

Rep. Waxman asks Chairman Davis to amend the Committee's oversight plan to include consideration of the treatment of detainees, the use of covert propaganda, the politicization of science, conflicts of interest, the rise in government secrecy, and other important issues that Congress has failed to address.

February 8, 2005

The Honorable Tom Davis
Chairman
Committee on Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On February 4, I received your proposal for the Committee's oversight agenda for the 109th C

I am writing to describe 12 additional topics and four previously requested topics that should b

One of your predecessors, Chairman William Clinger, argued that control of our Committee should

The oversight plan you propose lists over 140 topics for full committee and subcommittee oversight

Abuse of Detainees

After the initial reports of prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib surfaced, the Administration claimed that

Yet despite severity and prevalence of the abuses, Congress has ignored them. During the Clinton

Under the rules of the House, our Committee has clear authority to investigate the Administration

I therefore urge you to add the following topics to the oversight plan and to make them a top priority

Involvement of Senior Administration Officials in Authorizing or Conducting Detainee Abuse

Involvement of Medical Personnel in Detainee Abuse medical journals have indicated that U.S. Army doctors

Government Management Investigations

Our Committee has jurisdiction over the “overall economy, efficiency, and management of government

Covert Propaganda and Questionable Expenditures have been raised recently about the use of taxpayer dollars

Politicization of Science. Scientific journals, scientific organizations, and leading scientists have

Politicization of Inspectors General. The President is required to nominate Inspectors General of federal

Executive Branch Conflicts of Interest. There have been repeated reports of conflicts of interest involving high

Government Secrecy. Government secrecy is expanding under the Bush Administration. Last

Procurement Investigations

Our Committee has jurisdiction over federal procurement practices and policies. In exercising

Rise in Sole-Source Contracting. In the year 2003, the Bush Administration awarded \$107 billion in sole

Conflicts of Interest and AIG Contracts. In the recent press accounts, two close aides to Homeland Security

Health and Environment Investigations

There have been repeated reports in the news media that special interests have had disproportionate

Industry Influence on EPA Rulemaking. Under the Bush Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency

Decline of FDA Enforcement. Since the end of 2001, when the Bush Administration put in place a new

Abstinence-Only Education Programs staff report

found that millions of federal dollars are spent on

Previously Requested Investigations

In addition to the investigations listed above, I renew my request

that the Committee examine

Halliburton's RIO Contract last Congress, our Committee

focused primarily on Halliburton's logi

Progress of Iraqi Reconstruction is an enormous public

interest in knowing how billions of taxpa

Outing of CIA Operative On September 29, 2003, and again

on December 11, 2003, I wrote to

Misleading Medicare Cost Estimates Inspector

General in a cursory review and GAO have f

Conclusion

With a few exceptions — some of which you are responsible

for — Congress has largely abdi

As the primary oversight committee in the House, our Committee

should play a vital role in res

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member

cc: Members of the Committee on Government Reform

Documents and Links

- [Letter to Chairman Davis on Proposed Committee Oversight Plan](#)