

# WHAT IS IT WITH GOPERS AND THEIR EMAIL?

CREW and the National Security Archive won the first part of their fight with the White House—getting a court order requiring the White House to preserve their emails *and* the back-ups (h/t PJ Evans).

A federal judge Monday ordered the White House to preserve copies of all its e-mails, a move that Bush administration lawyers had argued strongly against.

U.S. District Judge Henry Kennedy directed the Executive Office of the President to safeguard the material in response to two lawsuits that seek to determine whether the White House has destroyed e-mails in violation of federal law.

The White House is seeking dismissal of the lawsuits brought by two private groups – Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Government and the National Security Archive.

This is just the first part of the battle, of course. The White House will surely invoke some kind of expansive privilege to avoid telling us taxpayers whether it destroyed emails, why, and how. But for now, they're forced to contend with an order that they keep the emails.

Wonder what will happen if we discover they've destroyed these, too?

Which is effectively what's been happening with Matt Blunt in MO. Via the Pope, Blunt has been definitively busted pretending not to know he shouldn't delete emails all the while he was deleting them.

A former staff attorney for Gov. Matt

Blunt sent an internal office memo challenging his boss's stance on deleting e-mails just weeks before the attorney was fired, according to a copy of the memo obtained by The Associated Press.

The memo's existence and content contradict public statements made by Blunt and his top officials after the attorney was fired in late September. Blunt officials have repeatedly said Scott Eckersley never challenged - verbally or in writing - their policy of deleting office e-mail and brought up the issue only the day he was fired.

The memo also offers the strongest support yet for Eckersley's claim that he did advise Blunt's office about his e-mail retention policy, for which he says he was fired. Blunt has said the 30-year-old deputy legal counsel was fired because of shoddy performance and conducting personal business at work.

Gosh, you think there's a connection between all these GOPers and their disappearing emails?