

TIM GRIFFIN: ROVE'S US ATTORNEY PROJECT COMES FULL CIRCLE

Remember the entire point of Karl Rove's plot to fire a bunch of US Attorneys and replace them with partisan hacks? It was to advance the political career of the new USAs.

Perhaps his most prominent success on that measure is Chris Christie. Though Christie abandons his state even in the face of blizzards—and then blames the resulting chaos on New Jersey's cities—he is still (implausibly) mentioned as a potential 2012 presidential candidate.

But the true measure of Rove's success at politicizing the DOJ comes in the form of Tim Griffin.

Griffin, you'll recall, has a history of leading the GOP's vote caging operations in 2000 and 2004. Seemingly to reward Griffin for doing such important dirty work—and also to boost the career of such a loyal hack—Rove pushed hardest to make sure that Griffin got the US Attorney position he wanted in his native Arkansas. And though he only stayed on the job until it became clear the Republicans were trying to “gum [his appointment] to death”—to basically run out the clock on any confirmation—he was actually only US Attorney for a matter of months.

No matter, between that and solid GOP backing, Griffin won election to Arkansas' 2nd Congressional District.

And now, TPM reports, Griffin has been placed by Republicans on the House Judiciary Committee, the committee that spent months investigating the politicization of justice for which Griffin was the most obvious symbol.

Well, we had the equally corrupt Hans Von Spakovsky at the FEC (not to mention as head of

DOJ's Civil Rights Division), so I guess we'll survive Tim Griffin's "oversight" of the Judiciary Department. But if you were in any doubt about Republican's goals to continue to politicize justice in this country, Griffin's selection for HJC should answer that question.