

United States in the midst of the “war on terror.”

Several Senate sources have confirmed that Frist’s unprecedented Nov. 14 shutdown of the SSCI’s probe came under direct orders from the Vice President.

However, the whole scheme backfired, as Rockefeller refused to be cowed, and, instead, forced a criminal probe into the leaks and the thefts.

On Nov. 21, the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms Bill Pickle seized four computer servers at the Senate Judiciary Committee office, to determine how the theft of the staff memos, addressed to Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Sen. Richard Durbin (D-Ill.) took place. Both the CIA and the SSCI have demanded a similar probe by the Department of Justice into the Feith memo leak, and the theft of a staff memo to Senator Rockefeller.

The stench of Watergate is in the air, and this time, the prime target is not the President, but Vice President Dick Cheney.

Timmerman’s Folly

It was against the backdrop of this accelerating fight over the fate of Vice President Cheney that the Timmerman piece was published in *Insight* magazine.

After going through a defense of the legitimacy of the Pentagon OSP, and revealing that he had been given direct access to their office and the visitors sign-in logs, Timmerman posed the question:

“So how did a legitimate and effective Iraq planning office get painted as a dire ‘cabal?’ As incredible as it may seem, it began with conspiracy-theorist Lyndon LaRouche, a self-styled Democratic Party presidential aspirant who claimed in March that a ‘cabal’ of pro-Israel conservatives he called the ‘Children of Satan’ were running a rogue intelligence operation at the Pentagon. Their mission: fabricate intelligence and drag the United States into a needless war, all at Israel’s bidding. It was all very dark, murky and conspiratorial. If responsible journalists had been doing their job, the story never would have crept from the LaRouche Website into the light.”

Timmerman lashed out, “Instead, like a virus jumping from animals to humans, the story erupted in a May 6 article by Seymour Hersh in the *New Yorker*.” From there, Timmerman ranted, the LaRouche material—including the role of the late Leo Strauss, the intellectual guru of the neo-cons—found its way into the pages of the *Guardian*, *Time*, and scores of other “mainstream” publications.

The end result: According to Timmerman, “Luti’s office now stands accused by Sens. Rockefeller and Carl Levin (D-Mich.) of illegally organizing clandestine intelligence operations overseas.” Among the allegations cited by Timmerman, and blamed, ultimately on LaRouche: That Luti’s OSP coordinated its intelligence operations with a “rump unit” in the Office of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon; and that OSP personnel conducted unauthorized meetings

Timmerman’s Morality

I had the misfortune of meeting Kenneth R. Timmerman in Baghdad in the early 1990s, just after the first war against Iraq. I was there in my capacity as coordinator for the Committee to Save the Children of Iraq, which had just delivered one of many shipments of medicine, medical equipment, and powdered milk, for distribution to the Iraqi population. People were dying—particularly the aged and the very young—due to the economic sanctions imposed in 1990.

Timmerman, who was in Baghdad ostensibly as a journalist, seemed to think the gathering in the Rashid Hotel (actually a press conference by UN authorities involved in the same humanitarian aid program) was just another cocktail party. I asked him what his impression of the social conditions in Iraq was. “What do you mean, suffering?” he shot back. “There’s plenty of food in this country! I’ve been down south, and I’ve seen the rice fields. There’s plenty. No one’s starving. And if they were, it’s because the government is withholding supplies.” When I pointed out that Iraq prior to the war had been dependent on imports for 70% of its food supplies, and that now there was not enough to feed the population, he was not impressed. He mumbled something about how “the Arabs can’t do anything right, anyway.” It wasn’t easy to understand his words precisely; must have been that ice cube he was sucking on.

—Muriel Mirak-Weissbach

overseas with Iranians.

An unnamed Administration official was quoted by Timmerman, “This is Church Committee stuff,” a reference to the late 1970s Senate probe of CIA and FBI misdeeds.

The misdeeds, once again, are definitely there. OSP was set up at the Pentagon, in part, to come up with “off-the-reservation” unvetted intelligence to promote a war that Cheney and company had already decided on launching. Ostensibly run by Luti and Feith, the unit, in fact, was steered by Libby, on behalf of Dick Cheney, according to eyewitness accounts.

CIA Director George Tenet has reportedly told several Congressmen and Senators that he is convinced the Pentagon was engaged in unauthorized covert operations, that first require Presidential Findings.

These are serious crimes—far beyond the scope of the original Watergate scandal. Attacking Lyndon LaRouche for his persistent campaign to expose Cheney et al. is not going to change that one iota.