

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 11, 2005

The Honorable Karl Rove  
White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Deputy Chief of Staff Rove,

I am very concerned about the recent news reports that allege that you had some involvement in the leaking of Valerie Plame's identity. The American people deserve to know what involvement you have had with this affair. I urge you to come forward to honestly and fully discuss any and all involvement you have had with this incident. I believe this is a very serious breach of trust with a woman who has spent her career putting her life on the line to protect our country's freedoms.

The exposure of a covert agent's identity is an attack on our national security – it endangers her life, the lives of her sources, and hurts our overall intelligence gathering abilities. New sources may be less likely to come forward if they believe that the covert agent they are dealing could be unmasked at any point. In many cases, it is also a federal crime.

News reports today name you as Matthew Cooper's likely source. Because of the serious nature of this crime and the continued reporting in the news media about your possible involvement, I urge you to answer the following questions, publicly and in a forthright manner, to help clear the air:

- Did you know that the person who is Valerie Plame worked for the United States Government intelligence in any way before the July 14, 2003 publication of Robert Novak's column?
- Did you reveal to anyone that either Valerie Plame, "Joe Wilson's Wife," or any description that would effectively identify the person you were describing as Valerie Plame, was employed by the Central Intelligence Agency or in any intelligence capacity whatsoever?
- Did you have, or direct anyone else to have, conversations with members of the news media, regarding the person who is Valerie Plame before the July 14, 2003 publication of Robert Novak's column?
- To your knowledge, were you or any other Administration officials aware that Robert Novak's column, published July 14, 2003, would reveal Ms. Plame's identity?

The betrayal of Valerie Plame's trust by the government she served is a tragic event, and one that must not go unresolved. By coming forward and clearly answering the preceding questions I believe that you have an opportunity to clear the air regarding the accusations that you had some involvement in this incident.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles E. Schumer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "C".

Charles E. Schumer  
U.S. Senator