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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 2004

Porter Goss: A Closer Look

by Michael in New York on [8/11/2004 01:25:00 AM](#)

The New York Times looks at the political and intelligence ramifications of **nominating Porter Goss**. Republicans are already trying to paint any Democrats who oppose Porter as endangering national security; Democrats are already backing off. It's pretty simple: at the heart of the C.I.A.'s problem seems to have been a politicization of intelligence (Cheney stepping in and demanding he get unfiltered data; Bush making a decision to invade and then demanding the intelligence be cut to fit; Tenet telling Bush what he wanted to hear rather than asking the hard questions; the C.I.A. giving briefings to Congress that avoided grey areas and presented faulty or even contrary evidence in black and white.) The head of the C.I.A. is historically non-partisan (as opposed to the Attorney General, which often is). Bush chose a nominee that is extremely partisan that he knew top Democrats objected to. But instead of coming out swinging and saying Bush is endangering national security by choosing a nominee he knows doesn't have broad bipartisan support, they are already heading for cover.



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