

immediate cover-up of the event, taking steps to attempt to prevent press attention, or law enforcement reaction to the event. According to all credible accounts, the White House knew, but kept the public lid on the development until Karl Rove & Company, deigned to inform the White House press spokesman only shortly before what was a credibly astonished McClellan went out to meet the clamor of an energetic press corps.

Whether Cheney knew that there was a companion coming behind him, into the line of fire, is irrelevant. Cheney apparently says no; but no one has any reason to believe Cheney on that count, either. Firing in the direction of someone behind you in the line of march of the hunters, is pretty close to a case of “fragging.” Perhaps Cheney did not consciously intend to shoot Whittington personally, but in his lust to kill a bird, Cheney didn’t care whether Whittington was in his line of fire, or not. Cheney acted in the grip of his malicious passion of that movement, a passion which prompted him to break, passionately, the most elementary safety rule of that day’s hunt.

Cowardly Cheney lost it in the clinches, as he always will. This time the cowardice of the mafia hit-man type showed through the bully’s mask.

Cheney’s public statement has not helped his case at all. The statement is obviously simply a typical Cheney evasion of the point at issue, with Cheney caught, this time, with his hand in the cookie-jar of political history. The sheer cowardice of the pattern of evasion and lying in Cheney’s trail from the exit gates of the Armstrong ranch, reveals the innermost character of the man. The stench of that moral depravity, like the blood on Lady Macbeth’s hand, will not go away.

Simply, as perhaps nearly everyone of relevance at the White House knows, the time has come for Cheney to go, and take his “Lady Macbeth” with him. Shakespeare was right, after all. Cheney’s career is doomed. His stinking political pelt is there for anyone who might wish to take it as a trophy. Whew!

That much is obvious to any chivalrous TV comedian looking at these events from as far away as Germany’s nightly Harald Schmidt.

The issue is no longer really Cheney. The issue is the guts, or lack thereof, of leading, past and present, elected Democrats. This is no time for them to whimper and sniff at the sides of lampposts and fireplugs. The most crucial issue in world politics and strategy today, is the fact that Cheney is ripe for the political trash can. Get rid of him, Democrats, before the stench of continued Cheney presence in his present office, attaches itself to you!

Cheney, with this deed you have disgusted us all. It is time for you to go, and take the dwindling ranks of your admirers with you. This is one time, the President should whisper into Cheney’s ear: “You have become a personal embarrassment to me. It is time for you to go.”

## Shoot, Look, & Listen

by Lyndon H. LaRouche, Jr.

February 13, 2006

What Cheney did at the Armstrong Ranch this past weekend was once called “friendly fire.” Technically, cases of “friendly fire” include not only the companion shot in the face, but the cases of, for one, the shooter limping back from the battle to the aid-station after shooting himself in the foot, or, the other case, of the fellow eligible for the Vietnam draft, who avoided service for yet another time, by a miraculously timely impregnation of his wife. Both interpretations are appropriate for what Cheney tried to cover up this past weekend, after apparently mistaking his Republican ally for a flock of birds on Saturday. All come under the heading of “friendly fire.” Shakespeare would advise, “Keep Cheney away from his rival, President Bush.” Time to take his guns away from him, before he kills more innocent birds, and people, too.

Evasion like that perpetrated by Vice-Cheney, over the matter of the Saturday shooting incident, is not only a case of implicitly fraudulent negligence. It expresses a form of lying. Cheney lied in inducing the U.S. Senate to support what is still the ongoing asymmetric warfare in Iraq; Cheney is lying again—some would say, habitually—about the urgency of launching an attack on Iran whose included effect, apart from killing an enormous number of people, would almost certainly be to blow out the entire world’s present monetary-financial system.

What is needed now, is not more of Cheney’s “friendly fire,” but a downright hostile expulsion of the reckless shooter from the office of Vice-President, as Walter Mondale once said, “Early and often.”

This sweet Tuesday would be a good day to send sweet messages, such as “Dump Cheney while we still have a planet!” Who knows what new cases of “friendly fire” might be prevented in that way? London’s dumping Cheney accomplices such as Britain’s Blair and Straw, would be a very good idea, too. Unfortunately, since it is the time of the February events at which Democratic and Republican aspirants are lining up for the long-distance run to the November 2008 Presidential election, the perceptions of personal and national interests are not necessarily harmonious ones at this moment. The fighting Democratic Party of 2005 is needed back in the trenches, where the fight to save the nation, and probably also civilization, is the crucial issue of these days. The flopping on the deadly issue of the Alito confirmation, shows a certain ominous confusion among some of the leading Democrats,

who have matters other than the judgment of history before their eyes.

Sometimes, as Shakespeare's reference to the Ides of March illustrates the point, the spell of oncoming history is shown in a small discordant event, such as the way the moral character flaws of Vice-President Cheney were exhibited so dramatically by his part in the case of friendly fire—or was it, knowing Cheney, “fragging”?—this past weekend. The great Shakespeare, in his later years, would surely have

crafted a dramatic presentation of the tragedy of our times in ominous small events, such as Cheney's unmasking his soul in his shameful flight from the scene at the Armstrong Ranch this past weekend.

The least we could do, for the cause of public safety of people and birds alike, is to remove that ugly, scowling character, that penny-ante Iago, Cheney, from the stage, while there is still time to do so. It is time for Congress, or, perhaps, President Bush, to arrange that expulsion now.

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## Chronology

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# Cheney's Crimes: The Wilson-Plame Affair

## 2001

**October-December:** U.S., British, French, and Israeli intelligence services receive reports from the Italian intelligence agency SISMI that Niger government documents show that agents of the Saddam Hussein regime sought to purchase tons of yellowcake uranium from the African state.

## 2002

**February:** In response to a query from Vice President Dick Cheney about the alleged Niger-Iraq yellowcake deal, the CIA dispatches former Ambassador Joseph Wilson IV to Niger. In the same approximate time frame, the Pentagon dispatches an active-duty Marine general to Niger to probe the same allegations. Both Wilson and the Marine general conclude that the story is untrue.

**August:** White House Iraq Group (WHIG) is formed, and operates out of the Vice President's office, to publicize the alleged threat posed by Saddam Hussein. Judith Miller of the *New York Times* is one of its primary outlets. The WHIG included Condoleezza Rice, Stephen Hadley, Karl Rove, Karen Hughes, Lewis Libby, and others from Cheney's office. Cheney attends some meetings, and discusses, in late Spring 2003, background interviews that Wilson had given to Nicholas Kristoff of the *New York Times* before Wilson went public.

## 2003

**Jan. 28:** President Bush delivers State of the Union Address, which includes the infamous 16 words: “The British government has learned that Saddam Hussein recently sought significant quantities of uranium from Africa.”

**March 7:** International Atomic Energy Agency head Dr. Mohammed ElBaradei testifies before the United Nations Security Council that IAEA inspectors in Iraq have found no evidence of a nuclear weapons program. ElBaradei also reveals publicly, for the first time, that the Niger documents

alleging the Iraqi attempts to purchase yellowcake, are shoddy forgeries.

**March 8:** Amb. Joseph Wilson appears on CNN television and says that Bush Administration officials had evidence in their possession, prior to the ElBaradei testimony, showing that the Niger documents were false.

**March 9:** A meeting takes place in the Office of Vice President Cheney, involving Libby, Rove, Hadley, and John Hannah, to discuss the Wilson TV appearance. A background probe is ordered, and subsequently, information against Wilson is shared with neo-conservative members of the Defense Policy Board, according to several U.S. intelligence sources.

“The way I remember it,” a former CIA official who was at the meeting says, “is that the Vice President was obsessed with Wilson. He called him an ‘asshole,’ a son-of-a-bitch. He took his [Wilson's] comments very personally. He wanted us to do everything in our power to destroy his reputation, and he wanted to be kept up to date about the progress.”

**March 19:** Iraq War begins.

**May 6:** Nicholas Kristoff's column is published in the *New York Times*, entitled “Missing in Action: Truth,” which reveals the existence of the CIA fact-finding mission to Niger in February 2002, without citing Wilson's name. After this column appears, Cheney visits CIA headquarters to inquire about Wilson. “Cheney and Libby made it clear that Wilson had to be shut down,” says a former CIA official.

**May 29:** Lewis Libby asks a State Department official, reportedly Undersecretary of State Marc Grossman, for information concerning Wilson's trip to Africa.

**June 9:** Classified documents concerning Wilson's trip (but not mentioning Wilson by name), are faxed to the Office of the Vice President to the personal attention of Libby.

**June 10:** A State Department memo, prepared under the supervision of the Intelligence and Research (INR) Division, identifies Valerie Plame as the wife of Ambassador Wilson,