

Defense: Libby just a man with a bad memory



AP PHOTO
Lewis "Scooter" Libby, left, and his attorney, Theodore V. Wells, arrive at federal court in Washington on Tuesday.

Closing arguments made in CIA leak case

By MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

Prosecutors told the jury Tuesday that former White House aide Lewis "Scooter" Libby made up a ludicrous lie to save his job during the CIA leak investigation. But defense attorneys said he behaved like an innocent man with a bad memory.

The federal court jurors remained

alert and attentive as four lawyers summarized the Libby case in more than six hours of closing arguments.

They displayed lists, documents and testimony transcripts and played video and audio clips to help jurors concentrate as they reviewed 14 days of evidence in repetitive detail.

The arguments built to a late afternoon crescendo as defense attorney Theodore Wells, whose voice rose and fell dramatically, choked back a sob as he asked the jurors to acquit his client no matter how they "may feel about the war in Iraq or the Bush administration."

Wells was followed by Special

Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald, speaking a mile-a-minute and lacing his rebuttal to the defense with sarcasm. Fitzgerald said that, by lying, Libby "threw sand in the eyes of the FBI investigators and the grand jury" trying to find out if someone leaked classified information that could endanger lives.

Wells and Fitzgerald clashed over how important Libby and his boss, Vice President Dick Cheney, considered CIA operative Valerie Plame, wife of prominent Iraq war critic Joseph Wilson.

The case began with a Robert Novak column on July 14, 2003, which disclosed that Plame worked at the CIA and that

she suggested Wilson go to Niger in 2002.

Libby is charged with lying to the FBI and a grand jury about his conversations with reporters concerning Plame and obstructing the leak investigation.

Libby says he first learned about Plame's job from Cheney on June 11 but in the press of serving as chief of staff and national security adviser to Cheney during the war, he forgot that and was surprised when NBC reporter Tim Russert told him that on July 10 or 11. Thereafter he says he only told reporters he'd heard about the job from reporters and couldn't confirm it.

Russert testified earlier that he and Libby never discussed Plame.

THE WAR IN IRAQ

9 killed in bombing of chlorine gas tanker



AP PHOTO
Children stand amid debris in front of a car-parts shop after a fuel truck exploded in Taji, northwest of Baghdad, Iraq, on Tuesday.

Nine people were killed and more than 150 were sent to the hospital after becoming sick from the fumes.

Noxious fumes send many to the hospital

By BRIAN MURPHY
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq

A hidden bomb ripped through a tanker carrying chlorine gas Tuesday, killing nine people and filling hospital beds with more than 150 wheezing and frightened villagers after noxious plumes covered homes and schools north of Baghdad.

The attack was part of a string of blasts, including a suicide bomber who killed seven mourners at a funeral, that further rattled officials marking the first week of a major security crackdown seeking to calm the blood-soaked city. U.S. forces, meanwhile, called in airstrikes during intense clashes against insurgents in strongholds northwest of Baghdad.

With the death toll in the Baghdad area climbing above 100 since Sunday, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki tried to court some rare upbeat publicity with an even rarer event, leaving his heavily guarded quarters for a visit to the city's streets and markets.

The fanfare of the security plan's launch Feb. 14 has been swept aside by a steady roll of attacks, most blamed on Sunni extremists targeting the majority Shiites. Many Sunnis believe they are being sidelined by al-Maliki's government and under growing threat from Shiite militias, which the prime minister refuses to confront.

The bombing of the tanker took place near Taji, 12 miles northwest of Baghdad. A military spokesman, Brig. Gen. Qassim Moussawi, said a bomb was planted under the tanker, but it was not known whether it had a timer or was remotely detonated. His remarks contradicted earlier reports that a roadside bomb blew up the truck.

Hospitals were soon flooded with terrified people complaining of breathing prob-

lems, vomiting and stinging eyes. Most of the people treated were released after several hours and there was no apparent life-threatening cases, hospital officials said.

Chlorine gas in low exposure irritates the respiratory system, eyes and skin. Higher levels can lead to accumulation of fluid in the lungs and other symptoms, and death is possible with heavy exposure, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The attacks in the capital began during the busy morning rush for goods and fuel.

A car rigged with explosives tore through a line of vehicles at a gas station in the Sadiyah district in southwestern Baghdad. At least six people were killed and 14 were wounded, police said.

Later, a suicide attacker drove a bomb-laden car into a vegetable market near a Shiite enclave in Baghdad. At least five people were killed and seven were injured, police said. The same market in the mostly Sunni Dora district was targeted last month by three car bombs that killed 10 people.

1,500 British troops may be going home from Iraq

By THOMAS WAGNER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON

Prime Minister Tony Blair will announce on Wednesday a new timetable for the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq, with 1,500 to return home in several weeks, the BBC reported.

Blair will also tell the House of Commons during his regular weekly appearance before it that a total of about 3,000 British soldiers will have left southern Iraq

by the end of 2007, if the security there is sufficient, the British Broadcasting Corp. said Tuesday night, quoting government officials who weren't further identified.

The BBC said Blair was not expected to say when the rest of Britain's nearly 7,100 soldiers would leave Iraq.

Britain has long been the most important coalition member in Iraq after the United States. But Blair knows the British public and politicians from his own Labour Party want the troops out as quickly as possible, and don't want to see Britain stick with the

United States in Iraq for the long haul.

Militarily, a British withdrawal isn't likely to have much effect on the stepped-up U.S. operation in Baghdad or the war with the Sunnis in Anbar province west of the Iraqi capital. However, Iraqi forces could have a tough time maintaining security in mostly Shiite southern Iraq, including Basra city.

Blair's Downing Street office refused to comment on the BBC report, which also said Blair would tell the Commons that if the situation worsens on the ground on Iraq, his new game plan could change.

Judges: Prisoners at Gitmo can't fight cases in U.S. courts

By HOPE YEN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON

In a victory for President Bush, a divided federal appeals court ruled Tuesday that Guantanamo Bay detainees cannot use the U.S. court system to challenge their indefinite imprisonment.

A Supreme Court appeal was promised.

The 2-1 decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit dismisses hundreds of cases filed by foreign-born detainees in federal court and also threatens to strip away court access to millions of lawful permanent residents currently in the United States.

It upholds a key provision of the Military Commissions Act, which Bush pushed through Congress last year to set up a Defense Department system to prosecute terrorism suspects.

Now, detainees must prove to three-officer military panels that they don't pose a terror threat.

Democrats newly in charge of Congress promised legislation aimed at giving detainees legal rights.

Attorneys for detainees said they would appeal Tuesday's ruling to the Supreme Court.

"We're disappointed," said Shayana Kadidal of the Center for

Constitutional Rights. "The bottom line is that according to two of the federal judges, the president can do whatever he wants without any legal limitations as long as he does it offshore."

The two judges voting with the White House — Judge A. Raymond Randolph and Judge David B. Sentelle — were appointed by Republicans. Reagan appointed Sentelle, and the first President Bush appointed Randolph. The dissenter, Judge Judith W. Rogers, was appointed by Clinton.

White House deputy press secretary Dana Perino called the decision a significant win for the administration and said the Military Commissions Act provides sufficient and fair access to courts for these detainees.

At the Justice Department, attorneys urged Chief Justice John G. Roberts to deny legal relief to Guantanamo prisoners. They also said that in the case of Sharaf al-Sanani, a Yemeni being held at Guantanamo, the government was no longer obligated to explain why he was being detained.

About 395 detainees are currently being held at the U.S. military base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

The first prisoners arrived more than five years ago, after the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

Committee advances bill to lease state lottery

By DEANNA MARTIN
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INDIANAPOLIS

A Senate committee approved a plan Tuesday to outsource the state's lottery and use the money to encourage life sciences research and provide college scholarships for students who stay in Indiana after graduation.

Supporters said the state could use the more than \$1 billion that leasing the lottery could bring — money that would help spur the economy and retain the state's best students.

But opponents said those laudable efforts should not be funded by the leasing of the lottery, which they said was often played by poor residents wasting money on a shot at a big jackpot.

"I really think those dollars should come from somewhere else," said Sen. David Ford, a Republican from Hartford City who voted against the bill.

The Senate Tax Committee voted 7-5 to advance the bill, which now heads to the full Senate for consideration.

The bill allows Gov. Mitch Daniels to lease the Hoosier Lottery for 30 years to a private company, which would run it and collect the profits. In exchange, the company would pay the state at

AT THE STATEHOUSE

Cigarette tax

A House committee reduced a proposed cigarette tax increase from 54.5 cents per pack to 25 cents and stripped out several health-care provisions in a bill that was narrowly endorsed on a 12-11 vote Tuesday.

It was sent to the full House.

Pay raise for lawmakers

Lawmakers' salaries would nearly double, but their retirement packages would be reduced under a bill that cleared a Senate committee Tuesday.

The Senate Tax Committee unanimously voted to advance the legislation, which bill sponsor Sen. Gary Dillon said would increase the base salary for Indiana General Assembly members from the current \$11,600 a year to about \$20,700 in 2009.

least \$1 billion upfront and make annual payments of \$200 million, which would be used to fund public pensions and pay for a cut in auto excise taxes.

The plan may have won the support of some senators, but Democrats who control the House have criticized the proposal. House Democrats last week released their draft of the state budget, which would block outright the leasing of the lottery.

DAILY JOURNAL READERS' GUIDE

MAIN PHONE NUMBER

736-7101

8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday

ADDRESS

2575 N. Morton St. (U.S. 31)
P.O. Box 699
Franklin, IN 46131

DELIVERY, BILLING QUESTIONS

736-2777; (888) 736-7101

6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday,
7 a.m. to noon Saturday.
Subscribers should call if they have not received a newspaper by 7 a.m.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

736-2700; (888) 736-7101

8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday-Friday
Fax: 736-2754

STORY IDEAS, NEWS TIPS

736-2712

After 5 p.m.: 736-2723
Fax: 736-2766
newstips@thejournalnet.com

SPORTS

Send sports scores, stories and suggestions to:
rmorwick@thejournalnet.com

ADVERTISING

736-2786

8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday
Fax: 736-2713

POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:
Daily Journal, P.O. Box 699,
Franklin, IN 46131
Periodical Class Postage
Paid at Franklin, IN
Daily Journal (USPS 565-520)

VOLUME

Volume 44, No. 187

BACK ISSUES, DIGITAL PHOTOS

Copies of the Daily Journal are available for six months. Digital files of photos published in the newspaper are available on CDs. Please call 736-7101.

COPYRIGHT

© The Daily Journal, 2007
All rights reserved.

ABOUT THE DAILY JOURNAL

The Daily Journal is an award-winning newspaper published daily except Sundays and Christmas at 2575 N. Morton St., Franklin, IN 46131.

Founded in 1963, the Daily Journal is owned by Home News Enterprises L.L.C. and is one of Indiana's most widely recognized and honored community newspapers.

The Daily Journal is committed to responsible reporting, professional business practices and dedicated community service.

The newspaper is a member of the Associated Press, Hoosier State Press Association, Inland Press Association and Certified Audit of Circulations.

TO SUBSCRIBE

Subscription rates are listed below. To subscribe, call 736-2777.

Single copy

Monday-Friday \$.50

Weekend issue \$ 1.00

Home delivery

Month \$ 10.40

Year \$ 118.80

Mail delivery

4 months \$ 49.00

8 months \$ 98.00

12 months \$ 147.00

Student

1 semester \$ 47.00

2 semesters \$ 96.00

Military

4 months \$ 42.00

8 months \$ 80.00

12 months \$ 113.00

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

P.O. Box 699
Franklin, IN 46131
letters@thejournalnet.com

MANAGEMENT TEAM

Publisher

Jeffrey W. Owen 736-2744
jowen@thejournalnet.com

Editor

Scarlett Syse 736-2749
syse@thejournalnet.com

Assistant managing editor

Michele Holtkamp-Frye 736-2774
mholtkamp@thejournalnet.com

Assistant managing editor

Jennifer L. Gaskin 736-2721
jgaskin@thejournalnet.com

Circulation director

Mike Warren 736-2711
mwarren@thejournalnet.com

Delivery manager

Bruce Powell 736-2702
bpowell@thejournalnet.com

Advertising director

Christina Cosner 736-2750
ccosner@thejournalnet.com

Administrative manager

Linda Wirey 736-2751
lwirey@thejournalnet.com

Information technology manager

Kathy McDermott 736-2782
kmcdermott@thejournalnet.com

PAYMENTS

Payments can be made by cash, check, MasterCard or Visa. Readers also can sign up for E-Z Pay plan and have their monthly subscriptions deducted automatically from their checking accounts, Visa or MasterCard. Direct questions about payments to 736-7101.

WEB SITES

www.thejournalnet.com
www.djclassifieds.com