

From: Schultz, Eric
To: Schmaler, Tracy (OPA)
Sent: 10/4/2011 11:29:44 AM
Subject: RE: here you go --

Thanks. Any way we can fix Fox?

From: Schmaler, Tracy (OPA) [mailto:Tracy.Schmaler@usdoj.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2011 11:28 AM
To: Schultz, Eric
Subject: here you go --

Let me know who you hear from. I've talked to NYT, NBC and NPR – gave them all this. NBC not likely to go. Still waiting on other two.

Points–

DP

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Transcript from 5/3 hearing

REPRESENTATIVE DARRELL ISSA (R-CA): Mr. Attorney General, we have two Border Patrol agents who are dead, who were killed by guns that were allowed, as far as we can tell, to deliberately walk out of gun shops under the program often called Fast and Furious. This program, as you know -- and the president's been asked about it; you've been asked about it -- allowed for weapons to be sold to straw purchasers, and ultimately many of those weapons are today in the hands of drug cartels and other criminals. When did you first know about the program, officially, I believe, called Fast and Furious? To the best of your knowledge, what date?

ATTY. GEN. HOLDER: I'm not sure of the exact date, but I probably heard about Fast and Furious for the first time over the last few weeks.

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Transcript form 3/10 hearing

HEARING OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES OF THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS

DOJ-FF-61344

COMMITTEE

SEN. HUTCHISON: Yes, thank you, Madame Chairman. I'll try to also -- I will stick to the five-minute rule.

Let me ask you about the ATF issue that I mentioned in my opening statement, that there are reports that there was actually a knowledge of the ATF, of the sales that were going on, of the arms out of America, illegally out of America, into Mexico, purportedly, I think, to be able to trace them, but after the shooting of the agent in Mexico traced to those arms and also the shooting of the agent in Arizona. What is your view now on that particular program? And I know that you've asked for an IG study of it, but tell me if you think that that program should be continued. Is it the correct use of the Project Gunrunner subprogram, I guess? Because it -- of course, it's a great concern.

ATTY GEN. HOLDER: Well, first, I'd say that, you know, the mission of ATF and the mission to which they are dedicated is to stop the flow of guns into Mexico and to people who shouldn't have guns here in the United States. And that is the focus of ATF, and it is why ATF agents serve bravely in Mexico and in this country, and I think do a great job. It is true that there have been concerns expressed by ATF agents about the way in which this operation was conducted -- (inaudible) -- and I took those allegations, those concerns, very seriously, and asked the inspector general to try to get to the bottom of it. An investigation, an inquiry, is now under way.

I've also made clear to people in the department that letting guns walk -- I guess that's the term that the people use -- that letting guns walk is not something that is acceptable. Guns are different than drug cases or cases where we're trying to follow where money goes. We cannot have a situation where guns are allowed to walk, and I've made that clear to the United States attorneys as well as the agents in charge in the various ATF offices.