

### Diane Rehm Summary

	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Participant</u>	
6/1	Iraq	Gen Zinni	L
6/3	Iran/Chalabi	Walter Pincus	-- L
		Danielle Pletka	C
		Bob Baer	N
6/4	general Iraq	Tim Russert	N
		Steve Roberts	L
		John Harwood	N
		Robin Wright	L
6/7	Iraq - extended military duty	Col D. McGregor	L
		James Fallows	L
		Doug Zukheim	C
	Ronald Reagan	Haynes Johnson	L
6/8	Latino vote Israel politics	Jorge Ramos	N
		Walter Wright	N
		Jeff Goldberg	L
		Mark Rosenblum	N
6/9	Jane Austin airline profit	Karen Fowler	X
		Scott McGregor	N
		Richard Appadapia	N
		John Ash	N
		Cary Keene	N
6/10	fear	Harriet Lerner	X
6/11	no show due to Reagan ceremonies		
6/14	racial attitudes--U.S. bias in media	Janet L. Cohen	L
		Andrew Kuher	N
		Tom Rosenstihl	L
6/21	Iraqi prison abuse	Dana Priest	L
		David Cole	L
		Ruth Wedgewood	L
	Iraq intelligence failure	James Bamford	L
6/22	polling data. 04 election	Stu Rothenberg	N
		Tod Lindberg	C
		Stan Greenberg	L

	Fiction book	Barry Lopez	L
6/23	genetic testing	Lisa Fries	N
		Kathy Hudson	N
		Dr. Art Bodette	L
		Allesandra Godini	L
	Book	Kent Harrof	X
6/24	terrorism	Neal Livingston	L
		Bill Schulz	L
		Ken Adelman	C
	Book	Wendy Swallow	X
6/25	Iraq	Bill Kristol	C
		Jim Fellows	L
		Eleanor Clift	L
	Book	Edna Buchanan	X

Participants 46

Liberal viewpoint 22

Conservative viewpoint 5

Neutral viewpoint 14 Entertainment 5

**Diane Rehm -- 6/1/04**

Subject: Iraq

Interview with Gen. Anthony Zinni, U.S. Army retired, and co-author of "Battle Ready."

General Zinni was critical of the war in Iraq.

His viewpoint was that:

- we did not have enough troops;
- Saddam was not a treat;
- by the U.S. going it alone we turned world opinion against us;
- the idea that we would be welcomed as liberators was naive; instead the Iraqi people see us as occupiers;
- we depended too much on information from exiles on WMD; the intelligence did not support the conclusions;
- we changed leadership of the coalition in mid-stream to Bremmer causing confusion;
- we went to war for misleading reasons;
- we should have exercised more patience and let the inspectors do their work;
- the policy of pre-emption caused us to lose respect in the world community;
- the war in Iraq has helped terrorist recruitment;
- there was no connection between Iraq and 9/11.

Ms. Rehm failed to ask any obvious questions reflection the opposing view.

**Diane Rehm - 6/3/04**

Subject: Chalabi / Iran

Participants: Walter Pincus, Washington Post.

Bob Baer, former CIA operative.

Danielle Pletka, American Enterprise Institute.

Mr. Pincus' viewpoint was that Chalabi supplied defectors to the U.S. to report on conditions inside Iraq. Also, he said that Iraqi enemies of Chalabi tried to discredit Chalabi.

Mr. Baer's viewpoint was that Chalabi leaked secret classified information to Iran regarding U.S. cracking Iran's codes. As to how Chalbi new this information, Baer speculated, it was probably a drunken operative. Baer also stated that the CIA was split on the issue of which Iraqi exile faction was more credible, Chalabi or Alawi.

Ms. Pletka's viewpoint was that Chalabi was accused of being a thief and liar when he was in Lebanon, but an investigation exonerated him. Some in the CIA thought the intelligence he provided was bad.

**Diane Rehm - 6/4/04**

Segment 1 subject: Interview with Tim Russert, NBC News,  
about recent book: "Big Russ."

In a wide ranging discussion of current affairs, Mr. Russert's viewpoint was that George Tenet could have stayed at CIA, but probably resigned due to an anticipated forthcoming negative Congressional report.

Regarding the issue of a Catholic Cardinal's stated plan to deny communion to politicians who do not adhere to Catholic teachings, Russert felt that Catholics are divided, but if anything, there will be a backlash which will help Kerry.

Segment 2 subject: Robin Wright, Washington Post. Steve  
Robert, Syndicated columnist.

Ms. Wright's viewpoint was that U.S. intelligence was geared to fight the Cold War and did not adapt to the new threat of terrorism. Wright said that the debate is between those who disagree on whether the priority should be human or technical intelligence.

Mr. Robert's viewpoint was that the Iraqi police are ineffective, and that our military is spread too thin. Roberts thought Bush had predetermined to invade Iraq. On the political front, Roberts observed that the difference between red states and blue states is church attendance. He said there is a culture war going on in the U.S.

**Diane Rehm - 6/7/04**

Segment 1 Subject: troop deployment in Iraq  
Participants: Col. Douglas McGregor, U.S. Army retired, author of "Transformation  
Under Fire."

James Fallows, Atlantic Monthly

Doug Zakheim, former Under Secretary of Defense

Col. McGregor's viewpoint was that troop tour of duty extensions in Iraq is hurting morale. Col. McGregor stated that U.S. troops are trained for linear combat not to be policemen in post-war Iraq. According to McGregor, the U.S. soldiers have killed innocent civilians which has bred bitterness and hatred among Iraqis.

Mr. Fallows viewpoint was the same as Col. McGregor; open-ended, repeat tours of duty damage morale.

Mr. Zakheim's raised questions about whether we have the right troop strength and whether we will have the right number of participant's in the post-war period.

Segment 2 Subject: Ronald Reagan  
Interview with Haynes Johnson, journalist and Reagan biographer.

Mr. Johnson commented on Reagan's legacy, including:

- Reagan was a great political actor and communicator;
- Poor President Carter tried long and hard to free hostages in Iran, while Reagan was lucky that they were released on his first day in office;
- Reagan presided over the savings and loans scandal which was an economic disaster;
- Reagan's attitude was government is the problem unless it's my program;
- Reagan could have been impeached for the Contra arms for money scandal, which was an abuse of power;
- Reagan is given too much credit for ending the Cold War because every President contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union;
- Reagan caused a conservative revolution which ended the New Deal;
- Reagan was popular because of his kind personality;
- Reagan's budget cuts hurt people;
- Reagan armed the Taliban in Afghanistan;
- Reagan's economic policies made the rich richer and poor poorer.

Participant: David Frum, National Review.

Mr. Frum discussed honoring Reagan by putting him on the quarter, a Reagan Scholarship for Eastern European studies, and a memorial in D.C. Mr. Frum said he thinks Reagan moved the Democratic Party to the center.

#### **Diane Rehm - 6/8/04**

Segment 1 Subject: Latino influence in U.S.

Participant: Jorge Ramos, anchor at Univision and author of "Latino Wave."

Mr. Ramos cited statistics showing growing Latino presence in the U.S. Politically Mr. Ramos said Latinos side with Republicans on values and with Democrats on health, education and welfare. Ramos' viewpoint was the Latino vote will make the difference in the 2004 election. Ramos feels Latinos do not have enough political representation and should make an alliance with blacks.

According to Ramos, most Latinos want to be accepted, and are loyal to the U.S. Many Latinos serve in the military but are not citizens. Ramos said Reagan was popular with Latinos, and Bush's immigration policy is not realistic.

Segment 2 Subject: Israeli politics

Interview with Karen Fowler, author of the "Jane Austin Bookclub."

This segment was a literary discussion of Austen.

Segment 3 Subject: Airlines industry in the U.S. Participant:  
Scott McCartney, Wall Street Journal  
Cary Keene, Independent Air  
John Ash, Global Aviation

Mr. McCartney's view is that low cost carriers like Southwest can provide low fares because they bought futures on fuel for cash whereas United and other major airlines pay market rate. McCartney also said lower internet fares hurt travel agencies.

Keene's observed that the major airlines cannot match fares and make a profit.

Mr. Ash's viewpoint was that labor contracts contribute to the cost problem, but that safety has not been an issue.

**Diane Rehm - 6/10/04**

Segment 1 Subject: **Race in America**

Interview with Janet Laughart Cohen, author of "From Rage to Reason."

Ms. Cohen, wife of former Defense Secretary Bill Cohen, discussed her life as a black woman growing up in Indiana in post-WWII. She chose an all black school because of racism in Society. According to Cohen, the country is color-conscious but race=ism is more subtle now. Today it is harder to detect and easier to deny.

Commenting on Iraq, Cohen observed that it is a strange idea to win hearts and minds of people by bombing them.

Segment 2 Subject: Bias in the media

Participant: Andrew Koher, Pew Trust  
Ted Rosentiel, Project for Excellence in Journalism

Mr. Koher discussed a recent poll of the media which showed extreme polarization in the media; Fox News on the right, CNN on the left. Koher cited age, gender and religious statistics. Koher also observed that talk radio is a huge advantage for Republicans.

Mr. Rosentiel's viewpoint was that journalists define themselves as 65% moderate, 25% liberal and 10% conservative, but maintain that they remain above the fray and that ideology is not a factor. Resentiel feels business pressures erodes the quality of journalism. He observed that **NPR** is heard more by liberals.

Subject: treatment of prisoners in Iraq.

Participant: Dana Priest, Washington Post

Priest's viewpoint was that the Bush Administration decided that Taliban and Al Qaeda prisoners did not deserve to be given rights according to the Geneva Convention. Some military lawyers opposed the tactics. Some in the Bush Administration say that while insulting prisoners was wrong, it was not torture. The polls showed that there was support for torturing Al Qaeda, but not Iraqis. There was a failure by senior officers to train the soldiers in Geneva Convention rules.

Participant: Georgetown University Law Professor David Cole.

Mr. Cole discussed the handling by Secretary Rumsfeld of the DOJ memo on prisoner treatment by saying the intent was to muddy the water and violate international law. The White House adopted the memo wholesale. The military has no integrity to conduct an investigation. The U.S. has suffered in world opinion as a result of the prison scandal.

Participant: Ruth Wedgewood, Johns Hopkins University.

Ms. Wedgewood's viewpoint was that the Bush Administration is responsible for the abuses at the prison and the White House should denounce them as wrong. The memo was a result of wreckless lawyers at the DOJ.

Subject: intelligence failure that led to 9/11.

Interview with James Bamford, investigative journalist and author of "A Protest for War."

Mr. Bamford's viewpoint:

- The reason for going to war was not the truth, there were no weapons of mass destruction.
- There was no connection between bin Laden and Saddam.
- Bush planned the war before 9/11.
- Our government was in chaos on 9/11.
- CIA geared to spy of Cold War communists, not fight modern terrorists.
- CIA did not recruit foreign agents trained in Middle East languages.
- White House pressured CIA to come up with reasons to go to war with Iraq.
- There are more terrorists now than before the war.
- U.S. put Israel's interest over our own.

**Diane Rehm - 6/22/04**

Subject: polling data for 2004 election.

Participant: Stu Rothenberg.

Mr. Rothenberg's viewpoint was that the election will be a referendum on Bush. One of Bush's problems is plant closing and job loss in Ohio. While there is good news in the overall economic statistics, the reality of the situation was individuals do not feel it.

Participant: Tod Lindbergh, editor Policy Review.

Mr. Lindberg's view was that Bush is depending on national security issues to win. The economy is improving but there is lag until it is felt by individuals. Polls reflect on 50-50 divide in the country. The prison scandal hurt Bush. The Catholic Bishops statements could produce a backlash for Kerry.

Participants: Stanley Greenberg, Public Opinion Strategies.

Mr. Greenberg's viewpoint was that methods of sampling produces different results, likely voters or registered voters. Most voters feel U.S. is less safe than before the war. Mr. Greenberg observed that most reporters are liberal. --

Rehm said she didn't understand why the public thinks the press is liberal after their treatment of Clinton and Gore.

Interview with Barry Lopez, author of "Resistance."

The discussion was about Lopez's book and his career. Mr. Lopez' novel was about nine people from the U.S. who lived in nine places around the world. They all received a letter from the U.S. Government asking them to come in for questioning. They go underground rather than to submit to government interrogation.

Mr. Lopez said his writing is more intensely political now. He fears a totalitarian regime in the U.S. The current administration has no respect for diversity. Graffiti around the world insults the U.S.; people are harassed because of religious or political beliefs or their nationality.

#### **Diane Rehm - 6/23/04**

Segment 1 Subject: Genetic testing.

Participant: Dr. Allesandro Godini, Georgetown University Dr.  
Kathy Hudson, Johns Hopkins University Dr.  
Arthur Bodette, Baylor College of Medicine Dr.  
Lisa Fries, George Washington University

Dr. Godini's viewpoint was that in advising abortion as an option the duties of a physician override the policies of the Institution..

Dr. Hudson discussed the need for testing Jewish and Afro-American for special diseases more likely to affect them.

Dr. Bodette discussed the unlimited possibilities of new advances in DNA chips to screen for birth defects, cystic fibrosis, and mental retardation.

Dr. Fries stated that healthcare providers should present choices ---options not mandates - -- when advising patients about genetic screening.



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