

MICHAEL LEITER RESIGNS, UNDERMINING CLAIMED RATIONALE FOR MUELLER EXTENSION

National Counterterrorism Center head Michael Leiter resigned yesterday.

I'm agnostic about whether that's a good thing or not. NCTC got most of the blame for missing the UndieBomber, which Leiter exacerbated by going off on a ski vacation just after the attempted attack. But Leiter supposedly made some improvements at NCTC.

But I am rather curious about the timing (along with the trial balloons about Hillary and the World Bank, though State has aggressively denied them).

After all, we spent most of Wednesday morning, during Robert Mueller's confirmation hearing for an unusual two-year extension, talking about the importance of continuity. Mueller has to stick around not solving the anthrax case and not investigating Lloyd Blankfein for two more years, it was explained, because the current CIA Director is about to become Secretary of Defense, after which a current top General will become CIA Director. The justification for Mueller's extension was that we need continuity at a time of great change, particularly in the aftermath of Osama bin Laden's death and the lead-up to the 10th anniversary of 9/11.

Now, granted, NCTC head isn't as senior a position as CIA or FBI Director. But it is, obviously, right in the thick of our preparations for the 9/11 anniversary.

So, uh, were all the stated concerns about continuity just a ruse?