

# **TOP TEN REPUBLICAN ABUSES OF POWER**

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## **1. CHANGING ETHICS RULES UNILATERALLY**

Republicans unilaterally pushed through partisan rules changes to neuter the Ethics Committee and protect Tom DeLay from bipartisan investigation (they later retreated due to public pressure).

## **2. TRYING TO INSTALL A PARTISAN ETHICS COMMITTEE STAFF**

Republicans refuse to follow the established bipartisan rules (House Rule XI), and are trying to install a partisan Ethics Committee staff director. The Committee is deadlocked because of Republican action.

## **3. UNETHICALLY COERCING A MEMBER TO CHANGE A VOTE**

Majority Leader DeLay was admonished by the Ethics Committee for offering to endorse Rep. Nick Smith's son in his run for a House seat in exchange for Smith's vote on the Medicare prescription drug benefit.

## **4. CALLING POLICE TO ARREST DEMOCRATS**

Chairman Thomas called the Capitol Police to oust Ways and Means Democrats from a committee library where they were discussing unfair Republican treatment during a committee hearing (7/28/03).

## **5. HOLDING VOTES OPEN TO THWART THE WILL OF THE HOUSE**

Republicans regularly hold open votes to thwart the House's will. The most egregious example is holding open the Medicare prescription drug bill vote for three hours in the middle of the night (11/25/03).

## **6. CLOSING DOWN HEARINGS AND SHUTTING DOWN DEBATE**

Judiciary Committee Chairman Sensenbrenner shut down debate and turned off the microphones during a hearing on civil liberties and the Patriot Act in response to testimony he didn't like (6/10/05).

## **7. THREATENING JUDGES**

After unsuccessfully trying to force the judiciary to follow the GOP's political agenda in the Terri Schiavo case, Rep. DeLay said the "time will come for the men responsible to answer for their behavior" (3/31/05). After two deranged men killed a judge and members of a judge's family, Sen. Cornyn suggested that violence against judges was because they "are making political decisions yet are unaccountable to the public" (4/5/05).

## **8. THREATENING STAFF NOT TO TELL THE TRUTH TO CONGRESS**

Medicare Administrator Thomas Scully threatened his chief actuary, a professional non-partisan government employee, not to tell the true cost of the prescription drug benefit to Congress (\$724 billion instead of \$395 billion), which almost certainly would have prevented the controversial bill's passage.

## **9. K STREET PROJECT**

The Republicans' K Street Project threatens lobbying firms who do not exclusively hire and donate to Republicans.

## **10. MISCHARACTERIZING DEMOCRATIC AMENDMENTS**

Republicans unilaterally changed the language of amendments submitted by Democrats on the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act and described them as protecting "sexual predators," when in fact they protected grandparents and public transportation workers (4/27/05).