sponsored trip to the African nation of

Niger by Wilson “was legitimate or whether it was in effect a junket set up by Mr. Wilson’s wife,” Fitzgerald wrote. The suggestion that Plame sent her husband on the Africa trip has gotten widespread circulation among White House loyalists.

Wilson said he had concluded on his trip that it was highly doubtful Niger had sold uranium to Iraq.

The prosecutor’s court papers offer a glimpse inside the White House when the Justice Department launched a criminal investigation of the Plame leak in September 2003. Libby “implored White House officials” to issue a statement saying he had not been involved in revealing Plame’s identity, and that when his initial efforts met with no success, he “sought the assistance of the vice president in having his name cleared,” the prosecutor stated.

# Victims urge legislators to pass reforms

TOPEKA (AP) — Two victims of abuse at a Newton group home renewed their pleas Thursday for legislators to pass measures establishing more reporting and enforcement of cases of abuse and neglect involving the mentally ill and disabled.

Identifying themselves only as Lynn and Nancy, the women said legislators should pass two bills awaiting action that would prevent future victims of the kind of abuse, neglect and exploitation they faced at a Newton group home for the mentally ill. They urged lawmakers to put aside politics and pressure they say have slowed progress on reforms.

“I need to see that the state will fix the past and current problems that don’t work and the system will respond directly to the needs of disabled victims,” Lynn said during a Statehouse news conference.

Legislators are considering a measure that would provide additional funds for the attorney general and the Disability Rights Center to investigate alleged cases of abuse and seek criminal or civil litigation. The funding would support a new Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Unit that will specifically handle investigations related to mentally ill and disabled Kansans.

A second bill would require copies of reports of abuse or neglect be sent to both agencies to begin the

review process.

In the Newton case, a jury found Arlan Kaufman, 69, guilty of 31 charges and his wife, Linda, of 30 charges, including health care fraud, Medicare fraud, forced labor and holding clients in involuntary servitude. Arlan Kaufman was sentenced to 30 years in prison and his wife to seven.

Prosecutors produced evidence that the couple’s treatment center held nude therapy sessions and forced residents to perform sex acts with each other while being videotaped. The couple operated their treatment center for more than two decades.

Attorney General Phill Kline and the Disability Rights Center of Kansas argue the Kaufmans’ case demonstrated the need for change.

“The lessons that we learned from the Kaufman case show us what can be accomplished in mere months when we focus on victims rather than bureaucratic complacency,” Kline said in a written statement Thursday.

Officials with state agencies and health care associations have said the bills are advancing too quickly. They argue the definitions of abuse in the bills are too broad and that a mechanism for reporting and combating abuse already exists.

“The bill constitutes a major policy change that has far-reaching implications and potential for seri-

ous, unintended consequences,” said Cindy Luxem of the Kansas Health Care Association.

The association represents more than 180 nursing homes, assisted living facilities and other long-term care providers licensed and regulated by the state.

Lynn and Nancy have spent recent weeks speaking to legislators about the proposed reforms. The women have said they were placed naked in a locked “seclusion” room for days at a time, that residents were often left on their own and that medications weren’t supervised properly. They also have said attempts to call attention to the mistreatment weren’t taken seriously.

“If I would have been believed and if we would have had this unit

back in 1988, the Kaufman House would have been shut down, and the lives that are shattered now would not have been shattered,” Nancy said.

Senators approved the proposal in March on a 39-0 vote, and the House Federal and State Affairs Committee has endorsed a similar bill. Legislative leaders have supported the reforms and say they expect them to pass when legislators return in late April to complete the 2006 regular session.

— — —

Abuse-neglect unit: Senate Sub for HB 2105, House Sub for SB 317.

On the Net:  
Kansas Legislature: <http://www.kslegislature.org>



## COUPON

# T-Shirts For Sale

**\$12 Each** - White: M, L, XL; Gray: L

**Mail this coupon and receive \$2 off!**

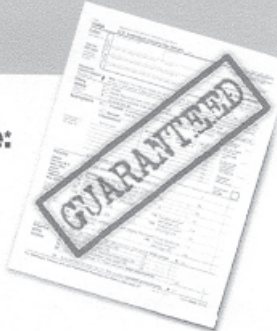
Mail your payment to: KTCC-FM, 1255 S. Range Ave., Colby, KS 67701. Be sure to include what type and size of shirt you would like.

\$

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Shirt Type & Size \_\_\_\_\_




## Does Your Tax Guy Guarantee It?



**The H&R Block Guarantee:**  
We stand behind our work.

At H&R Block, you can be sure our work is always correct. If we make a mistake, we will pay all associated penalties and interest. Guaranteed. **Come in today and know your tax preparation is done right.**

**H & R BLOCK**  
505 N FRANKLIN  
COLBY, KS 67701  
(785) 462-6836  
Open Monday - Saturday

 **H&R BLOCK®**



**COLBY'S FULL SERVICE FILLING STATION**  
**SPECIAL FEATURE OF THE WEEK**  
**LAWN CAR & FERTILIZER SPECIAL**

<b>STEP 1 \$9.49</b>	<b>STEP 4 \$7.49</b>
FERTILIZER/CRABGRASS 18 LB. BAG	FERTILIZER 20 LB. BAG

WE HAVE SPREADERS AVAILABLE

**FARMLAND PIT HAMS ARE IN STOCK**  
**JUST IN TIME FOR EASTER!!!**

**FULL SERVICE FUEL FOR SELF SERVICE PRICE ON THURSDAYS!**  
407 Nashville • Colby • 785-462-8671

## Spring Clean Up Time... Let Us Help!



**\*Roto-tillers \*Aerators \*Power Rakes  
\*Sod Cutters and MUCH MORE**

**DO-IT-YOURSELF & SAVE!**

**Give us  
a call!**

  
**HARDWARE**

165 W 4th • Colby • 785-460-2432

## Check Us Out!

# CHECK US OUT!


Look no further for total investment and retirement planning for individuals and businesses. Raymond James Financial Advisors listen to you like you are the only investor in the world.

For more information about how I can serve your investment needs, please contact me today.

► 401(k)s	► Money market funds
► Asset management	► Mutual funds
► Banking services	► Pension & profit sharing plans
► Bonds	► Research
► Cash management	► Retirement planning
► College planning	► Stocks
► Estate planning	► Tax planning
► Financial planning	► UITs
► Insurance & annuities	► And more!
► IRAs	

**Lisa Wilson**  
**Raymond James Financial Advisor**

**RAYMOND JAMES®**  
FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.  
Member NASD/SIPC



**Phone: 785-460-3321**  
**Toll Free: 866-460-3321**  
240 W. 4th  
Colby, KS 67701

*You first.*

Securities are offered exclusively through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member NASD/SIPC, an independent broker/dealer, and are not insured by FDIC, NCUA or any other financial institution insurance, are not deposits or obligations of the financial institution, are not guaranteed by the financial institution, and are subject to risks, including the possible loss of principal.

2411d



## ATTENTION GROWERS!!

SunOpta/SIGCO Sun Products still has 2006 confection sunflower contracts available in your area

- ☐ Limited irrigation crop
- ☐ Low inputs
- ☐ Act of God
- ☐ Delivery Options
- ☐ Multiple Receiving Stations
- ☐ Prompt Payments

Don't risk growing your confection sunflower crop on the open market  
Give us a call today to lock up your acres

Contact Mike Bretz or Larry Keller  
Goodland, KS 1-800-742-9259



A healthy products company



# 16 oz T-Bone

Naturally-Bred & Hand-Cut

# Only \$12.99

All Day, Every Day Through April 30th

includes salad, made from scratch fresh-baked roll, and choice of baked potato, sweet potato, green beans, steamed veggies or grilled veggie kabob.



1855 S. Range • Colby • 462-7178