

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 24, 2004

Mr. Andrew Card
Chief of Staff
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Card:

Today, the White House and the Bush-Cheney campaign made public statements that Richard Clarke made to reporters on background as a "senior administration official" while still serving in the Bush administration.

The White House has the right to release this transcript to defend itself against the allegations Mr. Clarke has made. As White House spokesman Scott McClellan noted today, the White House is frequently asked to lift the confidentiality of sources and occasionally does so. But the release of Mr. Clarke's confidential conversation with reporters stands in stark contrast to the White House's ongoing refusal to order White House officials to release reporters from confidentiality agreements in the Valerie Plame case.

As you are aware, late last year, federal investigators reportedly asked White House employees to sign waivers releasing reporters from any confidentiality agreements regarding any conversations about Valerie Plame, the covert CIA agent whose identity was improperly disclosed by "senior administration officials." Although the White House has regularly promised to cooperate with the investigation, some White House employees have reportedly refused to sign these waivers, making it harder for investigators to speak with reporter who might have knowledge of the case. Thus far, you have declined to order your staff to release reporters from such agreements.

In light of your decision to make public the comments Mr. Clarke made on background as a "senior administration official," I write to renew my request that you order White House staff to permit reporters to speak freely about the "senior administration officials" who endangered our national security and may have committed serious criminal offenses by publicly identifying a covert CIA operative.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator