

*MEDIA MATTERS FOR AMERICA*  
RUSH LIMBAUGH WORKING TRANSCRIPT 06/17/04

**THE RUSH LIMBAUGH SHOW 06/17/04**

RUSH: I know it continues to amaze so many of you how the media is actually the big story every day. The story is not the Clinton book. The story is how the media is dealing with the Clinton book. The story is not the 9/11 Commission Report. The story is how the media is dealing with it.

It's – it's – to me, I mean, it's frustrating, but it's not unusual. I just think they've ratcheted things up because it's an election year and everybody on the Left is panicked over what they face. If they lose this election, folks, you realize they're looking at a generation out of power? I mean, it – it's – there – there's a crackup going on and they're doing everything they can to avoid it.

Greetings and welcome. Rush Limbaugh, the EIB Network and the Limbaugh Institute for Advanced Conservative Studies. Our telephone number is 800-282-2882. The e-mail address, [rush@eibnet.com](mailto:rush@eibnet.com).

Well, the newspaper headlines and the television news media lead stories, "9/11 Commission Found No Credible Evidence that Saddam Played a Role in the Terrorist Attack." That was never something they were supposed to even look at. This is not something that's ever been asserted. The Bush-Cheney team has never asserted that Saddam was directly involved in 9/11. All they've ever said was that they've got factual evidence that there were connections between 9/11 – or between Saddam and – and Al Qaeda.

In fact, one of the 9/11 Commission – the 9/11 Commission spokesman is a guy named Jonathan Stull and he sent out a – an e-mail to people yesterday, claiming that the press is feeding off of one line in the whole report that's been issued to-date.

He wrote, "I'd recommend that you look directly at staff statement number 15 when discussing the Iraq Al Qaeda issue, specifically regarding the Commission's hearing today. Note that the paragraph in question is on page 5 of the attached statement. I'd point out that it is but one paragraph in a 12-page statement. The AP and others have picked up on one sentence, which was carefully worded. 'We have no credible evidence that Iraq and Al Qaeda cooperated on attacks against the United States.'"

The rest of the paragraph concisely summarizes the cases. "Where we can identify cooperation and other connections between Al Qaeda and Saddam where they exist. The other relevant information's included on page 8 of Staff Statement number 16.

In the Statement, which exhaustively discusses the 9/11 plot, we address the movements of hijackers in the years leading up to the attacks. This paragraph addresses reports that Mohammed Atta met with an Iraqi Intelligence Agency in Prague on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

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While some have criticized the questioning during public hearings, I've seen few quibbles with our Staff Statements. I urge you to look over all of the Statements.' And I got the link to the – to the Statements, here.

This is the spokesman and I just read an e-mail that he sent out yesterday because it – it – the – the – the – they really have taken one sentence and totally turned – and done a 180 with what this report says. The report says there were connections.

The report said that Mohammed Atta did meet with an Iraqi Intelligence Agency, or agent, in Prague on April 9<sup>th</sup> of 2001. We've known this for a long time. The sentence that everybody's focusing on – "We have no credible evidence that Iraq and Al Qaeda cooperated on attacks against the United States," which means 9/11 – no credible evidence.

And so everybody's running, "Wait. Wait. Well, there's no reason to go to Iraq." Everybody has forgotten the reason for going to Iraq. It's to see that there wasn't another 9/11. Once a 9/11 happens, the next stage is to see to it that it doesn't happen again.

Research indicated there were connections between Al Qaeda and Iraq. We're not going to sit around and wait to find out if – if Iraq was directly tied to 9/11. We were already headed into Afghanistan and already there.

The war on terror had been declared and the war on terror was underway. We had all this stuff about weapons of mass destruction that the whole world knew existed in Iraq and are now starting to turn up – at least the – none of the chemical and biological weapons are, but plenty of weapons that violated UN Resolutions.

And so the move into Iraq was preemptive. It was designed to stop another 9/11 from happening, and nobody is focusing on this because we're not looking at this. The media is not looking at this through the prism of your safety. The media is not looking at this through the prism of stopping another 9/11. The media is looking at this through the prism of the inauguration of John Kerry, just as they are looking at almost every important news story today – through that prism. And that's how you have to understand this.

Don't get frustrated it's happening because there's nothing you can do to stop it. It – you just realize this is what is going on and deal with it as best you can. I mean, I – I – I think – I think it's so over-the-top it's unreal. And also have confidence that there are plenty of people, nationwide, who are gearing up to rebut all this. They don't work in their monopoly any more.

Then you take a look at what they're doing with Clinton. Do you know – you know, I've figured out what they're doing with Clinton. The Monica story, they're actually turning and focusing on it, and making it look like that's the only thing that

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went wrong. The Monica story is being used to illustrate what a great presidency Clinton's was. I mean, that – this is how they just turn it around. It's utterly amazing.

We got a stained blue dress. We probably have a stained carpet in the White House. We've got – and people – we've got a – an impeachment that came of this that actually resulted in a charge of contempt of court, a conviction for lying to a Federal judge and they're turning this into a positive as a means of saying, "His presidency was absolutely great. The only thing that went wrong was Monica. And since he's done the full *mea culpa* confession, why, we can forget it now because he's got his mind right. He's doing everything right and now what a great guy."

This is – this is all part of the – of the – the way they're doing this and turning these things around and there are – I could give you these examples through, oh, covering on other stories during the course of the day today as well. It's just – it – it's – it's – it's utterly fascinating to watch this.

It's quite an education, actually, to see how these people operate and to see that they can't deal with the arena of ideas. They cannot win when the truth is on the table. They cannot win when the facts are presented to the American people. And I'm including the media in this.

They cannot win when the American people have a choice between the facts and the lies. And so what they have to do is get rid of the lies, turn the lies into a new version of the truth to wipe out the real truth. And that's what's going on and that's propaganda and the propaganda is emanating from the highest levels of the Democratic National Committee and wherever else it comes from. And it's all being done to see to it that George W. Bush is not reelected.

And I'm going to tell you something else, folks. If you're looking down the road at this election and you're saying, "Well, all we got to do is beat these guys and it'll be over." Remember, we had a call the other day and they said, "Well, Rush. What's the reaction of the Left going to be when they lose?"

Let me tell you what this prison scandal thing is all about, folks. Did you see the story yesterday where a bunch of "legal scholars" have asked Senator Kennedy to sign onto a – a bill that would lead to the impeachment of the President over these prison abuses?

And do you hear what Senator Kennedy said? Senator Kennedy said, "Well, (hiccup) ah, the easiest (hiccup), uh, way to bring (hiccup) about (hiccup) would be to elect John (hiccup) Kerry."

Now, let me tell you what this is. The reason they're not letting go of this, and the reason they're trumping this up, and the reason they're trying to make it bigger than

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anything is because if Bush does win, this is what they're going to use to impeach him. They will start impeachment proceedings as soon as he's inaugurated, if not sooner – well, they have to wait until he's in – you know, because Congress will be in session.

They will start impeachment proceedings. They'll try to – the Democrats will – to get rid of him and impeach him over these prison photos, and that's why this is going to keep building, and that's why the media's not going to let go of it – because this is their insurance policy, if they lose the election.

We'll be back and continue with all the rest of the – aren't you excited now and ready to go and have a great day? (laughter) Stay with us, folks. We'll be right back.

(station break)

RUSH: And there's another thing I wanted to alert you to. I'll do it in detail a little bit later on. Welcome back, by the way, on the EIB Network.

You know, there's been a lot of talk, lately, about indecency on radio, and the word censorship has been flying around, particularly involved to our old buddy, Howard Stern. When radio station owners decided that they didn't want to air what the content of Stern's show is, why, all hell broke loose.

Why, you would have thought the Constitution had been shredded and the radio stations owned by Clear Channel that made this decision were – were shouted down and accused of all kinds of horrible rotten things. And censorship was flying around. And then – and then the – the press picked up on this notion that it was all being done because the Bush administration had sent orders out to get Stern wiped out.

In the meantime, Stern's not been censored at all. He's been cancelled on some radio stations and others in most markets can pick up his show if they want to, but let me tell you about real censorship.

Yesterday, in Washington, a United States Senator by the name of Tom Harkin introduced an amendment to the '05 Defense Appropriations Bill. This amendment, offered by a United States Senator, has, as its intention, removing this program from the Armed Forces Radio Network.

This, my friends, is censorship. Yeah. This is the United States government intruding on the First Amendment.

Now – now the – it – the – the Armed Forces Radio Network has over 1100 different programs. NPR is all over the Armed Forces Radio Network. Only one

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hour of this program, the first hour – this hour – is on the Armed Forces Radio Network, which is why I’m mentioning this in this hour.

Here you have a United States Senator doing this in the guise that there’s not balance – that I am not balanced, that there are no programs like mine. The fact is, mine is the only one of its kind, ideologically, on the Armed Forces Radio Network, to speak of. The rest of the Armed Forces Radio Network is pretty Left. It’s pretty Liberal. It would have to be with as much NPR as is on it.

This is all the result of this little Website that the Democratic Party has established under the guise of it being a private foundation, or whatever, but this is Democratic Party money, and put up the Website that has resulted in this letter that you may have heard about to Rumsfeld demanding I be taken off of Armed Forces Radio because this program is propaganda.

And why is this program propaganda? Because the things I say on the first hour of this program can poison the minds of soldiers. Because the soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, who might listen to this program, are hearing what I am being told, or what I – what that – well, what – what’s being accused, what I’m being accused of saying, which I didn’t say, in context about these prison photos. And for this reason, Tom Harkin – a good Democrat, responding to another Democrat organization – and make no mistake; this is the Democratic Party.

This is not some individual with a brilliant idea to start a Website. It’s not an individual with a brilliant idea to start a radio network. This is the Democratic Party. Every few weeks or so, we get a new institution designed to try to impact negatively this program and the latest incarnation of this is a United States senator, Tom Harkin, introducing an amendment to the 2000 ’05 Defense Appropriations Bill to get this program bounced off of Armed Forces Radio – on the basis that this program is propaganda. A one-hour program out of the hundreds of hours of programming that they offer on Armed Forces Radio.

This is censorship. This is – it has nothing to do with the FCC. This has nothing to do with indecency. This has nothing to do with a private corporation deciding it doesn’t want to carry somebody’s radio program – for whatever reason.

The only outfit that can censor anybody is the US government. And that’s why the First Amendment says what it says. Now, we’ve abridged the First Amendment once in this country recently with campaign finance reform. Now, Senator Harkin seeks to do it again.

Now, the point is, they will say in response, “We’re not trying to get Limbaugh bounced. We just want balance.” There already is balance. But they’re making no effort to get a Liberal program carried. They don’t need to. They’re all over Armed Forces Radio. and I’m not being critical of that. That’s just the way it is.

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That Byron York, when this all got ginned up a couple – I guess, three weeks ago now – wrote a big piece at *National Review Online*. Coco? See if you can find it. Link to it – on our Website. Detailed all the programming that's on – on the Armed Forces Radio Network. I mean, it's – it's stunning. The – the idea that the Armed Forces Radio Network is all me.

And I just wanted to let you know that – that this is happening and I've got – there's an actual news story about this today that's – that I – that I purposely buried in the stack because I want to get into it later. These other things take precedence over this.

But I just wanted to remind you now that when – when all this was happening with Stern, the whole national media took up – the nat – *The LA Times* wanted my opinion about it in a column. All of the media was doing stories on, oh, woe is Stern. Here comes censor – remember that?

Here is real censorship and you're not hearing a word about it from the media because they probably think this is good. They don't think anything's wrong with this whatsoever.

And I wouldn't have even known this amendment had been offered had it not been for the cyber news service, Brent Bozel's news service that – that ran the story yesterday, or sometime this morning. Anyway, more on that as the program unfolds.

In the meantime, I want to get back to the – this whole 9/11 and – and Al Qaeda and Saddam business. We have a sound bite here from President Bush. There was a cabinet meeting today and he was – he was asked by a reporter at – “Mr. President? Mr. President? Why does the administration continue to insist that Saddam had a relationship with Al Qaeda when even you have denied any connection between Saddam and September 11<sup>th</sup> and now the September 11<sup>th</sup> Commission says that there is no collaborative relationship at all.”

BUSH: The reason I keep insisting that there was a relationship between Iraq and Saddam and Al Qaeda because there was a relationship between Iraq and Al Qaeda. This administration never said that the 9/11 attacks were orchestrated between Saddam and Al Qaeda. We did say there were numerous contacts between Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda.

For example, Iraqi Intelligence officers met with bin Laden, the head of Al Qaeda, in the Sudan. There's numerous contacts between the two.

I always said that Saddam Hussein was a threat. He was a threat because he had used weapons of mass destruction against his own people. He's a threat because he was a sworn enemy to the United States of America – just like Al Qaeda.

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And he was a threat because he had terrorist connections – not only Al Qaeda connections, but other connections to terrorists organizations. Abu Nadal is one. He was a threat because he provided safe haven for a terrorist like Zarqawi, who is still killing innocents inside of Iraq.

Now, he was a threat and the world is better off and America is more secure without Saddam Hussein in power.

RUSH: And, again, you know – I want to – I want to refocus you on this because this is just a – this is a purposeful attempt to take one sentence in this whole report, and actually make this whole commission about this one sentence, and that is because the Left is trying to discredit Bush by saying we never needed to go to Iraq.

And they're trying to – they're – they are lying. They are saying, as this little reporterette did in her question, they're trying to convince as many of you as possible that the only reason we went into Iraq is because Bush and Cheney and everybody else thought there was a connection between Iraq and Al Qaeda on 9/11, which they've never said.

The reason we went into Iraq A) it was an unfinished war, B) there were UN resolutions, signed by the Security Council, throughout those 10 years, expressing outrage and shock over Saddam's lack of obedience with the resolutions that had been passed.

Number three – after 9/11, the objective is to see to it that another 9/11 doesn't happen. We have the evidence of contacts between Al Qaeda and Iraq – not over 9/11, just contacts. They have one thing important in common – they hate America.

The objective of any responsible leader is to do everything possible to see to it that another 9/11 doesn't happen. It's called preemption. And that's what Iraq's all about and these (mute button) know it.

(station break)

RUSH: On the cutting edge of societal evolution. When things matter, this is where you need to be. The EIB Network and Rush Limbaugh. I want to – I want to let you hear how the Democrats are spinning this – this whole 9/11 business. And it's pure 100% spin bordering on lies.

I give you a little bit of Richard Ben-Veniste, who's really running this commission, if you ask me. And he was on CNN's *American Morning* today with Soledad O'Brien.

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She said, “You – you were talking about it just a moment ago. A quote from the report is ‘no credible evidence that Iraq and Al’” – how – do you people in the media, are you proud at how gullible and stupid you are?

Do you – do – does – does it never bother you that no matter where you look in your business, you are all saying the same thing? Does it never once concern you that you don’t appear to have any ability to think independently at all? Some hack from the Democratic Party sings out the way you’re supposed to take a news story, and all of your march in lock step? You are the true mind-numbed robots.

Does it never bother you people? Is there not one of you that might want to stand out by just once learning what the story is about rather than taking the pap that you are fed from the Party hacks?

So here’s Ben – here’s poor old Soledad O’Brien. She has to get up early, probably just gets a little prep sheet from somebody to get ready – well, she’s carrying twins out there. She’s close to giving birth, she’s obviously got other things on her mind. So here’s the prep sheet, so here comes the question. “Yes? You were talking about it just a minute ago, a quote from the report, ‘no credible evidence.’” It’s one line in 15 pages. And the paragraph this line is from establishes the exact opposite of the line. The paragraph gives evidence to contradict this one line.

“It’s a quote from the report, ‘no – no credible evidence that Iraq and Al Qaeda cooperated on attacks against the United States.’ Now, as you well know, Mr. Ben-Veniste, this was a large part of the administration’s message as the US headed to the war in Iraq.”

It was not. The war on Iraq was preemptive. It was not a revenge war. The war on Iraq was not connected to 9/11 other than to make sure it didn’t happen again. God! This is the frustrating thing for me. You people get out there, you people get – (clears throat) – let me make sure the cough button is working – yes, it’s working, because I may need to use it on myself here in just a second.

I get – I get just blown away by the utter sheer ignorance. These are people in the media who don’t even know the recent past, who don’t even know what Iraq was about. It wasn’t about getting even for 9/11. Afghanistan was for that.

Iraq was to see to it that another 9/11 didn’t happen in conjunction with Afghanistan. And it’s going to take us other places as well before this is all over. (sighs) I need some Lamaze classes here, just reading this stupid question. The question’s not even on the sound bite.

All right, let me – let me start again here. “You were talking about it just a moment ago – ago, Mr. Ben-Veniste – by the way, we all love you here. A quote from the report is ‘no credible evidence that Iraq and Al-Qaeda cooperated on attacks against the United States.’

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“Now, as you well know, Mr. Ben-Veniste, who we all love here, this was a large part of the administration’s message as the US headed to war in Iraq. So then is your point, Mr. Ben-Veniste, that the administration lied to the American public or are you saying that the commissioners had better access to intelligence than the administration did?”

Now, (laughter) what a question. The question ought to be, “Mr. Ben-Veniste, why are we all looking at one line from a paragraph which actually indicates there are plenty of opportunities, and there is plenty of evidence to show a connection between Al-Qaeda and Iraq?” This question is, “Are they lying, or do you just have better intelligence than they do?” In other words, is this administration lying or are they just incompetent?

Here’s Ben-Veniste’s answer.

BEN-VENISTE: This information seems to have crept into the public domain –

RUSH: Oh, really?

BEN-VENISTE: Indeed, polls show that some 60% or so of the public believe that Iraq was responsible for 9/11. That just –

RUSH: Hold it a second. Hold it – hold it – ho – ho – ho – ho – ho. What poll would be that? Have you ever seen that poll? I have not seen that poll. 60% of the public thought Iraq was responsible for 9/11? When was that poll taken? After the Iraq War start – when was it? Right after 9/11 they thought Iraq was? 60%.

Well, now – well – well, then – but that had to be an early poll because once the news started coming out, once we had the – the names of the hijackers and the Taliban, that – that – that – this is – this is – this makes it even worse. “So now we’re doing this to straighten out the misguided public opinion about this.” All right, here’s the rest of it.

BEN-VENISTE: – which isn’t the case. And indeed, the President of the United States said so in September of last year. And so it’s mystifying, in fact, how this myth continues to be perpetrated. But the fact of the matter is that this bipartisan commission, after 18 months of investigation, has found no credible evidence that Iraq was involved. In fact, the White House was provided, in advance of yesterday’s hearing, with a copy of our staff statement. They made no objection as to the facts contained therein.

RUSH: Of course not, because they never asserted otherwise. And the whole paragraph details plenty of connections between Al-Qaeda and Iraq, not over 9/11 necessarily, although the committee does – the commission does report that Mohamed Atta met with the – with an Iraqi intelligence officer in Prague in 2001.

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Now, there's no knowledge of what they discussed, but I'll guarantee you it wasn't – it – it wasn't, you know, the alfalfa crop that was – that was headed up in the United States down the road.

The administration's never asserted anything to the contrary. Who's being disingenuous here is Mr. Ben-Veniste, who is not telling everybody what else is in, not just this paragraph from which this one line is taken, but rather the whole report. We're not through with this. Old John Kerry had to come in and get out of his cave to get in on this.

You know, by the way, speaking of Kerry, I – I – there's a – there's a piece that cleared yesterday by Howard Fineman, MSNBC exclusive Web piece by Fineman. He's a *Newsweek* writer. And he can – I – I guess it's – I guess he's a columnist. I – it – it was a piece on how what Kerry needs to do to win. And – did you see it?

What Kerry needs to do to win is hibernate. He needs to hibernate because Bush is going to implode. Bush is in the process of imploding, and the war on Iraq is going to cause Bush to just lose big time. If Kerry can just shut up until after the Convention and then emerge, he has this thing locked up. That just – but – he just has to shut up.

So, I note here that – that Kerry's not following Fineman's advice, because Kerry was visible yesterday. Oh, I take it back, he wasn't. He was on a public radio station, so nobody heard this. So he's still – he's still following plan. This was – this was on WDET public radio. I don't know where it is. It could be big. I just don't know. And this is what he said about the connection between Iraq and Al Qaeda.

KERRY: That seems to be what we've learned in the indications from the intelligence community in the last month. The administration misled America. The administration reached too far. They did not tell the truth to Americans about what was happening or their own intentions, and the President rushed to war without a plan to win the peace. I've said this before, I say it again. I think the President owed it to America to be completely candid when the lives of young men and women are at stake –

RUSH: It is Senator Kerry who's lying. The administration did not not tell the truth to the American people about what was happening, or their own intention. Fourteen months of a run-up to this little baby in Iraq, not once was the connection made to 9/11. But I say this until I'm blue in the face. It's what I was talking about yesterday, folks, or the day before.

We're going to have to toughen our spines if we're going to win this. We're going to have to expose ourselves to the horrors that are being visited upon human beings by our enemies. We're not going to be able to hide from the truth. We're not

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going to be able to pretend it isn't happening, because if we get away with that, we're not going to think we're at risk. We're not going to think we're threatened.

And I'm telling you right now, this administration went into Iraq for two reasons, to settle an old war, finish it up, UN – well, three reasons. UN resolutions and all that, which we have been through time and again. And as a strategy of preemption.

Once 9/11 happens – I don't care what happened before. That doesn't even matter. Once it happens, no President worth his salt is going to sit by and not do everything possible to see to it it doesn't happen again. That's all this is, folks. This is a defensive action designed to protect the United States of America with a long-term vision of try – trying to turn this cauldron of absolute anti-Western hate that is the Middle East around a little bit. Cool it off. It's exceptional vision.

And, you know, people – “Well, that's just ridiculous. Why, nobody – democracy and a bunch of Arabs? Well, who the hell do you think you are, Limbaugh? Well, that's that (inaudible; mumble). Have you been over there? I've been over – it's not possible.” Yeah, and I remember they all said the Soviet Union was going to be around as long as the planet was. We'll be back in just a second. Stay with us.

(station break)

RUSH: I know. I have been for the last – since the year began. Since last fall. Yeah. That's what I'm saying. Anyway, welcome back, folks. Nice to have you with us. El Rushbo is always the happiest and most optimistic member, figure, of the media today.

Tenaflly, New Jersey. This is Ann Marie. I'm glad you called. Welcome to the program.

ANN MARIE: Oh, Rush, I – I am so mad. You know, this whole thing with you being censored, I – I just – you know, the – the truth that we have out there, all that gets said all the time is – can I say crap?

RUSH: You just did, so dig in. Say it again if you want. Sure, absolutely.

ANN MARIE: That's – that's all that gets said. These – these – these poor men and women that are out there. And you are the – the only one that really supports them.

And the whole thing about these photos is ridiculous because, you know, if the media didn't put as much emphasis on the photos as they did, which had to be demoralizing to our troops overall, I don't –

RUSH: No, but – let me –

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ANN MARIE: – I don't know that we'd be in the situation we're in today with this poor guy being held hostage. And it – why I – you know, Ted Kennedy should just take a poster and say, "We want to lose the war."

RUSH: You've got – you got a – well –

ANN MARIE: It's so infuriating.

RUSH: That might – I'm telling you, you might be pretty close. The – the Democrats would will – willingly lose this war if it got rid of Bush. I do not jest here. This is not – they're not – they're not about winning this war. They don't even think the war's justified. They don't think the war should be happening.

As to the photos, just re – remember, Ann Marie, what I told you about the photos. The reason they're being kept alive, and the reason it's going to build as a story is, because the Democrats are building an insurance policy with them. If Bush does win reelection, the sole purpose for making this a huge story that gets bigger and bigger and bigger is to impeach Bush after he wins reelection, if he does. That's what is being utilized here.

And – and the – and – and it's about very little other than that. You might say that it has, as an ancillary effect, the demoralization and the de-spiritization of the troops, which it does. They don't care.

Is it – look, Ann Marie and the rest of you, it's just like the – the – the story we did on the economy yesterday where we showed that – that Bill Schneider of CNN did on the economy. The economy to the people in the media is not even something that's real. It – the economy, as they report it, is not something that impacts your life. The economy is not something that's good or bad because of what its effect on you is.

The economy is simply a story by which to measure how well or poorly Bush is doing or, better stated, the economy is simply an issue that will be reported or kept hidden depending on how it affects Bush.

Whether or not your life is improving because of a robust economy is of no interest to the people reporting on it today. The only interest in the story the economy presents is does it hurt Bush or does it help him. And if it helps him, they're going to keep it secret. And that's what they're doing. The same thing with the rest of this stuff.

You know, this is – this is an election year, and the prism of news from the partisan elite media, looked at via the election of John Kerry, or I should say the – the inauguration of John Kerry.

Jack in Ed Harbor, New Jersey. Hello, you're on the EIB Network.

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JACK: Hey, Rush.

RUSH: Hey.

JACK: Dittos from down south here in Jersey.

RUSH: Yes, thank you.

JACK: Real quick. I'm a retired captain and Navy captain. Spent a lot of time in Turkey, especially. I say we not only should not get you off of NPR, we should add – and I've written to them about this – we should add you for an Armed Forces Network, add you for the full three hours. That's all the guys can listen to.

And the previous caller, she's right. It's a bunch of crap is what they feed you on Armed Forces Network. It's all Liberal. I listen to VOA. That's even worse. And – because I listen onto radios quite often on my high frequency radio. No, that's about all I have to say.

RUSH: You were career Navy, did you say, in Turkey and Germany?

JACK: Yeah. Yeah, I spent 27 years in the Navy as a helicopter pilot.

RUSH: Well –

JACK: Started out in Vietnam, and had a great career. Slick Willie got in. I couldn't serve the Commander in Chief anymore, so I re – took an early retirement. But I'm 27 years, 1995.

RUSH: But while you were in, you spent a lot of time listening to the Armed Forces Radio Network?

JACK: Absolutely.

RUSH: So you know what you're talking about. Well, it is. There's a lot of Liberal stuff, which I – that's fine with me. I mean, note that nobody on the Right's trying to get anything taken off of Armed Forces Radio. And the vast majority of what's on Armed Forces Radio, he's right. He – he said – I – I've – I've now gotten interested in it and will take a look at what's there.

But this is – I – I don't know, I – it – it – it's – well, here, I've got the story. Let me just – I – I hadn't intended to delve into this this quickly today. Thanks, Jack, for the – for the call. I appreciate it, and the – and the support out there.

“Liberal groups that want to bounce Rush Limbaugh's radio show off Armed Forces Radio have found a Senate ally. Senator Tom Harkin, Democrat, Iowa,

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announced yesterday that he has successfully amended the fiscal year 2005 defense authorization bill, adding a provision that calls on Armed Forces Radio and TV service to provide political balance in its public affairs programming.” I am the political balance.

Now, notice the first line. “Liberal groups that want to bounce Rush Limbaugh’s show off Armed Forces have found a Senate ally.” Now, Harkin’s amendment does not specifically say get rid of my show. He’s not going to go that far, because then he would be wide open to charges of censorship. In fact, what Harkin will probably say publicly – “No, no, no, I have no problem with Limbaugh. We just need balance.”

Well, these Liberal groups, which are just appendages, middle finger appendages of the Democrat Party, have written letters to Rumsfeld, demanding my show be taken off. That’s what started all this. I mean, it’s – it’s an election year, folks. And I’ve got to be taken out just like the President has to be taken out, apparently.

And so they send these letters, and of course, Rumsfeld doesn’t respond. So they go get a Senate ally, Tom Harkin. And Harkin proposes this amendment. The amendment just says “balance,” but there – notice these guys don’t say we want a show like Limbaugh’s on Armed Forces. We want Limbaugh off. And there’s their ally, is Harkin.

So this amendment calls for balance, but it – you know, you could arrive at balance any number of ways, and I’m just here to tell you that the ultimate objective of this attempt at balance of Armed Forces Radio is to get my program taken off. That’s what the people who got this all started are seeking to make happen.

Harkin was quote as saying that “Armed Forces Radio is funded by taxpayers of all political persuasions, and therefore, it should make a greater effort to provide balanced presentation of political viewpoints on its airwaves to American service members around the world.”

Well, again, we’re – we’re going to – got to find this Bry – Byron York piece that describes in detail what is on Armed Forces Radio, and you will realize what an absolute absurdity this amendment is. Take a quick break, because we must due to the constraints of time. But we’ll be back and continue in just a moment.

(station break)

RUSH: The first hour is in the can here, folks. On its way over to the Museum of Broadcasting, which will eventually be named the Limbaugh Hall of Fame.

We’ll be back and resume in just a few minutes. Stay with us. Won’t be long.

(station break)

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RUSH: Hey, hang on here, just a second. You know? My own staff sends me e-mails at the exact time the program starts and I have to check this. Just – just had five minutes to send me an e-mail. Nope. Send it right before. And that's from Coco. He's going to – he's going to post the Byron York *NRO* piece on what's on NPR, or what's on – well, we call it AFARTS. The American – Armed Forces Radio/Television Service. And that's what the acronym is. And Byron York has his piece, that's from May 28<sup>th</sup>, that describes what all is on there.

Greetings and welcome back. It's Rush Limbaugh, the EIB Network and the telephone number here is 800-282-2882.

Let me just spend one more segment on this and then I'm going to move on to the other items in the stack. And just to refresh your memory, here, Liberal groups – well, let me set this up again. I mean, I don't – I need to set this up again.

It wasn't long ago that it seemed like everybody was wringing their hands, and was all upset over what was happening to Howard Stern – because of indecency. Clear Channel, they decided to – to fire him – not censor – fire him. And they decided they didn't want to incur fines and they didn't want to put that kind of programming on the air. It's their decision – business decision.

Stern's bosses were not Clear Channel, so the bosses didn't do anything to him. The government wouldn't do anything to him and yet, the media was just, "Oh, no! What's happening to our Constitution?" And they wanted me to write a piece in *The LA Times* about this, which I did. And they're going all over the country and people are wringing their hands, "Oh, no! What's happening?" And then it came out that Bush was doing this to get even with Stern for whatever reasons. And so Bush was responsible for censoring Howard Stern on six, I guess, out of some-odd 70 radio stations. It was – it was absurdly silly. (sigh)

Stern's on the air, and he can go on those markets that cancel him on other stations, if – if any might want to pick him up. There's no way that censorship can occur in the private sector. Simply no way.

And we come to this story today – "Liberal groups that want to bounce Rush Limbaugh's radio show off of Armed Forces Radio have found a Senate ally. Senator Tom Harkin, Democrat, Iowa, announced yesterday that he has successfully amended the fiscal year 2005 Defense" – I'm in a Defense Appropriations bill!

"He has added a provision that calls on Armed Forces Radio and TV Service," AFARTS, "to provide political balance in its public affairs programming. Harkin is quoted as saying that American Forces Radio and Television Service is funded by taxpayers of all political persuasions, so therefore it should make a greater effort

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to provide balanced representation of political view points on its airwaves to American service members around the world.”

And then this – this little appendage of the Democrat Party, this – this Website that’s sprung up out there, a Liberal group that supposedly monitors Conservative media for misinformation, praised Harkin for introducing the amendment and the entire Senate for having gone along with it.

For the past seven weeks, this little Website, Media Matters, has been monitoring the Rush Limbaugh show, transcribing and publishing my offensive statements regarding the abuse of Iraqi prisoners. And they’ve written Rumsfeld two letters demanding I be taken off. Rumsfeld didn’t respond. So they went to Harkin and they’ve got their –

Now this is censorship. This is the United States government. This is a United States senator amending the Defense Appropriations Bill with the intent being to get this program – only one hour of which is carried on Armed Forces Radio – stripped from that network.

And I’ll tell you what this proves – is – the – the – why does – why does there need to be anybody monitoring this program? We don’t – you don’t need a password to listen here. You know? We’re on 600 radio stations. It’s open to anybody who wants to turn it on. All you got to do is listen.

This is sort of as idiotic as Bill Schneider on CNN the other day, doing a report – and I’m not making this up – he did a report that the media was keeping secret the good economy, but how did he know this? Not because he’s in the media and is participating in keeping the economy a secret.

There were analysts, media analysts, which did a report on the amount of coverage a good economy is getting and they came up with, “It’s not much.” This would be like me telling you, “I don’t know what I said just five minutes ago until I get a report from the analyst company.” It’s absurd.

So now we’ve got this Website monitoring this program and sending out out-of-context quotes to a media that doesn’t even bother to listen to this program itself and then just assumes that what this Website says is accurate.

And what this proves is that the so-called media and radio groups – they’re nothing but appendages of the Democratic Party. They’re action-oriented. These are not analysis and talk-oriented groups. Their goal is not to compete with ideas and debate. Their goal is to use the big media and the law to stop me! That’s what they’re trying to do. They can’t compete in the arena of ideas and they know it. They will lose each time they try.

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So they try to get me censored through an association with a United States Senator. This is not just a report group. This is not just a group doing analysis. This is action-oriented. And no one who accepts their out-of-context quotes as news ever asks them if they're collaborating with the Democratic National Committee.

Nobody in the media questions who they are. Nobody questions their motivation. Nobody asks them, "Why you doing this?" Nobody says, "Well, what else did he say?" They don't call me for clarification on what I am supposedly – or supposedly – have said, even though this group's funding and support comes from Democrat donors. These are not business enterprises. They are political entities. They're – I mean, the big media refuses to report on this, only repeating what they say and pretending that they're actually competition rather than a Democratic creation. And I'm going to illustrate it.

Back on June the 2<sup>nd</sup>, CNN did a report on all of this. It was on *Wolf Blitzer Reports*. The reporter was – was Tom Forman and they ran a package on this controversy about me and Armed Forces Radio. And the reporter starts out by saying the whole story is much ado about nothing, but of course, it's a good excuse to play the Skull-and-Bones comment that I made that was taken out of context, and here's just a portion of that report. We have two sound bites and this how it sounded. Forman says –

Let me introduce this – Tom Forman, the reporter, says, "It's a bit of a tempest in a teapot, but one that the sides are taking very seriously. The controversy over Rush Limbaugh's role in Iraq –" The controversy over Rush Limbaugh's role in Iraq! I have a role in Iraq. Because a media analyst group, a so-called media analyst group, says so?

Mr. Forman, have you ever listened to this program? Does the notion that I, a radio talk show host, have a role in Iraq actually resonate with you? I must be far more powerful than even I am aware, ladies and gentlemen. I have a role in Iraq! And why do I have a role in Iraq? Because a Website funded by the Democratic Party and Democrat donors says so.

And so these sycophants and these willing accomplices in this big media complex take what this – there's a Conservative Web site, there are plenty of Conservative Web sites that do this. Brent Bozel, Media Research Center? They are a true analyst group. They do not propose action. They just do it.

And the media laughs at Bozel. Doesn't give him the time of day. Here comes this new, fledgling little Website and whatever these guys say is accepted as Gospel and it's jumped on and the media runs with it and it gets to the point where a reporter starts his report on CNN by saying, "Sides are taking very seriously this controversy over Limbaugh's role in Iraq." My dad would be proud. He thought I was a failure because I didn't go to college.

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“The controversy over Rush Limbaugh’s role in Iraq has been simmering for weeks. Now, it seems to be coming to a boil. The folks in charge of the military radio service responded today an angry Senator.”

CNN REPORTER: Over the thunder of the machinery and the rattle of the rifles, one voice is heard in Baghdad for an hour each evening, Monday through Friday.

RUSH ANNOUNCER: We’re always ready, so bring it on. Rush.

CNN REPORTER: Rush Limbaugh’s Conservative talk show has been a staple of American Forces Radio for a decade. And when the Iraqi prison abuse scandal broke, he compared it to a fraternity prank.

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.

RUSH: That’s one comment out of about 2 hours and 59 minutes of a radio program just like they’ve taken one sentence out of this whole 9/11 report and turned it into something that it isn’t.

I also didn’t know here that – let’s see – this is – whatever – abeddabah. Limbaugh’s Conservative has been a staple? And when the – and – and that all they’re listening to in Iraq is this show? That’s what – is that not the impression this report left?

I am Armed Forces Radio? That’s what the – that’s – let’s see. That’s the opinion that this report leaves – is that I am Armed Forces Radio. In terms of popularity, it’s probably true, but in terms of what all else is offered, I’m not all that’s there.

After – after the – this report, the CNN reporter said that this has infuriated Tom Harkin. This is how Forman and Wolf Blitzer wrapped up the report that you just heard.

CNN REPORTER: Such talk infuriated Limbaugh’s critics, including US Senator, Tom Harkin.

HARKIN: Rush Limbaugh has a point of view. I mean, a dedicated, right-wing point of view. And that’s fine. You know, that – that’s fine. But, you should balance it on the other side also – especially when it’s being funded by taxpayers’ money.

(end CNN clip)

RUSH: All right, Senator Harkin. Let’s talk about what else is on the Armed Forces Radio Network.

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“The Armed Forces Radio Network provides not only NPR programs like *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*, but NPR commentary as well. American military men and women abroad have access, for example, to the talk show of Liberal host Diane Ream.” I didn’t even know she was still alive.

“Indeed, Ream’s biographical sketch on the NPR Web site says her program is heard on US military installations around the world via Armed Forces Radio,” and his piece, here, has this – is a link where you can click on their program schedule to see everything they’re carrying.

“Military listeners can also hear NPR’s *Travis Smile* – or *Tavis Smiley Show*, *Talk of the Nation* and *Fresh Air* programs.” The whole – practically the whole 24-hour clock of NPR is on and available at Armed Forces Radio. One hour of this program is.

“Beyond, NPR listeners can also hear brief commentaries from Jim Hightower and Dan Rather. Viewed as a whole, the list of names suggest that military listeners, if they want to hear a variety of views can do so on Armed Forces Radio. But according to those who design its programming, the point of Armed Forces Radio is not to provide some sort of perfect ideological balance, but rather, to give military men and women a representative sample of the program they could hear at home.” Or, programming they could hear at home.

“To that end,” get this, folks, “Armed Forces Radio provides 1200 different programs to military radio stations around the world, which then make up their own schedules. ‘We try to provide a cross section of programming that they – they would have available to soldiers were they stateside,’ said Melvin Russell. ‘We feel that the variety the 1200 programs that we offer each week gives us that balance that we’re looking for.’”

I am one hour of the 1200. And the media has now decided to align itself with this appendage of the Democratic Party in the form of an amendment to the Defense Appropriations Bill, offered by a United States senator to have that hour of my program removed from Armed Forces Radio.

I mean, folks. Am I big, or what? But this is censorship. This isn’t what happened with all this indecency garbage out there and fines and this sort of stuff. This is the United States government, or an – a – a – a United States Senator doing so.

“Most of the programs on Armed Forces Radio are music shows, but there is a significant news and talk lineup as well. If you like to listen to Dr. Laura and you’re stationed in South Korea, you can listen to her there as well.” First hour of her program’s included on – on Armed Forces Radio. “If you like *Car Talk* from NPR, you can listen to it on Armed Forces Radio. If you like Dan Patrick’s ESPN radio show, you can listen to that on Armed Forces Radio.”

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So, there you have it, ladies and gentlemen. That's what's going on. This is censorship – not what happened to Stern, or anything of the sort and I just wanted you to know that. And I did mention it in the previous hour, because it's the first hour of the program that the uniformed members of the U – US military here, around the world, and I wanted them to hear what this is about as well. Now you know.

We'll be back and continue with all the rest in our exciting stacks of stuff right after this.

(station break)

RUSH: Just a – a little warning. This segment's going to be a little shorter than normal because I went so long in the opening monologue.

Let me go back to MacDill Air Force Base yesterday. This was the President about half-way through his speech to troops around the world in Afghanistan, in Iraq and at MacDill and I think other institutions, or installations, military installations around the world, talking about some of the great things that are happening in that country.

BUSH: Iraq's economy is moving forward. Markets are beginning to thrive. New businesses have opened. A stable new currency is in place. Dozens of political parties are organizing. Hundreds of courts of law are opening across the country. Today, in Iraq, more than 170 newspapers are being published. I saw the other day they've even got talk radio. I don't know if they've contacted Rush yet.

AUDIENCE: (laughter)

RUSH: And laughter and applause and I got this e-mail yesterday afternoon, after the program.

“Dear Mr. Limbaugh, I just returned to my duty location after President Bush's inspirational speech to all of us here at MacDill Air Force Base. One of the great lines for all of us ditto heads here at Southern Command Headquarters was the President's clear acknowledgement of your rein over talk radio. We wouldn't be surprised if your show won't be broadcast via Iraqi radio soon. We already appreciate getting the segments of your show over Armed Forces Radio.

“Many times over the years, during numerous deployments, I and other airmen, soldiers, sailors and marines have enjoyed getting your pearls of wisdoms – wisdom and your truths. Wish you could have been here with us. We'll keep doing our job even though, as the President said, it's a secret so you can do your job and prevent any more threats to our great and noble way of life. God bless you and keep you safe. Lt. Col. Paul Griffith, the United States Southern Command.”

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Grab me line five. Let's go to line five, here and get this guy because this is a good reminder of how all this happened and I, frankly, had forgotten this.

It's Paul in Norfolk, Virginia. Hi, Paul. Welcome.

PAUL: Now, how you doing, Rush? Good talking to you.

RUSH: Fine. Thank – thank you.

PAUL: And, you know, I was just – I was telling your screener there, you know, it just burns me up! That they – you know, this Senator and these Liberals are doing this because if you remember, and I know you talked to them about it on your radio station, or on your radio show before, is that when this first – when you first came out on AFARTS, you weren't even on the list of programming. We had to handwrite your name in.

RUSH: I – yeah. When they told me that you had said this, I now remember how this happened. And this is – this is an interesting story. Paul. Thanks for the call. Let me – because I – I got a –

PAUL: Yeah.

RUSH: – abbreviated time, here. Let me tell this the rest of the way, here, because of my – my lack of time, here.

But this happened in the early '90s and they took a survey of uniformed military personnel around the world as to what programs they wanted to listen to and they had a ballot and they had all these programs listed, and my name was not on it.

My name finished in the top five as a write-in – of military per – and that caused pressure at the Defense Department, which was the Clinton Defense Department. And the pressure brought to bear – I mean, I – that – that – I forget, precisely what – I think there was resistance to doing it even after that ballot and the – when – when they resisted putting the program, making it available to uniformed people, then there was even more pressure to get it on and the pressure was dumped over into the Department of Defense. And Les Aspen relented and was the front man on it. And that's when – I guess, this has to be '93 – '93-'94 is when they did it. Les Aspen decided we'd take an hour. That the Defense Department would take an hour of this program.

If the Liberals aren't careful, what they're going to end up with is this whole program on Armed Forces Radio Network.

(station break)

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RUSH: Serving humanity, executing assigned host duties flawlessly, zero mistakes. Our telephone number, 800-282-2882.

Teddy in Brooklyn. Hello, sir, welcome to the program.

TEDDY: Hey, Rush, how are you doing? Reaganomics Mega-dittos.

RUSH: I – thank you, sir.

TEDDY: Hey, I wanted to talk a little bit about the situation with Howard and with you, and how I think there is somewhat of a similarity there. And I – I hope you bear with me for a second.

The fact of the matter is, is that what's happening is – the bigger picture is that government is sticking its nose into something that they shouldn't be sticking its nose into. With Howard, they're saying, "Hey, he's indecent. You know, we – we don't want indecency on the air. Let's get rid of him, or let's fine him."

With you, it's fairness. You see the little buzz terms – terms they use? They use that in order to get people on their side. "He's got to be more fair. If he's not more fair, then, you know, we should sanction him."

And – and while, you know, with this administration, it's not that bad for you, but God forbid Kerry gets elected. God forbid we lose control of the Congress, or Senate. I could just see Senators getting up there and saying, "Rush Limbaugh has to be more fair. If he's not more fair, then, you know, we're going to have to sanction him. He's got to have a Liberal co-host." You know? And I think the similarity there is – is somewhat relative because of the situation.

RUSH: Well, maybe. Let – but – I – look – I understand the way you're thinking about this, because you think – you think the government is – is involved in this thing to get Stern. And I – I want to try to explain the difference to – the difference to you on – on – the – you're going to think it's a technicality, but I – I want to try to explain the difference to you.

The difference is in the First Amendment and – and what you're going to define as censorship versus indecency. And I think the first thing I want to try to explain to you is the purpose of indecency, and I'm going to draw you an analogy.

Everybody talks about the public airwaves. And the public airwaves is said to mean that, well, the reason why we're concerned about what's on the public airwaves, as opposed to cable or satellite, is that the public owns them.

Well, that's poppycock. I don't know about you, but I've never gotten paid for my investment in the public airwaves. I don't know what the hell I own. I don't know how you own something you can't see and touch. That's not what it means.

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Let's take the public airwaves, the public broadcast spectrum – radio and television, over-the-air broadcasts – and let's pretend for a moment that it's a – a shopping mall. And let's say, Teddy, that you have your two little kids, five and six years old, walking through a shopping mall.

And all of a sudden, over the loudspeakers of the shopping mall, as they try to urge you to go into one store or another, some guy starts talking about things that you don't want your kids to hear. Sexual things that you don't want them to hear.

You would have the right, and you would be found and – and upheld, your complaint would be upheld to whatever action you took to get that stopped, because this is a public place and you do not have to hear that in a public place.

Or if – if some individual went walking through with a megaphone or just with his voice and started shouting at people offensive things, it's not in the mall's best interest to let this happen, because it's going to drive people out. But you don't have to listen to it.

That's the analogy to draw to what the purpose, the original purpose of the decency standards on over-the-air public spectrum broadcasting were about, because at the time, that's all there was.

And I know there's an on/off switch and I know that there's a tuning dial, but there – back then, there wasn't all that much choice. I mean, you – you'd get the radio stations in your hometown, and – and at night you'd get distant programs and signals, but that was about it. There wasn't any cable or satellite.

And so maybe they need to be updated, and maybe they need to be revised. But the – the – the point still exists, and the rules are there, and what's happened is you've got an FCC now that's simply deciding they're going to enforce them. They've not written new ones. They're just going to enforce them.

And they're acting on public complaints. They're acting on public complaints, just as you would be complaining if what I described happened to you in the mall.

And now, you may say to the people complaining, well, hey, grow up and stop being fuddy-duddies. Don't have the radio on to that station when your kids are in the car. There's enough foreknowledge now about what goes on on various radio programs, and if you don't want your kids to hear it, don't listen to it yourself when they're with you.

But until such, you know, maturity hits or whatever, those standards are there and they are there for that reason, and if – if there are complaints about this from enough people, then the commission is going to act on it. The commission was not unanimous in this.

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But you know, I – I – Clear Channel only carried Stern on six markets, and they decided we didn't want this anymore, and so they broomed him.

And they still got fined. It's not as though they preempted the fine. They got fined over \$2 million. Now – and – and they made the move to Stern before – get rid of Howard before that, but they still got fined, because that's the law.

And three fines, and you lose your license. You get fined three times and you lose your license. Three times in a – in a light – in a – a single period. You – a license lasts, I think it's 10 or 15 years now. You get fined three times in that period of time, you – you are subject to having the FCC take your license to operate away from you.

Stern's syndicators don't have licenses. Now, they own stations that carry shows that do, but the syndicator doesn't have a license. There's nothing they can do to take, you know, the – the ability of Stern to operate away. All they can do is fine the people that choose to carry the programming that the syndicator and Stern offer. It's the same thing with me.

Now, in my case, you talk about fairness. There is such thing as a Fairness Doctrine, and that's really, I think, in part what is, in – in a backdoor way, of being attempted to re – they're attempting to revive with this – this idiocy here with Tom Harkin amending a defense bill to get me off of Armed Forces Radio.

But the difference here, the difference here is that nobody is saying to Howard Stern you can't say that and we're going to take you off the air. What they're saying is if you're going to carry that, we're going to fine you, because you're violating decency standards.

In my case, we're not violating any decency standards, and I am – I am exhibiting what this country was founded on, illuminated – and it's ruminated – numerated in the First Amendment, freedom of speech, and it was particularly about political speech. "And Congress shall make no law abridging freedom of speech."

Now, what's free speech? Well, you open another door there. Then you have to go and – OK, is profanity free speech? Is that what was meant? We've had Supreme Court decisions and arguments about this all over the place. Go back to the mall analogy to find out what's free speech or not.

The problem is, in many cases, that a lot of people have – have created a business now of being offended. And being offended gives them power to stop people saying things that offend them.

And I've told you my theory about being offended. If you're offended, it's your problem. Do something about it. You don't have the right to shut up whoever's

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offending you, just because they're offending you, unless it violates these decency standards and so forth.

But political speech was specifically protected for the health and survival of the country, because it was politics and political ideas that formed the foundation and maintained the foundation with which we manage our affairs in this country. And to compare controversial political speech or ideas with indecency doesn't wash. The two are in no way similar, never will be, and won't be.

Now, the – the idea that a United States Senator can amend a piece of legislation as large as the Defense Appropriations Bill, and act, effectively seeing to it that people cannot hear this radio program, is censorship as defined by the word. It is pure censorship, because only the government can do it.

Now, whether I'm in the same boat with other people, you can judge that as you will.

But the difference is – let's just – let – let's just – I'll mention Stern. If Stern wanted to deal with his problem, he could. He can clean up his act. There's nothing I can do. I am who I am. I talk about political issues here. And I have my commitments and my principles and my core beliefs.

And it is those commitments and principles and core beliefs that are being challenged because people fear them, because people disagree with them, not because they're indecent, not because they are offensive, and not because they violate any public code of moral conduct. The same can't be said of those who are violating the decency standards.

So I, overall, will reject this – this comparison, and I don't think that there's any similarity whatsoever.

There's nothing I can do to fix this other than to fight for my First Amendment right. And I'm going to, as I'm doing now. And I'm going to alert people to what is happening. And again, I want to stress that the reason it's happening is because not only do they have to take out Bush, for some reason, they think they have to take me out.

And it means that they don't think they can beat me in the arena of ideas. It means that they can't compete with what I say. It means they can't compete with the opinions I have, and the way I express them, and the way I persuade people. So since they can't beat me in the arena of ideas, it's time to try to silence me.

And it's not the first time this has happened, by any stretch of the imagination. But it is the first time that the United States government has gotten involved in it. And that violates the First Amendment. We'll be back after this. Stay with us.

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(station break)

RUSH: One other thing to keep in mind, ladies and gentlemen, about this whole effort, where Armed Forces Radio and – and my program is concerned. That’s just one manifestation of the effort that is being taken. It’s just one illustration of who’s involved.

Now, I’ve told you, all these George Sores groups – Take Over America, Take Back America, Media Matters for America, this new Lib Talk Radio Network – this is all about Hillary Clinton. These groups are not businesses, they are not in the commercial business – commercial sector to turn a profit. These are not groups in – into analysis. They are action-oriented political groups seeking to advance the goals and ideas of the Democratic Party.

Make no mistake about it. And they’re all in existence to help Hillary. They’re all run, or controlled by, or influenced by the Clintonoids and their supporters. The Clintons have long, long, shall we say, had a problem with me. And it’s that truth detector line.

When Clinton was flying into St. Louis on Air Force One, and he’s telling these guys on the morning show at K – “Limbaugh’s going to have three hours on that side (inaudible; mumble) station today, and there’s not going to be a truth detector to set it right. And I don’t know what we can do about it.”

So the President of the United States, and his bully pulpit, was concerned that there’s not a truth detector.

The fact is it is I who am and was the truth detector at – when analyzing them. That’s what they don’t like. They want to blunt my effectiveness by using their allies in Congress and elsewhere to do what they can to silence me. It’s raw politics, folks. It’s the kind that dictators that the Clintons like. It’s raw politics. This is what – this is disguised as theories. Or what have you.

Now, if you permit me, if – I – I just got some news here. If you’ll permit me, it’s just one more thing about me and then I’m going to get off of me. Will you permit me to (laughter) – was it OK? I feel guilty about this.

We just got some fabulous – this is about this other political thing I’m involved in, this so-called legal case down here. This is just the same thing. It’s – it’s part of this whole political arrangement this year that’s designed to try to discredit and silence me.

Now listen to the Third District Court of Appeals, which is down in Miami. My case is being decided right now before the Fourth District Court of Appeal.

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The Third District Court of Appeal last night issued a case that ends up very favorable to ours. The Third District Court of Appeal is a sister court to the Fourth. It has a lot of influence because it's – it's one of the bigger ones in terms of population it covers in the state, and it's – it's got some high-powered judges on this court as well.

That court, the Third District Court of Appeal, ruled last night that a police officer acted in bad faith in seizing medical records, even though the parties all stipulated that the cop was unaware of the law on medical records when he seized medical records.

Once the state attorney in the case found out about the seizure of the records in this manner, illegally by the cop, they filed a notice and said, "OK, we want to go get the medical records in a legal fashion under the statute. We want to use a subpoena."

But the Third District Court of Appeal last night said they can't do it because there was no good faith attempt to follow the statute in the first place, which is exactly what we've alleged in our appeal, that the state attorney here did not follow the statute. There was no attempt at good faith when they used search warrants to raid my doctor's offices to get my medical records.

The Third District Court of Appeal ruled that the medical records in this case had to be suppressed and could not be used any further in the case.

The Court, in this case – now we're not talking something is innocuous, and unprovable, and as silly as doctor shopping – the Court, the Third District Court, reversed a second degree murder conviction on this. They reversed a second degree murder conviction and a 35-year prison sentence because of the illegal seizure and failure to follow the statute on securing these medical records (inaudible; mumble) to the cop.

And they ordered a retrial without the records available to the state attorney, which is exactly what we have demanded and suggested in our brief. And the interesting thing about this is that the same statute was used before the judges of the Third DCA – it's called *Johnson* – as the same statute we cited in our brief and argument before the Fourth DCA.

So the Third District Court of Appeal took this medical records issue very seriously. And I've got to say, this is now the fourth big instance of medical record privacy that courts have found for nationally and in Florida. The Justice Department lost every time trying to get medical records in it's – in it's partial birth abortion cases. And they didn't even – they didn't even try to do it illegally. They just – they used subpoenas, and – and still, the – the – all these courts all the way up said, "Nope, can't do it." And the Justice Department eventually bowed out.

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Now the Third District Court of Appeal in Florida – I mean, it is incredible. They reversed a second degree murder conviction. Not some doctor shopping little thing, something that's never been prosecuted here. A second degree murder conviction, simply because the law was not followed in medical records, even though the cop who took them had no idea what the law was.

So what we have done today, we have filed a Notice of Supplemental Authority with the Fourth District Court of Appeal, attaching a copy of the opinion from last night, from the Third District Court of Appeal.

And, you know, we still have our – we don't know when the decision is coming, but this is a – this is – this court, the Third DCA found exactly as – as – what our appeal suggested the Fourth DCA should do. The statute wasn't followed. There is a precedent. The Legislature did not mean ever for search warrants to be used, subpoenas, so that the patient has a right to participate in what, if any, of medical records are released for the purposes of state attorneys to investigate crime, or what have you.

So this is – this is good news that came in just before the program today. And I wanted – I wasn't even going to talk about this today, folks. Then this Armed Forces Radio thing came up, that's opened the door to talking about me, so I knew you'd be patient, let me share this with you. We'll take a brief timeout and be back. Grab a phone call after this break as we wrap up this hour. Stay with us.

(station break)

RUSH: And back to the phones. We go to Jim in Kimball, Nebraska. Nice to have you, sir. Welcome to the EIB Network.

JIM: Thank you, Rush. Hi.

RUSH: Hi.

JIM: I disagree with your contention that the Democrats will try to impeach Bush. I think it'd be the worst move they could make. It would put Cheney in the White House. He would be able to appoint his new VP. He would not be terming out, like Bush, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, and it would set the Republicans up for an incumbency run for Cheney or his VP in 2008 and possibly 2012 instead of running as a lame duck under Bush. Do you really think Hill and Bill would allow that?

RUSH: I don't know that Hill and Bill would be able to stop this.

JIM: Yeah, but (inaudible; overlapping dialogue) –

RUSH: It is not – because I –

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JIM: – (inaudible; overlapping dialogue) think –

RUSH: Well, look, see, what you're saying is rooted in what you think is intelligence and common sense. The Democrats are not being governed by that. They are – they are on a pure emotional hatred-driven vehicle right now.

JIM: And I understand that.

RUSH: And the purpose of this impeach – the purpose – look it, they – they hate Bush. This is all about the fact they hate Bush. They are going to get rid of Bush, whatever it takes.

You do – I mean, this – this – all of this stuff that's happening this year, that we all know about and talk about it everyday, the stuff we've been talking about today, all of it is aimed at getting Bush. And they are going to impeach Bush no matter what the result.

They don't think that Cheney – and I'm not even sure they think it's going to be Cheney on the ticket. But they're not – they're not thinking – no, they're – they're – they're focused right now on one thing, and that's getting Bush.

And they're getting a lot of money for that focus. George Sores is giving them how much money, because he hates Bush. They are totally focused on that.

So I'm serious about this. I don't think that they're – you know, cooler heads may prevail down the road, but right now, this prison scandal business is not about the fact that everybody's so upset about all this.

It's not that they're so outraged, because everybody knows what goes on in war. This is another political weapon that these people are saving up for and trying to invest in, and build, and grow, so that they can use it to get rid of George Bush, because that remains their number one political objective. We'll be back.

(station break)

RUSH: Hi. Welcome back. Rush Limbaugh the cutting edge of societal evolution. Rush Limbaugh and the Limbaugh Institute for Advanced Conservative Studies. A ticking time bomb of knowledge and information, profundity and brilliance, exploding at regular intervals with no harm to anyone. Telephone number 800-282-2882. And if you want to go the e-mail route, it's [Rush@eibnet.com](mailto:Rush@eibnet.com).

You know, we're just thinking here. The President suggested that it might be possible I would be on Iraqi radio soon. Iraqi talk radio, since they're just jimmying that up over there.

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And we're thinking, well, boy Tom Harkin couldn't allow that to happen, because what's this program stand for? It stands for freedom and liberation in Iraq. Democrats can't stand that. They have to balance that.

We – we want the people of Iraq to have self-determination, we want the American troops over there to be safe, and to be victorious. We want to win this, and we want to do what we can to fight the War on Terror.

And, of course, the Democrats would have to have an opposing view to balance it. Might be a smart move to get on Iraqi radio and force the Democrats to demand equal time. (laughter).

One more thing about this impeachment business, folks. I don't want to be misunderstood here. I'm not saying they succeed. I don't think they would succeed at impeaching Bush, but that's not the point. And as a previous caller said that – and I was – there was time constraints here that Cheney could just appoint his own Veep.

Well, yeah, but the new Veep has to be approved by the House and the Senate by a majority vote. And why do you think – (sigh) should I say this? Yeah, there was a reason. No. Never mind. But, I mean it's just – sorry to do this to you, I just – I don't want to mention anybody's name in a negative context here.

But let's put it this way. When it comes time for Cheney to choose a Veep, he's got to choose on that'll get past. So, don't think that he's choosing a Veep that'll be, you know, re-elected down the road for another two terms. It's possible. But – but that doesn't even get to the point.

The point isn't whether the Democrats succeed in impeaching Bush, which they won't. The point would be to destroy him and his Presidency through the impeachment process. And drag it out. And keep it dragged out for as long as they can. There's a little bit of Clinton reciprocity in this as well. Combined with their sheer, unadulterated hatred for Bush.

They want to derail the War on Terrorism. They want to derail American leadership in the world. They want to derail the economic progress that we are making. In short, they want to harm the country, they don't care how much, in order to be able to rebuild it in their own image.

This is all about ideology to them. If you listen to John Kerry, if you listen to what they say about how they're going to fight the war in Iraq, it is clear they don't want America to be a leader. They want us to be an equal member of a bunch of nations of wimps. All getting together on consensus.

And as Lady Thatcher once famously said, "consensus is the absence of leadership." And she is exactly right. They wanted – they don't – they want to make sure this war doesn't succeed, because if it does, Bush succeeds and they are not going to

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permit that if they can help it. They don't want American leadership in the world when George Bush is the leader of America.

And they don't like the economic progress we're making. And you know this, because they're not talking about it. And, in fact, when John Kerry talks about it, it is to complain about it and say it's not real. I'm not just throwing darts up against the wall here and seeing who's – seeing what sticks. I'm telling you who these people are.

They want to derail the War on Terror. They want to derail American leadership in the world, because they don't want Bush getting credit for any of this. And they want to derail the economic progress that we're making, all because of Bush, and all because it's not in their agenda.

They want to rebuild this country in their own image. And that's why they will, if Bush wins, use these prison photos to commence impeachment hearings. I'm just telling you now, that that's what I think this is all about.

All right, other items in the news. Democratic Presidential candidate John Kerry said yesterday that he would create a federal program that would pay to keep schools open until early evening to help working parents.

(sigh) So, let's see. We got – we got school breakfast, we got school lunch, we got after – we got – we got – we got – we – what do you call this? I'm having a mental block. No, we got preschool, but I'm – what do you call extra curricular activities after school. Now, now we're going to extend extra curricular activities to beyond extra curricular. We're going to have the federal government pay for it, so that parents will have less to say about who their kids are.

This is just a disguised attack to empower the teacher's lobby, and the Left-wing Liberals who run the public education system, and get more time to bend and shape the skull full of mush, that is your kid.

Now, we wouldn't have this problem, of course, if you hadn't had kids. But, you did. If you people had just used condoms we wouldn't have to fight this battle. But because you didn't use contraception, because you didn't use condoms, because you went ahead – because you went ahead out there and had kids, now we have to fight this battle of the Libs wanting to take your kids away from you, all these hours during the day to basically indoctrinate them into the Lib view of the world.

Senator Kerry – by the way, there, Mitt Romney – we didn't talk about this yesterday. But Mitt Romney, the Governor of Massachusetts, has suggested and demanded that Kerry quit the Senate, resign from the Senate during his campaign. Much as Bob Dole did in 1996. And Kerry said, (as Kerry) "I am not a quitter. I was in Vietnam."

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It was Lieutenant Governor? I thought it was Romney. The story I had said Romney. Well, the story I saw said Romney. OK. Well, - just - I'll tell you what I'll do. To make you feel better, Mr. Snerdley, I'll cite you as the source, and I will say that I, the host am wrong. And I will say that Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts has suggested that what's-his-face resign his Senate seat.

“Kerry visiting an after school and summer school program center, said he would spend an additional (laughter) \$1.5 billion on after school programs. He said he would get the money for keeping schools open until 6:00 from repealing Bush's tax cuts for people earning more than \$200,000 a year.”

Senator, you don't have that money, anymore. You've repealed those tax cuts for 15 or 20 other programs by now. That money's not there. If you want to fix this, Senator, cut people's taxes so they can get home by 4:00 when their kids get out of school, or 5:00. Or so they can hire a two or three hour babysitter for when the kids get home. Let people raise their own families, Senator! It's none of your business!

It's none of the federal governments business. Keep the schools open until 6:00? Well, if we're going to do that, why don't we just keep them open year-round, Senator? Why don't we just keep them open year round? Why - let's dispense with the - with the- with the summer vacation. We all know these teachers don't work hard enough as it is. I'm just kidding about that. I actually have some sympathy for teachers in this regard, but nevertheless.

This is - this is cockamamie. He's going to repeal this tax cut for - for people over 200 grand. This is at least the tenth time he's done it. (sigh) I'm sorry for losing my composure there, folks, it's just been one of those days.

And speaking of - speaking of - I mean, it's been building, my anger not losing composure. OK, so Kerry wants federal after school program, \$1.5 billion. Get this. What's this from? This is from *New York Times* today.

“When the El Paso school system wanted to upgrade it's Internet connection three years ago, it tapped into a federal program that offers assistance for such projects. The program paid the International Business Machines Corporations, IBM, \$35 million to build a network powerful enough to serve a small city.

But the network would be so sophisticated that the 90 school district could not run it without help.” Oh, come on, now. These are schools. This where people who know things that others don't teach people those things. Now we've got a school that can't figure out how to run a computer network?

“Foreseeing the problem, IBM charged the district an additional \$27 million. (laughter). Foreseeing the problem -“ Good old IBM. Whoever's running this place needs a bonus. Build (laughter). Build something that a bunch of Liberals can't figure out, and then charge the \$27 million more to teach them. (laughter).

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“Fore – foreseeing the problem, IBM charged the district an additional \$27 million, paid for by the Federal government to build a lavish maintenance call-in center to keep the network running.” So they had to set up tech support (laughter) for all these teachers that know more than your kids to call in to find out to teach them what they don’t know.

“The center operated for nine months. The tech support center. Then with no more money to support it, IBM shut it down.

The federal effort to help poor schools connect to the Internet is called the E-rate program, which collects a fee from all American phone users to distribute \$2.25 billion a year to such schools and libraries, wasted enormous sums as El Paso built it’s extravagant network in the 2001-2 school year, according to documents and federal lawmakers. But the problems have not been alone.

“In Brevard County, Florida, school districts used E-Rate money to install a \$1 million network server, a powerful device, more suited to the needs of a multi-national corporation, than a 650 pupil elementary school. And just three weeks ago in San Francisco, a subsidiary of the computer giant, NEC, agreed to plead to guilty to two federal felony counts related to the program.”

Now I have a question. This E-Rate program. Do you remember that? Remember us talking about this on this program? Do – it’s the Gore tax. The E-Rate program is the Gore tax. Whether you – you don’t even know it, because the phone company is not allowed to – to list it on your bill. But you pay a tax on your phone bill every month that goes to this E-Rate program that is suppose to wire the schools to the what? The Information Super Highway.

The whole thing is a failure. It’s a mess. It is awash in fraud. And it’s a typical Clinton-Gore initiative. And remember? They had pictures of these guys out there, actually hammering nails and running cable in various schools, to have the photo ops about this. Remember seeing that? And – and 80% of the schools were already wired when they started this program.

And there was all kinds of hell broke loose. People didn’t want to pay the E-Tax, because this E-Tax goes way back to when the phone was first invented, and people lived out in the farms in the boondocks, didn’t have phone service. So we had to collect taxes to wire phone lines all the way to the boondocks back in the early days of the country. Back in the Alexander Graham Bell days.

And it’s a tax that’s never been repealed. Sort of like the toll on your bridge that’s going to be removed when they pay for the bridge. But guess what? They never pay for the bridge. Or they don’t appear to.

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So, same thing here. Total rip off, fraud and waste, government program, big savior program. Part of the Clinton-Gore legacy that you're just not hearing about today with the release of Clinton's sex manual book.

We'll be back after this. Stay with us.

(station break)

RUSH: Your guiding light through times of trouble, confusion, murkiness, tumult, chaos, despair, torture, humiliation, indenture servitude, and teen pregnancy. Rush Limbaugh, the EIB Network.

Look at this. "Electricity was cut to Elysee Palace, the neighboring Interior Ministry and the famous Champs-Elysees Avenue for about 15 minutes yesterday afternoon." This is in France, for those of you in Rio Linda. "The CGT trade union, which is leading the protest said the – the cuts were part of it's campaign of targeted outages of short duration in an attempt to force the government to drop a plan."

The plan is this, French power workers – and this is Chirac's official residence, by the way. Their protesting government plans for the partial privatization of state utilities. (laughter). Yeah.

OK. Who's next? Russ in Vero Beach, Florida. Thank you for calling, sir. Welcome to the program.

RUSS: Well, thank you, Rush. Hope you're having a good day.

RUSH: Yeah, a great day, thank you.

RUSS: I just heard the little piece you were talking, the El Paso school system. And let's say their possible overspending on getting basic Internet services loaded out to the schools there.

RUSH: Possible? Possible overspending? (laughter).

RUSS: Well, you know, we always have to – you know, you got to – you got to do kind of the John Kerry thing, right? You've got to see both sides of what's going on.

RUSH: All right. (laughter).

RUSS: Well, the point I wanted to make was that I work for a company that sells that type of networking equipment to these various schools, and I can tell you from experience is that the – how shall I say this politically correctly? The biggest ignoramuses –

RUSH: No, no. Hold! I don't want to hear it the political correct way. That doesn't happen here.

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RUSS: OK. All right.

RUSH: Just tell me. You're anonymous, nobody knows who you are, just launch.

RUSS: OK. The – the biggest ignoramuses when it comes to information technology are the people who are running the different schools.

RUSH: I know. That's – and that's – stop and think about that for a minute. The people – the biggest ignoramuses in the information technology sector, IT –

RUSS: Mm-hmm.

RUSH: Are running the nation's schools.

RUSS: Absolutely. And where a \$100 –

RUSH: Shazam!

RUSS: Where a \$100 solution would be just fine, they just go to this federal spicket of the Gore tax, open the faucet by filling out some paper, fill buckets full of our money, and go out and buy, you know, a \$500,000 solution, when a \$100 Internet connection from their local cable company would do just fine and dandy.

RUSH: Exactly. I know. They come up with this massive system that nobody can figure out how to learn.

RUSS: Mm-hmm.

RUSH: And nobody – and – and – and – and they need a tech support system for the teachers to call before they can utilize this in teaching classes. I mean, it's – it's absurd. The whole thing is just absurd, and it's – it's typical of the – of the top down way that education's happening.

When I hear people say we're not spend enough money on education, this is a classic example of what I mean. And I say that is -

RUSS: We're spending too much on education. We are educating these people beyond their intelligences. And I'm talking about these IT Directors and the teachers.

RUSH: That's sad.

RUSS: I – I – fully agree.

RUSH: Teachers – I mean, teachers by their definition know more than anybody else.

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RUSS: By definition, but the – this type of networking equipment that gets installed it's the 12- and 13-year old guys who are in these classes, not to slight the ladies here. But it's the 12- or 13-year old guys who can make this stuff work, and the – the school district support people, all the way up from their technicians that they hire, all the way up to the CIOs have no idea what this stuff has done.

RUSH: (laughter). So the students –

RUSS: After they've bought it, they can't explain what they've bought it for.

RUSH: And that's the thing.

RUSS: And they can't get done what they're trying to get done with it.

RUSH: That's the thing. They don't even know why they're buying this. This is just Information Super Highway stuff. The Gore tax, we've got to wire the schools, and bammo let's go, without any forethought as to why. And how. I mean, it is a great sales job, there's not question. But how about this, the 12- and 13-year-old male students, the guys –

RUSS: Mm-hmm.

RUSH: In these classrooms have got this figured out, and they're learning to be hackers. They're learning all kinds of stuff here. They (laughter) –

RUSS: Oh, yes, and what you –

RUSH: They probably – they probably can keep the teachers from learning what they want to learn just by hacking the system.

RUSS: Exactly. I mean, that's how they trade grades – change grades, and that's how they do things like, if you look at their caches of what they've been looking at on the Internet, I can tell you that 90% chance that they're not going to be educational sites.

RUSH: (laughter). Pardon me for laughing, mom.

RUSS: (laughter).

RUSH: This is – this is –

RUSS: But I just wanted to throw that in. I mean, what you're talking about there is not an isolated incident. And because this money flows out of a bucket, out of our pockets, and it's basically not checked, the things like you talked about there, and I think there was Brevard County, Florida you talked about.

RUSH: That's right.

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RUSS: Those are – I mean, those are the – the top of the tip of the tip of the tip of the iceberg. In my experience.

RUSH: Well, I'm – I'm – I'm sure you're right. I mean, because this is – this is a common program. You imagine, if they're doing this in the schools, where else we're installing things that are unworkable in – like say – no wonder we have to outsource. At the Welfare Department in a – in various states, we have to outsource because the computer systems that have been installed only – only Indian kids over there in India can figure out how to – how to deal with it.

RUSS: Well, if you've got a minute, Rush, and you mention this outsourcing, I mean this things a big brouhaha that's built up. I've got customers who do outsource. Of course, they want to keep it under the radar now, because they don't want to be branded as pariahs.

RUSH: Hang on, because I got to break here. Can you hang on, and I – I don't want to interrupt your story. So start again when we come back from the break.

RUSS: No problem.

RUSH: Sounds like we're going to get some inside poop here on outsourcing as well, folks. Wonder what roll the kids have in this.

(station break)

RUSH: OK, back to Russ in Vero Beach who sells high tech information technology network equipment. You were going to say something about outsourcing.

RUSS: Yeah, you know, we hear all the brouhaha about this, and of course, the poodle, Mr. Kerry can't, you know, help himself on making an issue about it all the time. But I just want to, you know, share an example with your listeners about a company that I know, I just say east of the Mississippi that does some outsourcing to India. And they set up their businesses, a call center, they take calls for companies, and they make calls on behalf of companies.

And they went out and built their business to set up operations in inner cities, in disadvantaged areas so the youths of America could have some good, you know, \$10, \$11 hour an jobs to get started. And evidently it's turned out that these folks have to start outsourcing some of these jobs to India.

And – and their problem is not the way that's being paid. It's because his turn over is about 95% per year. And the cost of having an employee is not just the salary –

RUSH: Yeah.

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RUSS: As you know, if you run a business. That's a very small part of the whole thing.

RUSH: That is an excellent point. That is – the turn over in that sector is such, because people are always trying to get better jobs.

RUSS: Right. And the – the searching for hiring process of, and the cost of that, and the training of these people, and then to have them quit after a year or less, you know 95 out of 100 employees, you got to go do the whole process again. His turn over rate in India is in the 2% range.

RUSH: And stability in the labor force is key.

RUSS: Right.

RUSH: You need to know what the costs are going to be. You need to know what your personnel's going to be. You need to – you need to be able to worry about it as little as possible.

RUSS: Right. And he doesn't pay, to my knowledge, and again, I don't run his business for him, but his wage – you know, he's not paying, you know, pennies to have these people in India. He's paying a – a pretty substantial wage to get people there. And – but he doesn't have to worry about the turn over. He doesn't have to worry about the retraining. And that drops a lot of money right out of the business.

RUSH: Yeah, that's amazing. That's a great point.

OK, Russ, thanks very much. I appreciate all this. This has been fabulous, and I'm glad that you were able to get through and share all this with us.

RUSS: Well – well, Rush, never let it be said I didn't do the least I could do.

RUSH: (laughter). Exactly right. And we appreciate the least you could do, because it was – it was tremendous. 800-282-2882.

To Los Angeles, and Holly. Nice to have you with us.

HOLLY: Hi, Rush, it's a pleasure to talk to you.

RUSH: Thank you, Holly.

HOLLY: You know I need to – so you sound a little – a little bit disturbed today about the – a – the radio thing.

RUSH: There's a baby in the background, there, screaming. Do you need to do something there?

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HOLLY: Yeah, I'm sorry.

RUSH: Take your time. Take your time. Take care – Holly, go deal with it, and I'll wait.

HOLLY: OK, thanks.

RUSH: Yeah, yeah. I hate screaming kids. I just can't stand it. Shut up!

HOLLY: OK, OK, OK.

RUSH: Got any Ritalin or anything?

HOLLY: I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm on the phone, OK.

RUSH: Oh! Oh! It might be spank time.

HOLLY: Hello?

RUSH: Yes.

HOLLY: I'm sorry.

RUSH: That's all right. That's all right. Motherhood is a very important issue here on this program.

HOLLY: Yeah.

RUSH: You're doing a good thing.

HOLLY: Oh, it's OK.

RUSH: How old is the child?

HOLLY: She just bumped herself. What I was going to say is that –

RUSH: No, how – how old is the child?

HOLLY: Five.

RUSH: Five, OK.

HOLLY: She's OK.

RUSH: Well, good. Good.

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HOLLY: The military is going to rebel over this entire thing, number one. There's no way that this is possibly going to go through. You know, in the good – in the movie *Good Morning, Vietnam*, which was based on a true story, I mean the military rode in and forced him back on the air when he was suspended. So they're going to ride in about this thing. But before it even gets to that, the Republicans in Congress are going to bring this to a challenge. Because the government –

RUSH: Uh, Holly?

HOLLY: Yes?

RUSH: The Amendment passed the Senate.

HOLLY: It passed?

RUSH: The Republicans didn't fight it. And I just – I just looked at the – the – the – the Harkin Website has a – has a copy of his floor speech about this.

You – you – you said that I sound upset about it. I don't think it – anything is going happen, other than they're going to end up with three hours of me on the radio. But, I'm going to tell you something. You know, I don't care what people say about me in the political arena, because that's fair game, and it's part of – it is the league that I play in. But when the – when a United States Senator starts exhibiting censorship, I am going to speak up about it.

And I just read this guy's statement, and he's lying through his teeth about what was said on this program about the prison abuse scandal. He's lying about what I said. He's taking it all out of context. He's regurgitating the out-of-text quotes taken by this so-called analyst Website, which is nothing more than an appendage of the Democratic party.

And so a bunch of falsehoods about me where spoken on the floor of the Senate yesterday, or in the paper. I don't know if it was on the floor or not, but – but this is his official Congressional records statement. It might have been verbal. Authorizing this amendment, or proposing this amendment. And it's full of – it's just chock full of lies and – and – and misrepresentations and out of context statement.

And I've learned one thing. In some light – you say the Republicans and the House and Senate are going – I'm not going to depend on them, because I haven't seen that. They don't stand up for Bush.

HOLLY: Well, I'm –

RUSH: They don't stand up for the President.

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HOLLY: Well, I'm frankly a little shocked. I – because the thing is that this – it's a government radio, it's – and this is about censorship. I mean, when you say – you and Stern are completely different, that's true. Stern is – is – is in trouble because he's indecent. You know, they're trying to get you just because you're ideological. But so are many of the others on Armed Forces Radio as you point out that are from NPR.

So, if they – you know, this shows us first of all how scared of you they really are. You know, and they'll go, "Oh, yeah, right we're really scared of Rush." But they are. OK? Because if – if they weren't worried about you, they wouldn't even bother.

RUSH: Oh I know, I know. That's why I say –

HOLLY: And if –

RUSH: That's why I say I'm flattered by it all in the larger scheme of things.

HOLLY: And if this is all about balance, you know, then they would be going after you and the NPR hosts that are extreme on the other side. So –

RUSH: No. If they – if they were all about balance, that they would say balance exists and leave it alone.

HOLLY: Yeah. But they – from their – from their side, from the Left-Left, they - they think you're wacko. So, they don't think you're the least bit balanced.

RUSH: No, they don't think I'm wacko. It's the exact opposite. They're afraid of me because I change minds.

HOLLY: Mm-hmm.

RUSH: They're afraid of me because I persuade Democrats and Liberals to change their minds.

HOLLY: Well that's what I said, it's all about –

RUSH: That's what bothers them.

HOLLY: This is all about fear, or they wouldn't even bother. But I'm – I'm frankly a little shocked that – I mean, so is this like a done deal? You're off?

RUSH: No. It's got to next go to a conference between the House and the Senate. And it may be the Republicans in the House will do something about it. But the problem is, see, this is attached to the Defense Bill. And this – they may not think this is a big enough amendment to kill the Defense Bill.

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We're fighting the War on Terror. We need the '05 Defense Bill. You know, we need to authorize more defense spending. There was – it's no accident this is connected to this Bill. And this is not the kind of amendment – most – most people can take serious enough to hold up a Defense Bill over.

HOLLY: So Harkin pulled this, basically, to kind of – one of those things that you kind of slip into a – to a Bill because nobody's going to bother with it.

RUSH: That's not – yeah, yeah. It's – it's not quite like an ominous budget bill where they throw in all this pork, and the President, you know, can't veto one of it, without vetoing all of it.

HOLLY: Mm-hmm.

RUSH: This is – but – but an amendment to the bill like this is – is sometimes amendments are huge and they – they cause people to revolt and say I'm not going sign this, we're not going to pass this unless this amendment's either changed or taken out. But it just – it – it – it may be – I don't know how stealthfully this was done by Harkin.

HOLLY: Mm-hmm.

RUSH: And I don't – I don't know how many Senators actually even knew it was in there. This – you know the number of people in the Senate and in the House who actually know what's in legislation would stun you, that's how few it is. So they may not even know this there.

HOLLY: Oh, these things come out and they're several hundred pages. So, they probably don't even read most of it.

RUSH: Exactly. And if he doesn't make a big deal about adding this amendment, like doesn't do it with a floor speech or whatever, then they'll – it's possible some wouldn't know. But –

HOLLY: Well, you've got a large audience, so I think that a lot of people will hear about it today.

RUSH: Oh, I know they are hearing about it today. But I just – I – I – I – look, I – I understand where you're coming from, and what you're saying and you're exactly right about all of it.

And what's going to happen here, the – the way these things usually backfire on the Left – on the Libs, is that they're now calling attention to what's on Armed Forces Radio. When anybody looks at what's on Armed Forces Radio, they're going to see a preponderance of Left-leaning programs. And somebody's going to make the

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suggestion, “you know what? We need a couple more hours of Limbaugh to balance this out.”

HOLLY: (laughter).

RUSH: And they’re going to end up in the exact opposite of what they wanted. But make no mistake about something else, Holly.

HOLLY: Mm-hmm.

RUSH: Even if the amendment doesn’t fly, the purpose of this is just as the prison photos are to Bush. This is – this is part of an ongoing effort these people have to discredit me. To do me some kind of harm in the political arena, because they consider me, exactly as you said, a threat.

HOLLY: Mm-hmm.

RUSH: And that’s – that’s why this somewhat flattering and honoring. But – but nevertheless, when it gets to the level of the – the United States Senate is pretty high. The US government, and one single Senator putting an amendment in that’s full of half truths and out of context accusations, I – well as I’ve said, I just went looking –

HOLLY: I’ve got – I’ve got to venture that the Republicans in the Senate must have been a little blindsided and didn’t read it, or – or got caught off guard with it, or something. I’ve got to believe that. But it – but it –

RUSH: I’ll find out. I mean, I’m going to find out here pretty soon, one way or the other. But nevertheless, see here’s the thing. If I hadn’t told you this today, you wouldn’t even know it. Right? You haven’t heard it anywhere else. I hit the slate button by accident. Can you bring her back up? You still – Holly are you still there?

HOLLY: Yeah. This is something that –

RUSH: OK. You – if I hadn’t – if I hadn’t said anything about this, you wouldn’t know it, right?

HOLLY: No, I absolutely would not know about it. And – and it infuriates me. But I count on you to laugh something like this off, and you’re not laughing it off. And so I guess that’s why I called in.

RUSH: Oh. Well.

HOLLY: (laughter). You’re like, well you usually laugh about something like this, and you sounded so infuriated, so.

RUSH: Well, I’m sorry to sound – I just not infuriated. I’m serious about it.

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HOLLY: Yeah.

RUSH: But I'm – I'm not – I'm not – I'm not – I'm not angry.

HOLLY: Incensed. Incensed.

RUSH: Well, I'm sorry to – I didn't mean to sound incensed. I was trying to be dramatic. To make the point.

HOLLY: OK. (laughter).

RUSH: But – but, you know, this is – there's a – there's a degree of difference here. This is different than some locoweed on the Left saying this or that. I mean, that's part of the territory and I've – you know, that I do laugh off. Understand? This is – this is censorship. This really is censor –

HOLLY: This is – this is Congress trying to – trying to snake around and – and do something that the public doesn't know about.

RUSH: Mm-hmm. Exactly right.

HOLLY: And we hired them to inform us.

RUSH: All I'm doing, just letting people know. Because otherwise – like I say, you haven't heard this anywhere else. And I just want – I wanted – I wanted people to know what was going on. And I did it with a tone of gravity in voice.

HOLLY: (laughter).

RUSH: To transmit the serious nature that I think this represents.

HOLLY: Yeah, very serious indeed.

RUSH: Now Holly, you're intriguing me here.

HOLLY: (laughter).

RUSH: You know a lot about Armed Forces Radio. You seem to have a lot of knowledge about what Congress is going to do. Are – are – are you – are you an insider of anything?

HOLLY: No, I'm a housewife. (laughter). I stay very informed. My husband and I both do. We listen to you everyday. We listen to a lot of radio. We watch a lot of cable news.

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RUSH: Yeah.

HOLLY: And do a lot of reading. And -

RUSH: You're very -

HOLLY: I like to be informed.

RUSH: You are. You're very smart. I appreciate your call. And I'm sorry if I upset you by - by not laughing about this.

HOLLY: No, you didn't upset me. I just - I could hear the - a little bit of, I guess, alarm in your voice. I don't mean to exaggerate it, but - but that, you know, boy this is really, really serious because normally you laugh it off, because it's just politics. But I didn't know - now I understand that that it had already gone through the Senate. And so -

RUSH: Well.

HOLLY: I think it will still be challenged when it gets to the House now that this (inaudible) you put out there.

RUSH: Yeah but - but - OK, but let me ask you a question.

HOLLY: Mm-hmm.

RUSH: Why do will it be challenged? Why do you think it'll be challenged?

HOLLY: Because I think now that you've put it out there -

RUSH: All right!

HOLLY: And I think people -

RUSH: Well then -

HOLLY: I think a lot of people in the military and the armed forces -

RUSH: OK.

HOLLY: Will write in and contact, and -

RUSH: Then -

HOLLY: And so will the public and force people in the House to - to challenge this and say, "whoa, whoa, whoa, wait a minute."

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RUSH: And then –

HOLLY: If we're going to challenge that, then we've got to challenge the Libs that are on the radio network, too.

RUSH: Wouldn't you then say mission accomplished today?

HOLLY: I would.

RUSH: Thank you.

HOLLY: Very much so –

RUSH: And –

HOLLY: That's why this is good that you're talking about this today. Because this is going to prompt a lot of people calling their Congressmen, and saying you better jump on this, because this is --

RUSH: Well, now you're causing me –

HOLLY: Wrong, and it is censorship.

RUSH: You're causing me – you're causing me some whiplash now. Because when you first –

HOLLY: Why?

RUSH: Well, you shouldn't – you don't need to be laughing about this now. You're complementing me for doing it.

HOLLY: Well, I am.

RUSH: OK.

HOLLY: I – I think you should have brought it out. I mean, like I said, none of us would know about this unless you said something about it. And –

RUSH: This is –

HOLLY: And I hire my Congressmen. And I hire my Senator. And if they're, you know, ignoring, or not even aware of something that some – one Senator snuck through, then I'm really ticked off.

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RUSH: I bet you are. (laughter). Wouldn't want to be on the other end of that phone call, either.

HOLLY: (laughter). No.

RUSH: Anyway –

HOLLY: You and my husband.

RUSH: I'm glad you called.

HOLLY: OK.

RUSH: What is – what is your little girl's name?

HOLLY: Shelby.

RUSH: Shelby.

HOLLY: Yeah.

RUSH: Well, tell – tell her I said, and tell her I said thanks.

HOLLY: OK.

RUSH: For – for minding you when you called the program.

HOLLY: OK.

RUSH: All right.

HOLLY: Thank you, Rush.

RUSH: You bet, Holly. We'll take a break and be back here in just a second. Don't go away.

(station break)

RUSH: How about those Lakers? (laughter). I've been there. You know, it eventually happened to the Steelers. Not that bad. But, I mean, it – it eventually did.

Here's Robert in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. Welcome to the EIB Network.

ROBERT: Yes. Hi, Rush. Good to talk to you.

RUSH: Thank you, sir.

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ROBERT: Yes, I wanted to comment on the 9/11 Commission, and – and I guess there are some calls somewhere for Bush's impeachment. But I – I think that would be appropriate.

You know, we did impeach President Clinton for – Clinton for lying about his definition of sexual relations. But when the 9/11 Commission tells us that the – two of the main – or actually, two of the main premises, which is the link to Al Qaeda, and that Iraq –

RUSH: Well, Robert –

ROBERT: – not being involved in September 11.

RUSH: Robert? Robert?

ROBERT: Mm-hmm.

RUSH: Hang on here, my friend. The President hasn't lied about any of this.

ROBERT: Well, he has conveyed a false impression.

RUSH: Ah, no. Nope.

ROBERT: Well, yes. And he's fostered these false beliefs, and he's taken advantage of those –

RUSH: Ah, no.

ROBERT: – of the opinions that he has created.

RUSH: Ah – created an opinion?

ROBERT: Yes.

RUSH: It's your opinion. It's your opinion. He didn't create opinion. He has stated opinion. If you create an opinion, you formed it on your own based on your bias.

ROBERT: Well, I mean, Vice President Cheney, even this week, said that there are long standing links between Al Qaeda and Iraq.

RUSH: There are.

ROBERT: And – yeah, well, that creates an impression that there's a strong relationship or that there's a relationship. And the 9/11 Commission said categorically there is not.

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RUSH: Well, the only problem – the only problem with that, Robert, is the President himself has always denied a connection between Iraq and Al Qaeda on 9/11.

ROBERT: Well, but he has, again you –

RUSH: So you can't impeach you. He didn't – and if you want to impeach him for telling the truth about that, I guess you could try it.

ROBERT: Well, he has misinformed the American public.

RUSH: No.

ROBERT: He has allowed dis –

RUSH: No. No.

ROBERT: He has not – he has not –

RUSH: On what? What did he misinform us about?

ROBERT: About weapons of mass destruction. About the (inaudible; overlapping dialogue).

RUSH: Robert, Robert. The British Intelligence, the United Nations Security Council, there was something like 10en resolutions about weapons of mass destruction. It wasn't – and Bill Clinton, in 1998, my man, said the exact same things that George W. Bush said in 2001 and 2002. And John Kerry and Tom Daschle endorsed Clinton in '98 when he said them. And wanted to sign a resolution authorizing force against Iraq.

ROBERT: Yeah, the weapons of mass destruction. I'm just talking about the false claim of uranium from Niger, that one that was very specific and stated –

RUSH: That was a British government claim, and Bush disowned it in a State of the Union Speech.

ROBERT: Well, I mean there are many reasons Bush should be impushed – impeached. You know, including the torture situation going on.

RUSH: Now we get to it. So, I can – I can – I can sit here and – and tell you, Robert, gently and kindly that every assumption that you have made is erroneous. You are wrong, I don't know – I – I'm not going to blame you. I think you're a student of the mainstream press. And they are making things up about this.

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Bush has never ever, nor has Cheney, ever linked 9/11 to Iraq and Al Qaeda. There are countless bits of evidence of connections between Iraq and Al Qaeda. But nobody's ever said there was about 9/11. Not in – not in the administration. There has been no misleading. There has been no lying. There has been no false assumptions. You have accepted these on your own, because that's what you want to have happened.

The prison photo thing, yeah, that's what they're going to try to impeach Bush on. But they're going to do it only to destroy him. Not because it's something that's actually impeachable. Because Bush didn't do it. Didn't authorize it. Try to – trying to prove that case.

But it's a – it's a sad thing to hear me – or to hear you, Robert. You live in Wilkes-Barre. I own Wilkes-Barre. I thought everybody there was a Ditto-head and – and loved this program. You may like the program, but the fact of the matter is, we have serious, serious threats facing the country.

But one of them is not George Bush, and you seem to think that it is. And people will agree with you. And it really is – is placing us at even greater risk, because you then give us two enemies to overcome. Al Qaeda, and the American Left. It's tough enough to beat Al Qaeda and beat you guys at the same time. But, we will.

Be back in just a second.

(station break)

RUSH: OK, let's see, Iraq, I blew it. Al Qaeda is everywhere in the world, plus in South Florida. But according to Robert, Wilkes-Barre would never believe they were in Iraq. Right.

END OF SHOW