
From: Weich, Ron (SMO)
To: Axelrod, Matthew (ODAG)
Sent: 4/15/2011 11:52:21 AM
Subject: FW: Grassley on floor on ATF matter
Attachments: Grassley Floor Statement on ATF - 4 14 11.pdf

From: Admin. Assistant
Sent: Friday, April 15, 2011 11:52 AM
To: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Weich, Ron (SMO); Admin. Assistant (SMO)
Cc: Appelbaum, Judy (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)
Subject: RE: Grassley on floor on ATF matter

Senator Grassley's official floor statement from yesterday is attached. Thanks, Jamie

From: Admin. Assistant
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 2:51 PM
To: Gaston, Molly (SMO); Weich, Ron (SMO); Admin. Assistant (SMO)
Cc: Appelbaum, Judy (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)
Subject: RE: Grassley on floor on ATF matter

Pasted below and attached is a very rough, unofficial transcription of Grassley's floor statement. I will pull the official transcript when it's available. Also, here's a better link to the floor statement: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mzf56e29zUw>

SINCE JANUARY, I HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING ALLEGATIONS FROM WHISTLEBLOWERS AT THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS. AND PRAISE THE LORD FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS IN THIS GOVERNMENT BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHERE THE SKELETONS ARE BURIED, AND THEY HELP US TO DO OUR CONSTITUTIONAL ROLE OF OVERSIGHT CHECKS AND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENT. << File: Unofficial Transcript - Grassley 4 14 11 Floor Statement.docx >>

THE A.T.F. IS SUPPOSED TO STOP CRIMINALS FROM TRAFFICKING GUNS TO MEXICAN DRUG CARTELS, WAS ACTUALLY MAKING THAT TRAFFICKING OF ARMS EASIER FOR THEM.

THAT WOULD BE BAD ENOUGH IF IT HAPPENED BECAUSE OF INCOMPETENCE OR TURF BATTLES, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THE AGENCY WAS DOING THIS ON PURPOSE. THE GOVERNMENT ACTUALLY ENCOURAGED GUN DEALERS TO SELL MULTIPLE FIREARMS TO KNOWN AND SUSPECTED TRAFFICKERS.

TWO OF THOSE GUNS ENDED UP AT THE SCENE OF A MURDER OF U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENT IN ARIZONA. HIS NAME WAS BRIAN TERRY, AND HIS FAMILY DESERVES ANSWERS FROM THEIR VERY OWN GOVERNMENT. ANSWERS.

I HAVE BEEN FIGHTING FOR THOSE I HAVE WRITTEN EIGHT LETTERS TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT. I HAVE ASKED FOR DOCUMENTS. I'VE ASKED THAT SPECIFIC QUESTIONS BE ANSWERED.

AT FIRST, THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SIMPLY DENIED THE CHARGES.

THEN ONE OF THE WHISTLEBLOWERS WENT ON TELEVISION.

HE RISKED HIS CAREER TO TELL THE TRUTH ON "CBS EVENING NEWS." HE HAD A SENSE OF DUTY TO AGENT TERRY'S FAMILY, AND IN TURN TO GREAT COUNTRY. THE ENTIRE POPULATION OF THIS HE COULD NOT BELIEVE THAT HIS OWN GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO COME CLEAN AND TO TELL THE TRUTH WHEN QUESTIONED BY THIS UNITED STATES SENATOR.

AND SO HE WENT PUBLIC TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT.

OTHER WHISTLEBLOWERS CONFIRMED WHAT THIS OTHER WHISTLEBLOWER HAD SAID. IN FACT, I RECEIVED INTERNAL GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS THAT CONFIRMED WHAT HE SAID. ANONYMOUS PATRIOTS TRIED TO ENSURE THAT THE TRUTH WOULD COME OUT. AND YOU KNOW, THAT'S ABOUT THE ONLY CRIME THAT WHISTLEBLOWERS COMMIT, COMMITTING TRUTH.

ISN'T THAT SAD?

I FORWARDED MANY OF THOSE DOCUMENTS THAT I'VE RECEIVED CLANDESTINELY TO ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER AND ACTING DIRECTOR MELSON, AND I ASKED THEM HOW TO SQUARE THE DENIALS FROM THAT DEPARTMENT WITH THE EVIDENCE THAT I HAVE RECEIVED BOTH ORALLY AND ON PAPER.

AT ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER'S CONFIRMATION HEARING, NOW TWO YEARS AGO, I TOLD HIM, AND I QUOTE MYSELF, "I EXPECT THAT YOU WILL BE RESPONSIVE TO MY OVERSIGHT WORK AND THAT MY QUESTIONS AND DOCUMENT REQUESTS WILL BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. I HOPE THAT I HAVE YOUR ASSURANCE THAT IF YOU ARE CONFIRMED, YOU WILL ASSIST ME WITH OVERSIGHT ACTIVITIES, BE RESPONSIVE TO MY REQUESTS AND HELP ME MAKE THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTABLE." END OF THIS SENATOR'S QUOTE TWO YEARS AGO.

NOW, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WHO WAS A NOMINEE AT THAT TIME RESPONDED, AND I QUOTE -- THIS IS BEFORE HIS CONFIRMATION -- "I WILL TRY TO DO ALL THAT I CAN TO MAKE SURE THAT WE RESPOND FULLY AND IN A TIMELY FASHION TO THE VERY LEGITIMATE QUESTIONS THAT I KNOW THAT YOU HAVE PROPOUNDED TO THERE HAVE BEEN CAREFUL -- THERE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL CONTROLS IN AN OPERATION LIKE I JUST DESCRIBED.

LAW ENFORCEMENT SHOULD NOT CROSS THE LINE INTO ACTUALLY ASSISTING CRIMINALS JUST FOR THE SIMPLE PROCESS OF GATHERING INFORMATION. OPERATION SHOULD BE CAREFULLY FOCUSED ON STOPPING CRIME WITHOUT RISKING PUBLIC SAFETY. SEIZING CONTRABAND AND MAKING ARRESTS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT GOALS. BIG HEADLINE-GRABBING CASES TO ADVANCE SOME PROSECUTOR'S CAREER SHOULD TAKE A BACK SEAT IN ANY OF THESE GAMBLES.

YESTERDAY, I SENT A LETTER TO ATTORNEY GENERAL HOLDER WITH SOME MORE DOCUMENTS, SO I'M SENDING THE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS THAT I'D LIKE TO HAVE THEM SEND ME. AND -- AND THESE ARE DOCUMENTS THAT MAYBE THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HIMSELF DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT.

THEY'RE EMAILS BETWEEN A FEDERALLY LICENSED FIREARMS DEALER AND THE SUPERVISOR IN THIS ARIZONA CASE KNOWN AS FAST AND FURIOUS. IN ONE EMAIL, THE DEALER RAISES FOR A THIRD TIME NOW HIS CONCERNS ABOUT HOW THE CASE IS BEING HANDLED.

THIS TIME HE WAS PROMPTED BY A STORY ON FOX NEWS ABOUT THE GROWING FIREARMS PROBLEM ON OUR BORDER WITH MEXICO. THE DEALER WROTE -- AND THIS IS A LONG QUOTE, SO I START TO QUOTE NOW FROM THE GUN DEALER -- "THE SEGMENT IS DISTURBING TO ME. THESE GUNS WERE AT THE SCENE, AT LEAST. NOW, THAT EMAIL THAT I JUST QUOTED WAS SENT TO THE SUPERVISOR OF THE CASE SIX MONTHS BEFORE GUNS FROM THAT CASE WERE FOUND AT THE SCENE OF BORDER PATROL

AGENT BRIAN TERRY'S MURDER. THE GOVERNMENT PUT THESE FIREARMS DEALERS IN A COMPLETELY UNFAIR POSITION, AND LET ME EXPLAIN THAT, BECAUSE ON THE ONE HAND, THESE GUN DEALERS RELY UPON THE BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS FOR THEIR LICENSE TO EVEN BE ABLE TO BE IN BUSINESS.

SO, OF COURSE, THESE AGENTS WANT GOVERNMENT TO COOPERATE WITH THE WHEN YOU HAVE GOT THIS BIG CLUB HANGING OVER YOUR HEAD, WILL YOU BE LICENSED OR NOT LICENSED.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE GOVERNMENT ASKS THESE GUN DEALERS TO KEEP SELLING TO THE BAD GUYS EVEN AFTER THE DEALERS TRAGEDY.

WARNED THAT IT MIGHT END IN NOW, I'M GOING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS. WARNED THAT IT MIGHT END IN NOW, I'M GOING TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS.

THE HOUSE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE HAS JOINED IN MY EFFORT AND ISSUED A SUBPOENA FOR DOCUMENTS. BECAUSE IT MIGHT DUPLICATE THE PROCESS IN THE HOUSE, I HAVE NOT SOUGHT ANY SUBPOENAS OR HEARINGS IN THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE YET. I HAVE NOT EXERCISED MY RIGHT TO OBJECT TO ANY UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS ON NOMINATIONS BECAUSE OF THIS ISSUE YET. HOWEVER, I WANT MY COLLEAGUES AND OFFICIALS AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO HEAR THIS LOUD AND CLEAR.

IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES, THEN I WILL TAKE THOSE ACTIONS. I HOPE IT DOESN'T HAVE TO COME TO THAT. I HOPE THAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WILL DECIDE TO COOPERATE AND PROVIDE THE INFORMATION WE NEED, DOING OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF OVERSIGHT TO MAKE SURE THE CHECKS AND BALANCES OF THE SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT UNDER OUR CONSTITUTION IS WORKING.

NOW, IT'S BEEN NEARLY THREE ISSUE. MONTHS SINCE I FIRST RAISED THIS IT'S PAST TIME FOR THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO COME CLEAN.

MADAM PRESIDENT, I ASK FOR CONSENT TO PUT A COPY OF THIS LETTER TO HOLDER IN THE RECORD.

From: Gaston, Molly (SMO)
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 2:32 PM
To: Weich, Ron (SMO); Admin. Assistant (JMD); Admin. Assistant (SMO)
Cc: Appelbaum, Judy (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)
Subject: RE: Grassley on floor on ATF matter

Quick summary: Grassley repeated the allegations he's been making all along; cited the e-mails with the FFL he sent along with last night's letter; said he hasn't sought SJC hearings or subpoenas because that would be duplicative of HOCR; and that he hasn't yet held up nominations because of this issue, but will if that's what it takes.

From: Weich, Ron (SMO)
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 2:20 PM
To: Admin. Assistant; Admin. Assistant (SMO)
Cc: Appelbaum, Judy (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO); Gaston, Molly (SMO)
Subject: RE: Grassley on floor on ATF matter

Thanks. Adding Molly.

From: Admin. Assistant (JMD)
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 2:16 PM
To: Weich, Ron (SMO); Admin. Assistant (SMO)
Cc: Appelbaum, Judy (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)
Subject: RE: Grassley on floor on ATF matter

While I piece together the informal transcript, here is a video link to Senator Grassley's 12 minute statement on the floor this morning about ATF (the link takes a minute to load).

<http://www.c-spanvideo.org/videoLibrary/clip.php?appid=599837916>

I will work on the transcript.

Thanks,

Admin. Assistant

From: Weich, Ron (SMO)
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 1:32 PM
To: Admin. Assistant; Admin. Assistant (SMO)
Cc: Appelbaum, Judy (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)
Subject: FW: Grassley on floor on ATF matter

Admin. Assistant or Admin. Assistant, please get us the transcript of Grassley's floor remarks when available.

From: Appelbaum, Judy (SMO)
Sent: Thursday, April 14, 2011 12:55 PM
To: Weich, Ron (SMO); Burton, Faith (SMO)
Subject: Grassley on floor on ATF matter

Reading internal emails

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