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In Power And Under Siege

WITH an announcement likely soon in the case involving the leak of a C.I.A. operative's name, worry among Republicans about the effects of several investigations is at a peak.

There is much to keep track of: in the C.I.A. case, the special counsel's scrutiny of conversations between White House officials and journalists; in the money-laundering and conspiracy charges against Representative Tom DeLay, questions about the funneling of corporate money to Republican candidates; in the investigation of the Republican lobbyist Jack Abramoff, accusations of improper dealings with Indian tribes, among other things.

The key figures in the investigations have denied wrongdoing.

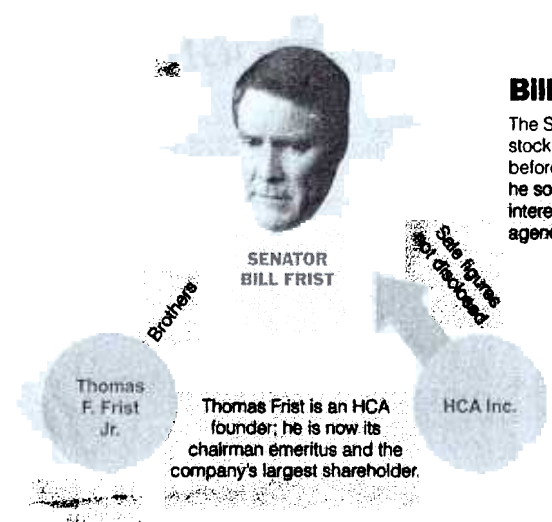
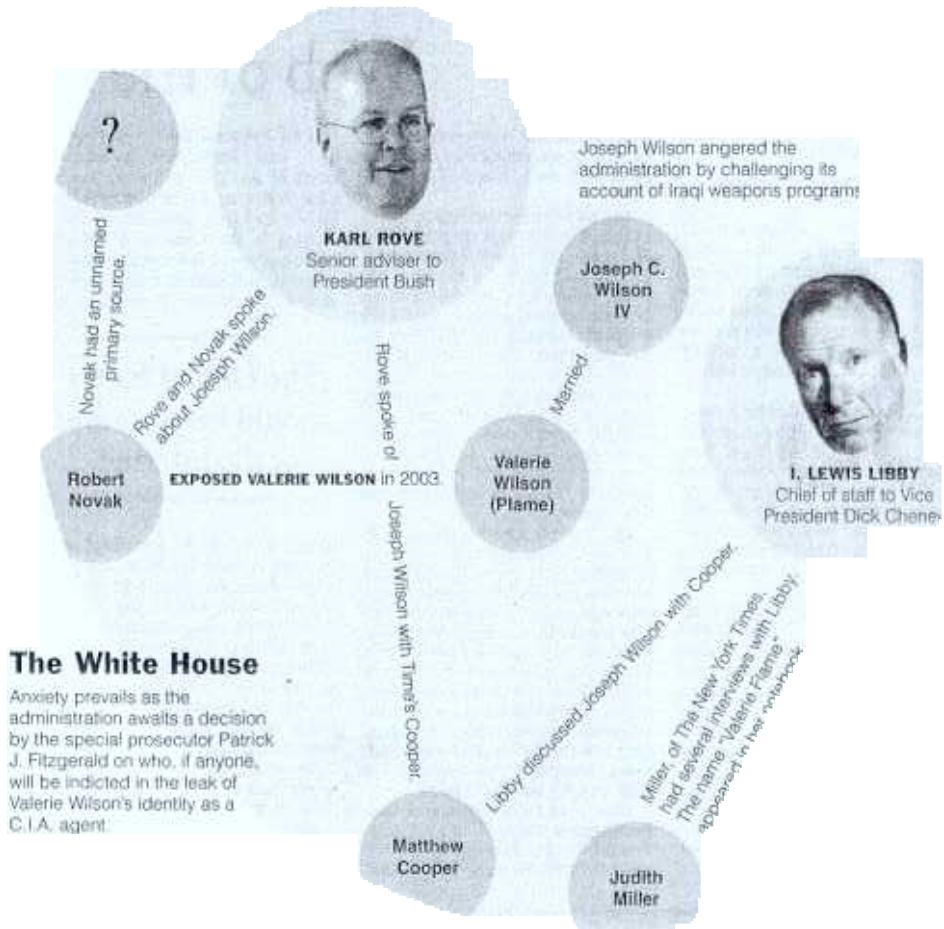
Here is a guide to Washington's most important inquiries, each with a constellation of characters and connections that include college chums and those in the highest ranks of government. Follow the arrows and text for links between individuals.

These are not the only investigations of politicians. Randy Cunningham, an eight-term Republican representative from California, faces an inquiry for his ties to a military contractor and a real estate deal. Mr. Cunningham has denied any wrongdoing.

Henry G. Cisneros, a housing secretary in the Clinton administration, came under the scrutiny of a special counsel in 1995. Mr. Cisneros pleaded guilty in 1999 to lying in a background investigation; President Bill Clinton pardoned him two years later. But the special counsel's office continues to work, and the tab, according to Senator Byron L. Dorgan, is approaching \$22 million. Last week the Senate voted to end the investigation, a decade after it began.

BILL MARSH





Bill Frist

The Senate majority leader sold stock shares in a family business before the price sank. Frist says he sold to avoid a conflict of interest with his health care agenda in the Senate.

Tom DeLay

The former House majority leader is accused of laundering corporate contributions and using them to finance state Republican candidates in Texas. DeLay and his aides deny the charges.

Jack Abramoff

The lobbyist and Republican fundraiser has been indicted and is being further investigated. He and his associates deny the charges. His entanglements fall into five general groups, shown at right:

INDIAN TRIBES He and a partner are accused of laundering millions from tribes for political efforts and personal enrichment.

LOBBYISTS Tribes say their money went to groups run by the Republican activists Ralph Reed and Grover G. Norquist; Reed says he was unaware of the money's origins, and Norquist has denied that payments influenced his lobbying. Another former lobbying partner has been arrested and charged with lying about a federal land deal while he worked for the General Services Administration, the federal property-management agency.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS He has connections to DeLay and Rep. Robert W. Ney of Ohio.

SHIP DEAL Abramoff and a partner have been indicted on charges of fraud; the seller was later killed.

TYCO Abramoff is accused of laundering money the troubled firm paid him for lobbying.

