

“PROTECTING” PRESIDENT CHENEY, TOO

In today's second installment on ways American taxpayers are wasting money to protect Dick Cheney from embarrassment, Josh Gerstein has a report on today's hearing on CREW's FOIA of Cheney's interview in the CIA Leak Case. And DOJ is unabashedly making the argument that it should not release Dick Cheney's interview because it might embarrass him. (h/t MadDog)

Smith said the Justice Department's view was that a delay of five to ten years was appropriate, marked from the time the official or his or her administration left office. "It's a judgment call," Smith acknowledged.

Smith suggested that such a delay would make it more likely that the information was used for historical purposes and not for political embarrassment. "The distinction is between releasing it for historical view and releasing it into the political fray," Smith said.

Funny, DOJ claimed it was arguing for the longer-than-statutes-of-limitation delay because of concerns that future Vice Presidents wouldn't cooperate willingly with investigations. As time goes on and their arguments look shittier and shittier, I guess, they become more and more truthful. Thus their invention of a new FOIA embarrassment exemption.

It sounds like Emmet Sullivan is not buying that argument—though he is also unwilling to just order the release of the interview without giving Obama's DOJ an opportunity to waste more money protecting Cheney from embarrassment.

As the hearing concluded, Sullivan said he thought Congress had drawn a "bright

line" with language in the Freedom of Information Act that generally exempts information about pending investigations from disclosure, but not closed probes, like the CIA leak case. He also said he would stay any ruling so the government could appeal before he released any documents.

President Obama? Attorney General Holder? This nonsense has gone on long enough. As I noted, Cheney's participation in this probe is proof enough that the investigative concerns are bunk. It really is high time to stop wasting money preventing taxpayers from learning what Cheney did in our name.