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Radioactive Man and Fallout Boy

posted: 3:12 PM, November 2, 2005 by Harkavy

Cheney summons Addington to replace Libby. More torture for all of us.



Harkavy; White House; [Duelfer WMD report](#)

Too hot to handle: I placed a piece of yellowcake in Cheney's lapel to try to shed light on him. But all that happened was an unhealthy glow.

Only in an America that's in the grip of **Dick Cheney** could a [secret Senate session](#) be a step toward democracy.

I don't care what the TV idiots say: You're witnessing a rebellion by the Democratic members of America's most exclusive club. That's how harsh the repression is in the U.S. Senate.

And that's the kind of constitutional crisis America is struggling with on several fronts right now — all those [right-wing pundits](#) like **David Brooks** notwithstanding.

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by Robert Sietsema

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And only in a country being run by a [jerk-o'-lantern](#) like Cheney could this de facto president find a replacement for the indicted **Scooter Libby** who makes Libby seem mild. That new chief of staff is **David Addington**.

This all-round fix-it guy is the legal mind behind an absurd doctrine of imperial presidential powers that scares even other conservatives. This is the kind of thing that my colleague **Nat Hentoff** just [wrote](#) about, and which I [riffed](#) on yesterday.

Don't blame **Alberto Gonzales** for all of the Bush regime's [tortured logic](#). Addington was the [ghostwriter](#) of Gonzales's torture memos, as **R. Jeffrey Smith** and **Dan Eggen** of the *Washington Post* pointed out this past January 5. And those documents — the ones we've been able to see — are the most odious justifications for torture and ill behavior that have ever slimed their way out of the White House.

That's saying a lot, considering the country's history of [slavery and homegrown colonialism](#), the [Palmer Raids of 1918-21](#), and the World War II [internment camps](#) for people of Japanese descent.

Addington has also interfered in environmental matters and slammed the door on the public's right to know what went on in Cheney's "energy task force" early in **George W. Bush's** first term. (See congressman **John Dingell's** [chronology](#) for details.)

Those schnook-like activities are pretty well-known, but Addington is also an infamous censor, [threatening legal action against the purveyors of obvious satire](#). Addington's target was **John Wooden's** consistently hilarious [whitehouse.org](#), the self-proclaimed "officious" website of the Bush regime. **Wooden went after** Lynne Cheney, and Addington then went after Wooden. More on that brouhaha in another item, but read about it [here](#).

You just can't make up a guy like Addington. Caught as Cheney is in the middle of the too-hot-to-handle Plamegate scandal, the U.S. CEO is [Radioactive Man](#), the dunderheaded superhero idolized by **Bart Simpson**. If Cheney is that blockhead, then Addington is his loyal sidekick, [Fallout Boy](#).

But all these glowing recommendations for Cheney and Addington are really no laughing matter.

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