

**U.S. SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HOLDS A HEARING ON
OVERSIGHT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

July 24, 2007

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SPEAKERS: Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Chairman; Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA); Senator Joseph Biden, Jr. (D-DE); Senator Herb Kohl (D-WI); Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA); Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI); Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY); Senator Richard Durban (D-IL); Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI); Senator Benjamin Cardin (D-MD); Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA), Ranking Member; Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT); Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA); Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ); Senator Jeff Sessions (R-AL); Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC); Senator John Cornyn (R-TX); Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS); Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK)

WITNESSES: Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales

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SEN. SPECTER: Mr. Attorney General, do you think constitutional government in the United States can survive if the president has the unilateral authority to reject congressional inquiries on grounds of executive privilege and the president then acts to bar the Congress from getting a judicial determination as to whether that executive privilege is properly invoked?...I'm asking you whether you can have a constitutional government with the Congress exercising its constitutional authority for oversight if when the president claims executive privilege, the president then forecloses the Congress from getting a judicial determination of it.