

NO OVERSIGHT

Remember when I pointed out that the real story of those civil liberties violations that Gonzales didn't admit to was the role of the Intelligence Oversight Board? Well, I was right:

An independent oversight board created to identify intelligence abuses after the CIA scandals of the 1970s did not send any reports to the attorney general of legal violations during the first 5 1/2 years of the Bush administration's counterterrorism effort, the Justice Department has told Congress.

Although the FBI told the board of a few hundred legal or rules violations by its own agents after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, the board did not identify which of them were indeed legal violations. This spring, it forwarded reports of violations in 2006, officials said.

The President's Intelligence Oversight Board – the principal civilian watchdog of the intelligence community – is obligated under a 26-year-old executive order to tell the attorney general and the president about any intelligence activities it believes "may be unlawful." The board was vacant for the first two years of the Bush administration. [my emphasis]

Basically, this article reveals that Bush didn't have an Intelligence Oversight Board for the first two years of his Administration. Afterwards, it simply didn't report violations to the Attorney General, though the FBI admits there were violations. And I presume, since the article makes clear (as I suggested) that Bush's IOB a part of his PFIAB, then IOB stopped meeting classification guidelines in the year that IOB started doing it's job, kind of. Which

is another way of saying that, either Bush didn't have a functional IOB, or if he did, he permitted it to play the same classification games he permitted Dick Cheney.