

Libby Spills the Beans

According to the latest filing by Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald, Lewis Libby testified that Vice President Cheney thought it was “very important” for key aspects of the National Intelligence Estimate to come out publicly, but that he (Libby) was reluctant to discuss it with Miller because it was classified. Fitzgerald continues:

“Defendant [Libby] testified that the Vice President later advised him that the President had authorized defendant to disclose relevant portions of the NIE. Defendant 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.”

A few days later, Cheney specifically designated Libby to speak with the press, in place of his usual press spokesman, about the NIE and Wilson’s trip, including disclosing information from a cable authored by Wilson. On this occasion, Libby spoke to *Time* magazine’s Matt Cooper, and again to Judith Miller.

What is absolutely clear from Fitzgerald’s account, is that Cheney—not Bush nor anyone else in the White House—was the one running the operation to discredit Wilson, and that he was personally directing Libby’s activities.