
From: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ)
To: Jenifer L.deVallance
Sent: 5/4/2011 11:21:42 AM
Subject: Re: Notes from 5/3 House Judiciary Hearing

Very helpful. Thx.

From: Jenifer L.deVallance
Sent: Wednesday, May 04, 2011 10:34 AM
To: Burke, Dennis (USAAZ)
Subject: FW: Notes from 5/3 House Judiciary Hearing

In case you don't get a read-out from DOJ...

From: Keltner, Tiel
Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2011 3:56 PM
To: Quinn, Tim; deVallance, Jennifer L.; Tucker, Ben; LaBelle, Regina M.; Sabet-Sharghi, Kevin A.; Teitz, Jeff; Hyland, Mary; Caporizzo, Cynthia A.
Cc: Leonard, Christine M.; Reed, Rob; Solomon, Danyelle
Subject: Notes from 5/3 House Judiciary Hearing

Per Christine's request, forwarding the below notes from today's House Judiciary Committee hearing on DOJ oversight. Thank you.

House Judiciary Committee

Full Committee Hearing on Oversight of the United States Department of Justice

Tuesday 5/3/2011 - 10:15 a.m.
2141 Rayburn House Office Building

Witness: Attorney General Eric Holder, DOJ

Relevant Testimony

In his opening statement, Chairman Smith criticized DOJ for selectively enforcing the law based on the administration's political ideology. He said that the "Justice Department refuses to defend Congress' constitutional authority to determine drug policy." He continued: "Marijuana distribution is illegal under federal law, regardless of whether it is used recreationally or medicinally. But rather than enforce federal drug laws, the Department directed federal prosecutors not to bring charges against marijuana dispensaries in the states that have taken it upon themselves to legalize medical marijuana." He made no further reference to drug-related issues.

Rep. Issa asked about gunwalking and the Fast and the Furious program as allowing weapons that are now in the hands of drug cartels and other criminals to be sold to straw purchasers. He specified that the committee was not concerned about straw buyers, but with straw purchasers, which he said were synonymous with Attorney General Holder and the DOJ. He said that the committee is looking at DOJ's key people to determine whether their judgment was consistent with good practices or whether the "Justice Department is basically guilty of allowing weapons to kill Americans and Mexicans." AG Holder said that they will cooperate with all investigations, but that he was offended by the allegation that DOJ is somehow responsible for these deaths. Rep. Issa further criticized AG Holder, asking what he should tell the mother of slain US Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry about how he "died at the hand of a gun that was videotaped as it was sold to a straw purchaser, fully expecting it to end up in the hands of the drug cartels."

Rep. Jackson Lee also followed on the ATF gunrunning issue. She asked whether AG Holder agrees with the OIG's finding that ATF needs to have reporting responsibility and more enforcement for those who allow AK47s to go into the hands of horrible drug cartels. AG Holder responded that they have proposed that there be a reporting

requirement along the border states for any individual who purchases two long semiautomatic guns above .22 caliber within the space of five days.

Rep. Scott said he would submit questions to AG Holder about retroactive sentencing under the Fair Sentencing Act.
Rep. Watt said he would submit questions about continued funding for methamphetamine cleanup activities.