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Subject Files - FG006-27 (Office of Senior Advisor - Karl Rove)

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

27. Jan. 2004

Dear Peter,

You had sent me the enclosed
autobio and asked me to autograph
it for you, which I'm happy to do.

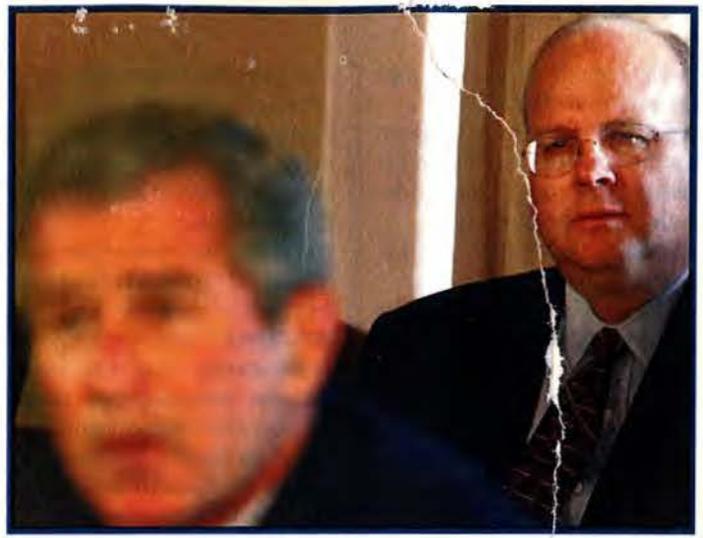
I can tell you plenty of embarrassing
stories about your Pop's early years...
as he was on me.

Thanks for your enthusiasm for his
President and our cause.

Best regards,
Karl Rove

JAN 29 2004

Mr. Peter Dohr
c/o William Dohr
Sterling Homes Corporation
Post Office Box 2237
Costa Mesa, California 92628-2237



OBSESSION: THE DEMOCRATS' KARL ROVE FIXATION

Since the election of George W. Bush, the left has been completely spooked by White House senior adviser Karl Rove. Their fixation on Rove verges on the pathological. For Democrats it's hard to come up with a more reviled, detested bogeyman — with the possible exception of *moi*. Ashcroft comes close, but even he is not assigned the kind of malevolent power the left attributes to Rove.

No metaphor describing Rove's omnipotence is too extreme. He has been called "the West Wing mastermind"; "a bully"; "the most powerful political consultant in American history"; "an evil genius"; a "puppeteer"; "General Rove"; "Robespierre," "a big-city boss"; a "control freak" — and those are the nice names. *Texas Monthly* referred to Rove as "the wizard of the West Wing, the most powerful consultant ever, the maker of Presidents, the destroyer of Democrats." And able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, no doubt. In the same article Rove is tagged "a ubiquitous, prodigiously powerful political presence, a combination Machiavelli, medieval pope and Rasputin, with a well-developed mean streak — someone truly ... to be afraid of." No mention of tail and horns.

On Nexis, "Rove" and "Rasputin" receives 38 hits; "Rove" and "Machiavelli" (in *Newsweek* Eleanor Clift called Rove "Bush's resident Machiavelli") receives 86 hits; "Rove" and "Svengali," 155 hits. Rove's name linked with "guru" gets an astonishing 990 mentions. Several lazy writers just used a combination of all the above in the same article.

How is Rove so powerful as to warrant such comparisons? Only because, liberals believe, Bush is so incompetent. John Kerry spokesman Robert Gibbs contends that Rove is "the quarterback calling the plays. I don't think there are many decisions in that White House not run by Karl Rove." According to *The New York Times*, Bush's opponents see Rove as "a shadowy figure making all the decisions for an immature president," while *Texas Monthly* maintains that "Bush would not be famous but for Rove, who picked him out of the crowd 14 years ago." Well, thank you, Karl.

The *real* source of fascination with Rove, however, is found in a question asked by James Moore and Wayne Slater in their book, *Bush's Brain*: "Rove has raised a new and disturbing question for American voters and their Republic: Who really runs this country?"

Since liberals believe the answer is Rove, one of their favorite pastimes is to blame him for everything. Note the Rove-induced paranoia: "Karl Rove's fingerprints are all over this." — Art Torres, State

Democratic Party chairman, on the California recall election
"Mr. Rove ... has his fingers in everything, and everything has his fingerprints." — Frank Bruni, reporter, *The New York Times*
"Everybody knows Karl Rove runs everything." — Ralph Nader, in *National Journal*

"Karl Rove is the personification of the White House political operation." — Former ambassador Joe Wilson, in *USA Today* (for more Rove bashing in the Leakgate affair, see pp. 12-13.)

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The left repeatedly points to the specter of "dirty tricks" supposedly played by Rove in the past. One famous story involves a listening device found in Rove's office during the 1986 Texas governor's race. While Republicans suspected someone in Democratic Gov. Mark White's employ installed it, Democrats speculated that Rove, who at the time was working for Republican challenger Bill Clements, planted the bug himself to "discredit" White. No proof of the absurd Democrat version has ever been produced, but of course whenever the story is repeated, which is often, the press takes it as gospel.

After years of sticking pins into their Karl Rove voodoo dolls, liberals were momentarily pumped by Leakgate and by what they perceived as Bush's "vulnerability." As *Business Week* gleefully noted: "Has überstrategist Karl Rove, who carved out an unprecedented role as the top synthesizer of politics, policy, and spin, finally started sinking after a glorious three years of walking on Washington's waters?"

Fat chance. The only thing sinking in Washington's waters are Democrat electoral hopes for 2004. They would have liked nothing better than to have taken Rove out, but their little plan came up way short. The left better brace themselves for plenty of angst ahead, courtesy of their favorite bogeyman. ■

ed columns in at all. You just bombed from 30,000 feet.

CLARK: I knew Milosevic. I'm the only commander in the twentieth century, I think, that really knew his adversary.

RUSH: Incredible. In the whole century.

CLARK: I think there's a fundamental difference between Republicans and Democrats on this issue, because it's simply true, the Republicans do like weapon systems and Democrats like people.

RUSH: You know, that is the kind of thing James Carville used to say. I believe he's advising you these days, along with many other Clinton retreats.

insecurity they were previously loathe even to express. Egypt and Saudi Arabia will move slightly but perceptibly towards Western standards of human rights.

RUSH: You cheered the liberation of Iraq, as Saddam's statue fell.

CLARK: Can anything be more moving than the joyous throngs swarming the streets of Baghdad? Memories of the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the defeat of Milosevic in Belgrade flood back. Statues and images of Saddam are smashed and defiled ... President Bush and Tony Blair should be proud of their resolve in the face of

on? Don't try!

RUSH: Inspiring, and true. What happened to you?

CLARK: So many people have gone back to things like voting records and ancient history.

RUSH: Okay, we'll stay away from the "ancient history" of what you said eight months ago.

CLARK: There really is one big issue you face ... in this country. What is the nature of the government we want?

RUSH: Exactly right. That is the single biggest issue. And what is your answer?

CLARK: I think what America needs is a new approach to patriotism.

RUSH: That's what all you lib-

CLARK: I thought this country was founded on a principle of progressive taxation.

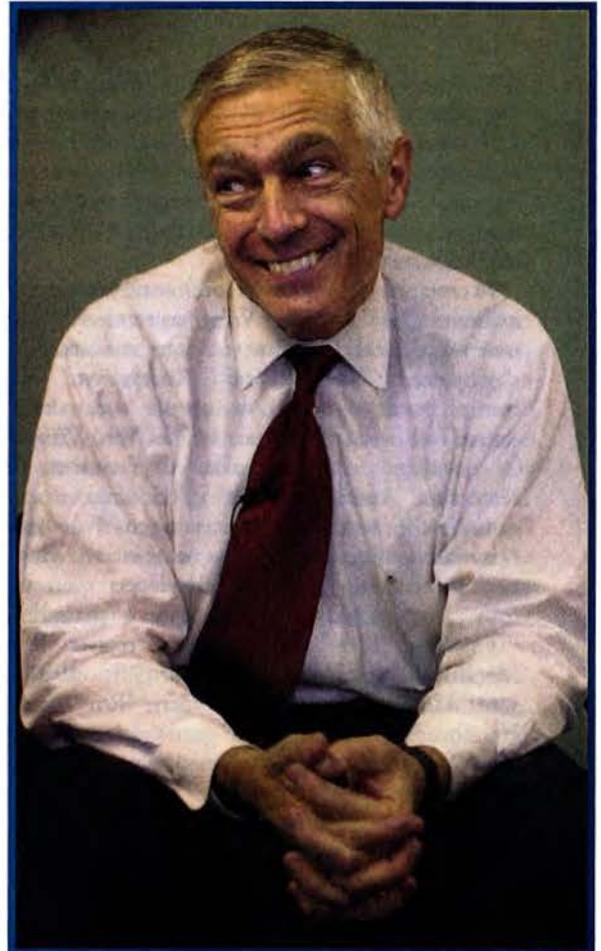
RUSH: No, actually. This country was founded on the principles of liberty. Well, General, thank you for your time. I know you're busy accumulating political positions. By the way, I note that you have opted out of New Hampshire.

CLARK: I'm in New Hampshire. I'm working hard there, about 50 percent of my time. We're going to do well in New Hampshire. And then we'll go to South Carolina, Oklahoma, Arizona. We've got strength in the South, we've got strength in



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— GENERAL WESLEY CLARK



But they weren't always whispering in your ear. Which brings me to your op-ed in *The [London] Times* on April 10. Back then, you were fairly excited about the military victory in Iraq. What did you write?

CLARK: Many Gulf states will hustle to praise their liberation from a sense of

so much doubt.

RUSH: You called for victory parades down the Mall and Constitution Avenue. In another column, you celebrated the Coalition's success.

CLARK: American military power, especially when buttressed by Britain's, is virtually unchallengeable today. Take us

erals are saying these days. You're just trying to redefine "patriotism" to include running down the Commander-in-Chief's military decisions. But the word doesn't need to be redefined, and we don't need a new approach to it. One more question, before you have to go. What is your economic policy?

the West. We're going to win.

RUSH: Sure you are. Thank you, sir. This was very educational.

This "conversation" is fictional. Every comment from the General is an accurate quote, taken from published sources. ■



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92628-2237

Writer's Direct Dial Number 714.438.0618

December 16, 2003

Karl Rove
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Karl:

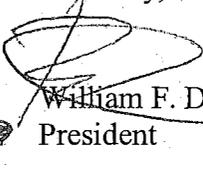
It was good to see you, however briefly at the recent event in Riverside, California.

This article was dropped on my desk by my chief financial officer. I wonder if you might sign it for my son, Peter Dohr, who I am successfully programming into being a sixteen year-old right winger. He's in military boarding school at his own insistence, wanting nothing more than to serve God and Country as an Army officer after college. I want to frame it and give it to him. He actively follows current events and is a Fox News junkie.

I have fun now and then telling him I knew you when we were both younger, thinner, and had more hair. Actually, to be completely candid, I still have my hair and the same waistline although we were both definitely younger....

Kind regards.

Sincerely,


William F. Dohr
President

good friends

*BO-
This was torn -
Can we dig out
a run down copy so it
can be autographed?
Lene*

WFD/b

2004 JAN 8 - 8 PM 2:12

EXEC. OFC. PRESIDENT
WH STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



To Peter Dohy,

OBSESSION:

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with best regards, Karl Rove

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