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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

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June 15, 2001

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The Honorable Dan Burton
Chairman
House Committee on Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Burton:

At the Committee's first hearing into allegations of campaign finance improprieties, you said that the Committee "will continue to follow the facts wherever they lead us, in either party."¹ Since you have not yet responded to my letters of May 10, 2001, May 21, 2001, June 5, 2001, I am reaching the conclusion that what you meant to say was that you would only "follow the facts wherever they lead us" when the allegations involve Democratic presidents, Democratic executive branch officials, and Democratic fundraising.

Over the past four years, you often responded immediately to any press reports that raised concerns about possible improprieties in the Clinton Administration. For instance, on November 19, 1997, a conservative magazine reported that campaign contributions might have influenced burials at Arlington National Cemetery.² Two days later, you announced that we were going to investigate the matter.³ On February 15, 2000, the *Washington Times* reported that the White House did not provide some responsive e-mails to Congress and the Independent Counsel.⁴ The next day, you wrote a letter to the White House Counsel requesting interviews of two people mentioned in the *Washington Times* article.⁵

¹House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, *Hearings on Campaign Finance Improprieties and Possible Violations of Law*, 105th Cong., 7 (Oct. 8, 1997).

²*Is There Nothing Sacred?* Insight Magazine (dated Dec. 8, 1997, but prereleased on Nov. 19, 1997); *Sale of Arlington Plots Denied*, Kansas City Star (Nov. 20, 1997)

³*Burton to Probe Plots-for-Politics Allegations*, Indianapolis Star News (Nov. 21, 1997).

⁴*White House Accused of Cover-Up*, Washington Times (Feb. 15, 2000).

⁵Letter from Chairman Burton to Beth Nolan (Feb. 16, 2000).

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As you may be aware, there have been reports this week that Karl Rove, Senior Advisor to the President, participated in a March 12, 2001, meeting with senior executives from Intel Corp., who "wanted federal approval of a merger in the high-tech industry."⁶ At the time of the meeting, Mr. Rove owned more than \$100,000 of Intel stock, and the Bush Administration was apparently divided as to whether the merger should be approved.⁷ Less than two months after the meeting, the Bush Administration approved the merger.⁸

I don't know if anything improper happened in Mr. Rove's meeting, but I do know this is exactly the type of situation that you would have investigated had it occurred in the Clinton Administration. You are continuing to investigate, for instance, President Clinton's pardons precisely because you believe financial considerations played a role in those important decisions. In fact, over the past four months, you have issued 37 subpoenas in connection with the pardons investigation and demanded financial and telephone records for 13 people.

My questions today are as follows:

1. When will you be responding to my letters of May 10, May 21, and June 5? (For clarification purposes only, the response "when hell freezes over" is not what I have in mind.)
2. Consistent with your practices during the Clinton Administration, do you intend to schedule a hearing on the Karl Rove/Intel matter?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member

cc: Members of the Committee on Government Reform

⁶*Intel Pitched Proposed Merger to Rove*, Associated Press (June 14, 2001).

⁷*Bush Advisers Oppose Pentagon OK of U.S. Firm's Sale to Dutch*, Washington Times (Mar. 27, 2001).

⁸*Bush Aide with Intel Stock Met with Executives Pushing Merger*, New York Times (June 14, 2001).