

P.O. BOX 2910
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910
512-463-0924
512-475-2387/FAX

REPRESENTATIVE
Kevin Bailey

**TALKING POINTS MEMO
DOCUMENT COLLECTION
WWW.TALKINGPOINTSMEMO.COM**



J. SAM HOUSTON PARKWAY EAST,
#310
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77060
281-847-9000
281-999-8374/FAX

~~Texas House of Representatives~~

COMMITTEES:
Chairman,
GENERAL INVESTIGATING
STATE CULTURAL AND
RECREATIONAL RESOURCES
URBAN AFFAIRS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information contact: Bob Cash 512 463-0924

May 31, 2003

The staff of the General Investigating Committee has been collecting information relating to the involvement of the Homeland Security Department in the search for absent legislators during the week of May 12-15, 2003.

We are still in the process of collecting information that will substantiate the extent of the Homeland Security Department's improper involvement.

The following information is what we have found thus far:

- 1) Jay Kimbrough, Texas Coordinator for Homeland Security was an integral part of the decision-making process in the command center. Kimbrough was there at the request of Governor Perry.
- 2) Kimbrough made more than a dozen phone calls on his cell phone, as observed on security camera tapes. We have requested cell phone records from Kimbrough.
- 3) The security tapes also indicate that Governor Perry was in Speaker Craddick's office for a period of time immediately prior to 7:57 p.m., Monday May 12.
- 4) The Homeland Security Department was contacted at least twice and asked to assist in the search for Representative Laney's airplane.
- 5) The Homeland Security Department did provide assistance for at least 30-40 minutes, including making calls to the Mineral Wells' police, asking them to search area airfields for Laney's airplane.
- 6) Representative Chuck Hopson's wife was followed for 180 miles by two plain clothes men in an SUV. These were not DPS officers, according to DPS Colonel Tommy Davis and according to DPS officers involved in the search effort.
- 7) There were at least two individuals in Ardmore who appeared to be providing surveillance of legislators several hours before DPS arrived. DPS sources have stated these individuals were definitely not with DPS. We are attempting to secure information that may disclose who these individuals are.
- 8) Politicization of the Homeland Security Department and its involvement in domestic surveillance is improper and a serious abuse of government resources. We will continue to attempt to collect information to determine the full extent of the Homeland Security Department's involvement in this matter.

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