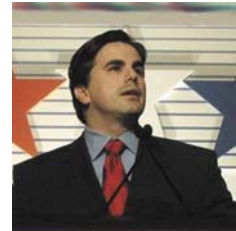




February 29, 2008

**From the Desk of Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton:**

### **More Lies from Hillary on her White House Records**



Hillary Clinton continues stonewalling the release of her First Lady records and Tuesday night's debate against rival Barack Obama she actually blamed the Bush administration for not releasing the highly-sought documents.

In the nationally televised debate, in response to a question about a Judicial Watch lawsuit to obtain her office schedules and other documents, Clinton said that she has urged the quick release of the records and implied that President George W. Bush is responsible for the hold up, saying that he ["claims the right to look at anything that is released."](#)

On Wednesday, the White House fired back. This according to [Politico.com](#):

"The White House said Wednesday that the Clinton family is holding up the release of schedules from the first lady years of Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-N.Y.). She said in Tuesday's debate that she wants them out 'as quick as possible.'...White House Press Secretary Dana Perino told reporters that President Clinton's representative has issued no directive since being notified by the National Archives January 31 'that they propose to release over 11,000 pages of records in whole or in part relating to the schedules of the First Lady Hillary Clinton.'"

The reality is that Clinton's husband has the power to speed the release of the documents if he wanted to. Instead, the infamous former first couple is purposely delaying the release of crucial information in the midst of the primaries.

Judicial Watch sued the National Archives to obtain thousands of documents from Clinton's tenure as First Lady, including her daily schedules and work as head of the miserably failed and costly White House task force on health care. As a result of one of these lawsuits, the [Department of Justice confirmed](#) that the National Archives and Records Administration finished processing 10,000 pages of Hillary's schedules last month.

That means the documents are ready to be made public and their release rests with Bill Clinton. In the past, the former president has publicly stated his desire to have his wife's entire records released immediately and has blamed the National Archives for the delay. (Bill doesn't mention that he sent a letter to the Archives that could prevent the release of his communications with Mrs. Clinton, among other important material, until after 2012.)

The Archives has the discretion to release the former First Lady's daily schedules after 30 days notice to Bill Clinton and President Bush. (The Bush White House simply has no authority to delay the release of the documents past the 30 days. No such promises have been made by the Clintons.) Again, this 30-day clock began ticking on February 1. *Politico* also reports that the Clintons will take at least 45 days to review this relatively paltry sum of records.

When the debate moderator further pressed Clinton Tuesday night on the issue, reminding her that the records have been ready for public disclosure for a month, she simply smiled and said that she hopes they will be made public soon – as if she has nothing to do with it.

All Bill Clinton has to do is say the word and Hillary's schedules will be released to the American people immediately. Instead, the delay has continued for one reason – the Clintons. Senator Clinton's debate answer on her records on Tuesday was dishonest.

By the way, this week we also filed a brief with the U.S. District Court in our lawsuit to obtain Hillary's White House records. (This brief is in response to the National Archives' request to put off releasing the records until at least after the presidential election!) Here's an excerpt. You can read the brief in its entirety [here](#).

"...More than seven years after taking possession of the records of former President William J. Clinton, and almost two years after receiving Plaintiff's FOIA request, the Clinton Presidential Library ("Library"), which Defendant controls, has not even begun processing [Judicial Watch's] request. Moreover, Defendant defiantly refuses to offer even a timetable under which it will begin processing the request. Instead, Defendant asks this Court to dismiss or stay this case despite Defendant's admission that it wildly underestimated the public's interest in the records, was woefully unprepared when it started receiving FOIA requests, and remains understaffed and entirely unable to comply with its statutory responsibilities.

"At a minimum, Defendant's motion to dismiss or stay this case should be denied. Not only for [Judicial Watch], but for the public interest. Defendant must not be allowed to evade its duty to respond to Plaintiff's FOIA request."

The National Archives does not want to do what the law requires – make the Clinton records available to the public in a timely basis. Virtually every public request for Clinton records has been stonewalled by the Clinton Presidential Library. This serves no interest but that of the Clinton campaign.

### **New Phoenix Police Policy on Illegal Immigration Still Violates Federal Law**

Regular readers of the *Weekly Update* will recall that Phoenix, Arizona Mayor Phil Gordon, responding to the threat of Judicial Watch litigation, reversed his position on a Phoenix sanctuary policy for illegal aliens, and assembled a panel to study the issue. (The policy in question, Operations Order 1.4, prohibits police officers from inquiring about the immigration status of individuals and from cooperating with federal immigration officials.)

Well, the panel recently completed its deliberations and issued a recommendation as to how to "improve" the policy.

According to [The New York Times](#): "The police in this city at the center of the immigration debate will soon ask all people arrested whether they are in the United States legally and will in certain cases report the information to the federal authorities, Mayor Phil Gordon announced on Friday."

They got it half right.

Allow me to call your attention to the key phrase, "in certain cases." This is the major problem with the new Phoenix policy. By law, local police officers have the right to contact Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) about anyone's immigration status, not just arrestees. In fact, the immigration status of arrestees in Phoenix is already checked through ICE, so this proposed revision wouldn't seem to change a thing.

Local public officials cannot pick and choose which parts of federal immigration law they choose to follow. When it comes to dealing with illegal immigration, there is only one right answer. Uphold the law. The mayor's panel failed the test.

Judicial Watch has been very active in Phoenix, working with Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio to [crack down](#) on illegal immigration crime. And we will continue to stay active, which could include litigation, as long as the Phoenix Mayor and Police Department continue to enact policies that ignore the rights of Phoenix citizens and business owners and violate the law.

Stay tuned...

## **Congressional Ethics Woes Continue**

More congressional scandal news emerged this week...

According to [The Associated Press](#): "Legal and political pressures on Rep. Rick Renzi are mounting amid federal criminal charges that set off calls for the Arizona Republican to leave Congress sooner rather than later. Renzi was under a cloud for more than a year before a federal investigation culminated in a 26-page indictment against him and two other men. The indictment accuses Renzi of engineering a swap of federally owned mining land to benefit himself and a former business partner and stealing from his insurance company's clients."

Renzi says he won't seek reelection, but will remain in Congress throughout the rest of his term. This is a mistake. Just as I've said in the past with other Members of Congress who find themselves with serious legal and ethical problems, Renzi should leave now.

The Justice Department appears to be doing its job. But where is the House Ethics Committee in all of this? Right where you might expect them. Check this out from Thursday's [Washington Post](#):

"House Democrats abruptly pulled an ethics reform proposal from consideration yesterday after widespread opposition surfaced from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle a day before a scheduled vote on the plan. The proposal, months in the making, would create a new Office of Congressional Ethics run by a bipartisan group of six non-lawmakers with the power to review ethics complaints against members and staff, and forward them to the existing Committee on Standards of Official Conduct. The fate of the plan is now unclear..."

"The ethics [committee] has been the subject of criticism from inside and outside the Capitol for its frequent partisan feuds and light workload. House members have been wary of filing ethics complaints against each other in recent years, and the panel initiates few probes of its own."

You may recall that I testified last year before Congress on the subject of congressional ethics reform. I said at the time, and still firmly believe, that any panel that reviews ethics complaints must be transparent and accountable. I also said citizens and outside organizations must have the right to file ethics complaints, given that members of Congress lack the desire to police their own affairs.

At this point, I'd say both are extreme long shots. With so much bipartisan opposition on the Hill, ethics reform is likely to get weaker, not stronger. (Republicans are already floating a plan to expand the Ethics Committee to include former lawmakers.)

Unless we see a major shift on the Hill, it appears we can look forward to more Rick Renzi's in our future.

## RIP William F. Buckley, Jr.

I just want to say a quick word on the passing this week of conservative icon William F. Buckley, Jr. who did as much as any man to advance the conservative cause over the last 50 years. Buckley, founder of the influential conservative publication *The National Review*, was an intellectual giant, who brought post-World War II conservatism to the mainstream. His tome "God and Man at Yale," is a classic defense against liberalism and socialism, and is as relevant today as it was when penned 50 years ago. I learned a lot reading the pages of Mr. Buckley's *National Review*. He simply did not tell his readers what to think, but how to think. The conservative movement owes him a significant debt of gratitude. Please visit [National Review Online](#) and read through their collection of thoughts and reflections on the life of William F. Buckley. He was a religious, principled, and patriotic American. May he rest in peace.

Until next week...

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Fitton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Tom Fitton**  
**President**

**Judicial Watch is a non-partisan, educational foundation organized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code. Judicial Watch is dedicated to fighting government and judicial corruption and promoting a return to ethics and morality in our nation's public life. To make a tax-deductible contribution in support of our efforts, [click here](#).**