

### Attachment 3. Supplement to “Investigate 9/11 Commission” Action Point

## Conflicts of Interest Within the 9/11 Commission

The 9/11 Commission members were appointed by George W. Bush as well as Congress, which led to the criticism that it was not a truly independent commission. The Commission stated in its report that “[their] aim has not been to assign individual blame,” a judgment which some critics believed would obscure the facts of the matter in a nod to consensus politics. Some members of victims' families have claimed that the commission has numerous conflicts of interest. 9/11 CitizensWatch, in particular, called for the resignation of Philip D. Zelikow, the executive staff director. Zelikow is a Bush-appointee who served on the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. He spent three years on the President George H. W. Bush's National Security Council. Zelikow worked closely with Bush NSC advisor Condoleezza Rice and even co-wrote a book with her. Some worry that Zelikow may be using his power to deflect blame from himself and to protect Rice. Both the Family Steering Committee and 9/11 Citizens Watch demanded his resignation, without success.

In addition, many members had backgrounds and ties which created conflicts of interest:

- **Thomas Kean** has a history of investments that link him to Saudi Arabian investors who have financially supported both George W. Bush and Osama bin Laden in the past. One example is his former business connections to Khalid bin Mahfouz, an alleged terrorist financier. He was also at one point or still is on the board of Pepsi Bottling, Amerada Hess, UnitedHealth Group, CIT Group and Aramark.
- **Lee Hamilton** sits on many advisory boards, including those to the CIA, the President's Homeland Security Advisory Council, The United States Commission on National Security, and the US Army.
- **Jamie Gorelick**, while serving in the Department of Justice under the Clinton administration, developed the policy that prevented communication between various government law enforcement and intelligence agencies, specifically the FBI and CIA. (the "wall memo"). She also is on the board of United Technologies. Gorelick's firm has agreed to represent Prince Mohammed al Faisal in the suit by the 9/11 families. The families contend that al Faisal has legal responsibility for the 9/11 attacks.
- **Fred F. Fielding** has done legal work for two of Bush's leading "Pioneer" fund-raisers. Fielding also works for a law firm lobbying for Spirit Airlines and United Airlines.
- **Slade Gorton** has close ties to Boeing, which built all the planes destroyed on 9/11, and his law firm represents several major airlines, including Delta Air Lines.
- **James Thompson** is the head of a law firm that lobbies for American Airlines, and he has previously represented United Airlines.
- **Richard Ben-Veniste** has represented Democratic National Chairman Terry McAuliffe, and continues to represent Boeing and United Airlines.
- **Max Cleland**, former U.S. Senator, has received \$300,000 from the airline industry. He publicly complained about the White House's refusal to cooperate, then was appointed head of the U.S. Export/Import Bank by the president and resigned from the Commission.
- **Tim Roemer** represents Boeing and Lockheed Martin.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9-11\\_Commission](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/9-11_Commission)