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WHITE COLLAR ENFORCEMENT (PART 1):
ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE AND CORPORATE
WAIVERS

Tuesday, March 7, 2006

House of Representatives,

Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security,

Committee on the Judiciary,

Washington, D.C.

Committee Hearings

of the

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



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- The subcommittee met, pursuant to notice, at 12:00 p.m.,
- in Room 2141, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Howard
- 12 Coble [chairman of the subcommittee] presiding.

Mr. COBLE. Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. We welcome you to this important oversight hearing on white collar crime and the issue of the attorney-client privilege and waivers by corporations in criminal investigations.

At first blush, some may say that this topic is an arcane legal issue with little relevance to the general public. In fact, the attorney-client privilege is deeply rooted in our values and the legal profession. It encourages openness and honesty between clients and their attorneys so that clients hopefully can receive effective advice and counsel.

But this privilege is not inviolate. When it comes to corporate crime, there is and probably always will be an institutional tension between preserving corporate attorney-client and work product privileges and a prosecutor's quest to unearth the truth about criminal acts.

I know that one of the most important engines in our criminal justice system is cooperation. By encouraging and rewarding cooperation, prosecutors are able to unearth sophisticated fraud schemes which cause devastating harm to investors and employees and undermine our faith in the markets.

But the possible benefits of cooperation cannot be used to support a prosecutor's laundry list of demands for a cooperating corporation. Prosecutors must be zealous and

vigorous in their efforts to bring corporate actors to justice. However, zeal does not in my opinion equate with coercion in fair enforcement of these laws.

To me, the important question is whether prosecutors seeking to investigate corporate crimes can gain access to the information without requiring a waiver of the attorney-client privilege. There is no excuse for prosecutors to require privilege waivers as a routine matter, it seems to me.

The subcommittee will examine the important issue with a keen eye to determine whether Federal prosecutors are routinely requiring cooperating corporations to waive such privilege. Then-Acting Deputy Attorney General McCallum issued a memorandum on October 21, 2005 which mandated a change in Justice Department policy to try to establish a more uniform review procedure for any such requirement imposed by a prosecutor.

This is a welcome development, and the subcommittee is interested in determining how that policy has been implemented. I am also aware of the fact that the Sentencing Commission is examining its current policy of encouraging such waivers when determining the nature and extent of cooperation.

While the guidelines do not explicitly mandate a waiver of privileges for the full benefit of cooperation, in

practical terms we have to make sure that they do not operate to impose such a requirement. Our subcommittee needs to examine this issue, work closely with the Sentencing Commission, the defense bar, and the Justice Department to make sure that a fair balance is struck.

I look forward to hearing from our distinguished panel of witnesses today, and I am now pleased to recognize the distinguished gentleman from Virginia, the Ranking Member of the subcommittee, Mr. Bobby Scott.

[The statement of Mr. Coble follows:]

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Mr. SCOTT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I want to thank you for holding this hearing on attorney-client privilege and corporate waivers of that privilege.

Attorney-client privilege is more usually associated with the context of protecting an individual from having to disclose communications with his or her lawyer for the purpose of criminal or civil prosecution, corporations or persons, for the sake of legal processes that are also entitled to attorney-client privilege.

As noted by the United States Supreme Court in Upjohn vs. U.S., the attorney-client privilege is the oldest of privileges for confidential communications known to common law. Its purpose is to encourage full and frank communications between attorneys and their clients so that sound legal advice and advocacy can be given by counsel. Such advice or activity depends upon the lawyer being fully informed by the client.

As noted in other cases, the lawyer-client privilege rests on the need for the advocate and counselor to know all that relates to the client's reasons for seeking representation if the professional mission is to be carried out. This purpose can only be effectively carried out when the client is free from consequences or apprehensions regarding the possibility of disclosure of the information.

Exceptions to protections of the attorney--excuse me.

Exceptions to the protections of the privilege do exist, but they have generally been limited to the crime-fraud exception, which holds that the privilege does not apply to an attorney-client communication in furtherance of a crime, or other cases where the client has already waived the privilege through disclosure to a non-privileged third party.

Now it appears that the Department of Justice has determined that there may be another exception, that is, when it wishes the corporation to waive the privilege in the context of a criminal investigation. For some time now I have been concerned about reports that the Department of Justice is coercing corporations to waive their attorney-client privilege during criminal investigations of the corporation and its employees by making waiver a prerequisite for consideration by the Department and its recommendation for not challenging leniency should criminal conduct be established.

Now, this is particularly significant because under mandatory minimums and sentencing guidelines, prosecutorial motions for leniency may be the only way to get a sentence under the mandatory minimum. So in this case, a prosecutor often has more control over sentencing than the judge.

While the attorney-client privilege doctrine does apply to corporations, complications arise when the client is a corporation since the corporate privilege has to be asserted

by persons who may themselves be the target of a criminal investigation or subject to criminal charges based on the disclosed attorney-client information. Disclosed information can be used either in criminal prosecutions or civil prosecutions. Whatever fiduciary duty an official may have to the corporation and its shareholders, it is probably superseded by the official's own self-interest in the criminal investigation.

And there is no protection for employees of the corporation against waivers of the attorney-client privilege by officials who may have their own self-interest at heart. This includes information provided by employees to corporate counsel to assist internal investigations by the corporation, even if the information was under threat of an employee being fired and even if the information constituted self-incrimination by the employee.

It is one thing for officials of a corporation to break the attorney-client privilege in their own self-interest by their own volition. It is another thing for the Department to require or coerce it by making leniency considerations contingent upon it, even when it is merely on a fishing expedition on the part of the Department. Complaints have indicated that the practice of requiring a waiver of the corporate attorney-client privilege has become routine. And, of course, why wouldn't it be the case? What is the

advantage to the Department of not requiring a waiver in the corporate investigation?

Now, because of the exclusionary rule, when a confession is coerced or a search is conducted illegally, anything that is found of that becomes fruit of a poisonous tree and can't be used in a criminal prosecution. So police and prosecutors who jeopardize the case by such tainted evidence are generally disparaged by their colleagues, and thus there is a disincentive for them to pursue and collect such evidence in the first place. There is no incentive to collect evidence if it is going to ruin the case.

Although coerced confessions and illegal searches are always improper, before the exclusionary rule there was an incentive for police to coerce confessions and illegally obtain information because they could make a case based on it, and there was no penalty.

Here we have the same incentives with respect to the waiver of corporate privilege. So, not surprisingly, reports are the demand for waivers are rising, not only by the Department but by other entities as well, such as auditors as a prerequisite of issuing a clean audit.

Now, coercing corporate attorney-client privileges has not been--has not long been the practice in the Department. It has really been the last two administrations that have practiced this, and it has been growing by leaps and bounds.

Corporate attorney-client privilege has not always been the prerequisite for leniency. Providing non-privileged documents and information and providing broad access to corporate premises and employees have been traditional ways to receive benefits of corporate cooperation.

Some nine U.S. Attorneys General, Deputy Attorneys
General, and Solicitors General have expressed their concerns
about the current Departmental waiver policy. We will hear
from witnesses today who have prosecuted corporate cases
without requiring such waiver. And so, Mr. Chairman, we look
forward to the testimony by witnesses and to working with you
to address the concerns regarding the Department's corporate
attorney-client waiver policy.

[The statement of Mr. Scott follows:]

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Mr. COBLE. Thank you, Mr. Scott. And gentlemen, we have been joined by the distinguished gentleman from California, Mr. Lungren, the distinguished gentleman from Florida, Mr. Feeney, and distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. Delahunt.

Gentlemen, what I am about to do I am very awkward in doing it. It is customary for the subcommittee to administer the oath to the panelists. I know you all. I know you don't need to be sworn in to tell the truth. But if you don't mind, would each of you please stand and raise your hands.

[Witnesses sworn.]

Mr. COBLE. Let the record show each witness answered in the affirmative. And I have had the fear if I depart with you all, then the next panel is going to wonder why I don't depart from them. But you all, I am not worried about what you all say violating the truth in any way.

As I said before, we have four distinguished witnesses with us today. Our first witness is Mr. Robert McCallum, Jr., Associate Attorney General of the Department of Justice. In this capacity, Mr. McCallum advises and assists the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney General in formulating policies pertaining to a broad range of civil justice, Federal and local law enforcement, and public safety matters. Prior to this appointment, he served as Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division. Mr. McCallum

received his undergraduate and law degrees from Yale
University, and was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University.

Our second witness is returning to the Hill after some extended absence, the Honorable Dick Thornburgh of Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham. Mr. Thornburgh's distinguished public career extends over a quarter of a century. He previously served as Governor of Pennsylvania, Attorney General under Presidents Reagan and Bush, and Undersecretary General of the United Nations.

Mr. Thornburgh has been awarded honorary degrees by 31 colleges and universities, and previously served as Director of the Institute of Politics at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. Mr. Thornburgh earned his undergraduate degree at Yale and his law degree at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.

Our third witness is Mr. Thomas Donohue, President and CEO of the United States Chamber of Commerce. In his current capacity, Mr. Donohue has expanded the influence of the Chamber across the globe. He engaged the Chamber Institute for Legal Reform and revitalized the National Chamber Foundation. Previously, Mr. Donohue served for 13 years as President and CEO of the American Trucking Association, and was awarded his bachelors degree from St. Johns University and a masters degree from Adelphi University.

Our fourth and final witness today is Mr. William

Sullivan, Jr., litigation partner at Winston & Strawn. In this capacity, Mr. Sullivan concentrates on corporate internal investigations, trial practice, white collar criminal defense, and complex securities litigation.

Previously, he served for over 10 years as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, and has worked in private practice as a litigator. Additionally, Mr. Sullivan has addressed the World Trade Organization on Sarbanes-Oxley issues. He received his bachelors and masters degrees from Tufts University and his law degree from Cornell University.

Gentlemen, it is good to have you all with us. And as we have previously told you, without hamstringing you too severely, we try to apply the 5-minute rule here. And when you all see that amber light on your panel appear, that tells you that the ice on which you are skating is becoming thin. You have about a minute to go. And we're not going to keelhaul anybody for violating it, but if you can wrap up in as close to 5 minutes as you can.

Mr. McCallum, why don't you kick us off.

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT D. McCALLUM, JR., ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

GENERAL, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE; HON. DICK THORNBURGH,

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART NICHOLSON GRAHAM LLP; THOMAS J.

DONOHUE, PRESIDENT AND CEO, U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; AND

WILLIAM M. SULLIVAN, JR., LITIGATION PARTNER, WINSTON &

STRAWN

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT D. McCALLUM, JR.

Mr. MCCALLUM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Scott, and members of the committee. We appreciate at the Department of Justice this opportunity to appear before you today.

Now, President Bush, this Congress, and the American people have all embraced a zero tolerance policy when it comes to corporate fraud. In passing the landmark Sarbanes-Oxley legislation in 2002, Congress gave the Department of Justice clear marching orders: prosecute fully those who would use their positions of power and influence in corporate America to enrich themselves unlawfully, and thereby restore confidence in our financial markets.

And we have done exactly that, Mr. Chairman. From July 2002 through December 2005, the Department has secured more than 900 corporate fraud convictions, including 85 presidents, 82 chief executive officers, 40 chief financial

officers, 14 chief operating officers, 17 corporate counsel or attorneys, and 98 vice presidents, as well as millions of dollars in damages for victims of fraud.

Much of our success depends on our ability to secure cooperation. As Chairman Sensenbrenner noted recently, and I quote, 'By encouraging and rewarding corporate cooperation, our laws serve the public interest in promoting corporate compliance, minimizing use of our enforcement resources, and leading to the prosecution and punishment of the most culpable actors.''

The Department's approach to corporate fraud is set forth in the so-called Thompson Memorandum, issued by Larry D. Thompson as Deputy Attorney General. Pursuant to that memorandum, the degree to which a corporation cooperates with a criminal investigation may be a factor to be considered by prosecutors when determining whether or not to charge the corporation with criminal misconduct.

Cooperation in turn depends on--and here I quote the Thompson Memorandum--'the corporation's willingness to identify the culprits within the corporation, including senior executives; to make witnesses available; to disclose the complete results of its internal investigation; and to waive attorney-client and work product protections.''

Some critics have suggested that the Department is contemptuous of legal privileges. Nothing could be further

from the truth. We recognize the ability to communicate freely with counsel can serve legitimate and important functions and encourage responsible corporate stewardship and corporate governance.

But at the same time, we all must recognize that corporate fraud is often highly difficult to detect. Indeed, in recent years we have witnessed a series of highly complex corporate scandals which would have been difficult to prosecute in a timely and efficient manner without corporate cooperation, including in some instances the waiver of privileges.

The Thompson Memorandum carefully balances the legitimate interests furthered by the privilege, and the societal benefits of rigorous enforcement of the laws supporting ethical standards of conduct.

There is also a so-called McCallum Memorandum, issued during my tenure as Acting Deputy Attorney General last year, which adds to this balancing of the competing interests. The McCallum memorandum first ensures that no Federal prosecutor may request a waiver without supervisory review. And second, it requires each United States Office to institute a written waiver review policy governing such requests.

Mr. Chairman, I recognize that despite these limitations and restrictions, there are some critics of the Department's approach. While I look forward to addressing specific

concerns of the members of this subcommittee that may occur during the questioning, let me make a few preliminary observations.

First, voluntary disclosure is but one factor in assessing cooperation, and cooperation in turn is but one factor among many considered in any charging decisions.

Disclosures thus is not required to obtain credit for cooperation in all cases; cooperation may be had by corporations most readily without waiving anything, simply by identifying the employees best situated to provide the Government with relevant information.

Nor can the Government compel corporations to give waivers. Corporations are generally represented by sophisticated and accomplished counsel who are fully capable of calculating the benefits or harms of disclosures.

Sometimes they agree; sometimes they do not agree. Whether to disclose information voluntarily always remains within the corporation's choice. And in fact, voluntary disclosures are frequently initiated by the corporate counsel and not by the Government.

Second, under our process, waivers of privileges should not be routinely sought, and we believe are not routinely sought. Indeed, they should be sought based upon a need for three things: timely, complete, and accurate information.

And they should be requested pursuant to the established

guidelines, and only with supervisory approval.

Third, our approach does not diminish a corporation's willingness to undertake investigations, in our view. Wholly apart from the Government's criminal investigations, corporate management owes to its shareholders, not to itself or to its employees, but to its shareholders, a fiduciary duty to investigate potential wrongdoing and to take corrective action. To the extent that shareholders are best served by timely internal investigations, responsible management will always do so.

And finally, in some jurisdictions, voluntary disclosure to the Government waives privileges in civil litigation seeking monetary damages, thus, it is said, compounding the corporation's litigation risk. Addressing this concern, the committee should be aware that the Evidence Committee of the Advisory Rules of the Judicial Conference is currently considering a rule that would limit use by others of privileged material voluntarily provided by a corporation in its cooperation with a Government investigation. We at the Department of Justice will be involved in the Federal Rules Advisory Committee on Evidence considering that, and we will watch that debate with interest.

In sum, Mr. Chairman, we believe that the Department has struck an appropriate balance between traditional privileges and the American people's legitimate law enforcement needs

and the necessity of establishing standards. 382 Thank you for the opportunity to testify. 383 384 [The statement of Mr. McCallum follows:] 385

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386 Mr. COBLE. Thank you, Mr. McCallum.

Mr. Thornburgh.

388 | TESTIMONY OF HON. DICK THORNBURGH

Mr. THORNBURGH. Chairman Coble, Ranking Member Scott, members of the subcommittee, I want to thank you for the invitation to speak to you today about the grave dangers posed to the attorney-client privilege and work product doctrine by current governmental policies and practices.

At the outset, let me commend you for being the first Congressional body to convene a hearing on this very worrisome situation. The attorney-client privilege, as we all know, is a fundamental element of the American system of justice, and I fear that we have all been too slow in recognizing how seriously the privilege has been undermined in the past several years by Government action. Your focus on this issue today is vitally needed and much appreciated.

The attorney-client privilege is the oldest of the evidentiary privileges originating in the common law of England in the 1500s. Although the privilege shields from disclosure evidence that might otherwise be admissible, courts have found that this potential loss of evidence is outweighed by the benefits to the immediate client, who receives better advice, and to society as a whole, which obtains the benefits of voluntary legal compliance.

These ideas have been embraced time and time again by our courts. In the words of the Supreme Court, the privilege

encourages ''full and frank communication between attorneys and their clients, and thereby promotes broader public interest in the observance of law and the administration of justice.'' The attorney-client privilege is thus a core element in a law-abiding society and a well-ordered commercial world.

And yet the previously solid protection that attorney-client communications have enjoyed has been profoundly shaken by a trend in law enforcement for the Government to, in effect, demand a waiver of a corporation's privilege as a precondition for granting the benefits of cooperation that might prevent indictment or diminish punishment. These pressures emanate chiefly from the Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Beginning with the 1999 Holder Memorandum, and as more forcefully stated in the 2003 Thompson Memorandum, the Department of Justice has made clear its policy that waiver of the attorney-client and work product protections is an important element in determining whether a corporation may get favorable treatment for cooperation. The SEC, in a public report issued at the conclusion of an investigation, outlined a similar policy.

Finally, the U.S. Sentencing Commission in 2004 amended the commentary to its sentencing guidelines so that waiver of

privilege becomes a significant factor in determining whether an organization has engaged in timely and thorough cooperation necessary for obtaining leniency. Following the Federal lead, State law enforcement officials are beginning to demand broad privilege waivers, as are self-regulatory organizations and the auditing profession.

While the tone of these documents may be moderate, and officials representing these entities stress their intent to implement them in reasonable ways, it has now become abundantly clear that in actual practice, these policies pose overwhelming temptations to prosecutors seeking to save time and resources and to target organizations desperate to save their very existence. And each waiver has a ripple effect that creates more demands for greater disclosures, both in individual cases and as a matter of practice. Once a corporation discloses a certain amount of information, then the bar is raised for the next situation, and each subsequent corporation will need to provide more information to be deemed cooperative.

The result is documented in a survey released just this week to which over 1400 in-house and outside counsel responded, in which almost 75 percent of both groups agreed--almost 40 percent agreeing strongly--that a culture of waiver has evolved in which Government agencies believe it is reasonable and appropriate for them to expect a company

under investigation to broadly waive attorney-client privilege or work product protections.

I practice law at a major firm with a significant white collar criminal defense practice. My partners generally report that they now encounter waiver requests in virtually every organizational criminal investigation in which they are involved. In their experience, waiver has become a standard expectation of Federal prosecutors. Others with whom I have spoken in the white collar defense bar tell me the same thing.

I am prepared to concede that the significance of these developments took some time to penetrate beyond the Beltway and the relatively small community of white collar defense lawyers. It is clear, however, that as the legal profession has become aware of the problem, it has resulted in a strong and impassioned defense of the attorney-client privilege and the work product protection.

This issue was the hottest topic at last summer's annual meeting of the American Bar Association, and at its conclusion, the ABA House of Delegates unanimously passed a resolution that strongly supports the preservation of the attorney-client privilege and opposes policies, practices, and procedures of Government bodies that have the effect of eroding the attorney-client privilege.

I was one of those nine former Department of Justice

officials from both Republican and Democratic administrations who, as the Chairman noted, signed a letter to the Sentencing Commission last summer urging it to reconsider its recent amendment regarding waiver.

It is never a simple matter to enlist such endorsements, particularly in the summertime and on short notice. And yet it was not difficult at all to secure those nine signatures because all feel so strongly about the fundamental role the attorney-client privilege and work product protections play in our system of justice.

We feel just as strongly that the other governmental policies and practices outlined above seriously undermine those protections. As you know, I served as a Federal prosecutor for many years, and I supervised other Federal prosecutors in my capacities as U.S. Attorney, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division, and Attorney General of the United States. Throughout those years, requests to organizations we were investigating to hand over privileged information never came to my attention. One wonders what has changed in the past decade to warrant such a dramatic encroachment on the attorney-client privilege.

Clearly, in order to be deemed cooperative, an organization under investigation must provide to the Government all relevant factual information and documents in

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its possession, and it should assist the Government by explaining the relevant facts and identifying individuals with knowledge of them. But in doing so, it should not have to reveal privileged communications or attorney work product.

That limitation is necessary to maintain the primacy of those protections in our system of justice. It is a fair limitation on prosecutors, who have extraordinary powers to gather information for themselves. This balance is one I found workable in my years of Federal service, and it should be restored.

I was pleased to see the Sentencing Commission earlier this year request comment on whether it should delete or amend the commentary sentence regarding waiver. In testimony last fall, I urged it to provide affirmatively that waiver should not be a factor in assessing cooperation. I understand that the American Bar Association will shortly approach the Department of Justice with a request that the Thompson Memorandum be revised in similar fashion. These are promising developments.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you again for beginning a much-needed process of Congressional oversight of the privilege waiver crisis. This is not an issue that Washington lobby groups have orchestrated, but it is one that likely will take Congressional attention to resolve.

Thank you. I look forward to your questions.

Thank you, Mr. Thornburgh.

And Mr. Donohue, in a sense of equity and fairness,

since I permitted Mr. McCallum and Mr. Thornburgh to exceed

the red light, I will not crack the hammer on you once that

red light illuminates.

You are now recognized.

Mr. COBLE.

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545 TESTIMONY OF THOMAS J. DONOHUE

Mr. DONOHUE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Scott, members of the committee.

I am here today representing the Chamber and on behalf of a coalition to preserve the attorney-client privilege, which includes many of the major legal and business associations in our country, including the American Chemistry Council, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Association of Corporate Counsel, the Business Civil Liberties, Inc., the Business Roundtable, the Financial Services Roundtable, Frontiers of Freedom, the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Defense Industrial Association, the Retail Industry Leaders Association, and the Washington Legal Foundation.

I should add that the coalition is working closely with the American Bar Association, which has separately submitted written testimony here today detailing its concerns about the erosion of the attorney-client privilege. ABA policy prevents the organization from being listed as a member of broader coalitions.

The privilege to consult with an attorney freely, candidly, and confidentially is a fundamental constitutional right that in our opinion is under attack. Recent policy

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changes at the Department of Justice and, very importantly, at the SEC have permitted and encouraged the Government to demand or expect companies to waive their attorney-client privilege or work product protections during an investigation.

A company is required to waive its privilege in order to be seen as cooperating with Federal investigators. A company that refuses to waive its privilege risks being labeled as uncooperative, which all but guarantees that it will not get a chance to come to a settlement or receive, if it needs to, leniency in sentencing or fines.

But it goes far beyond that, Mr. Chairman. The uncooperative label can severely damage a company's brand, its shareholder value, their relationship with suppliers and customers, and their very ability to survive.

The enforcement agencies argue that waiver of attorney-client privilege is necessary for improving compliance and conducting effective and thorough investigation. The opposite, in my opinion, is true. An uncertain and unprotected attorney-client privilege actually diminishes compliance with the law.

If company employees responsible for compliance with complicated statutes and regulations know that their conversations with attorneys are not protected, they will simply choose not to seek appropriate legal guidance. The

result is that companies may fall out of compliance, often not intentionally, but because of a lack of communication and trust between a company's employees and its attorneys.

Similarly, during an investigation, if employees suspect that anything they say to their attorneys can be used against them, they won't say anything at all. That means that both the company and the Government will be unable to find out what went wrong, to punish wrongdoers, and to correct the company's compliance system.

And there is one other major consequence. Once the privilege is waived, third party private plaintiffs' lawyers can gain access to attorney-client conversations and use them to sue the company or other massive settlements. By the way, right now there are some arguments in the court about partial protection in waiving, and the question has been raised that perhaps the Government cannot even guarantee that.

How pervasive has this waiving of the attorney-client privilege become? Well, last November we presented findings to the U.S. Sentencing Commission showing that approximately a third of inside counsel respondents, and as many as 48 percent of outside counsel respondents, say they had personally experienced erosion of attorney-client privilege or work product protections.

After that presentation, the Sentencing Commission asked us for even more information about the frequency of waivers

and their impact. So our coalition commissioned a second, more detailed survey and got an even greater response rate from the members of our coalition partners. We publicly released the results of this second survey just this morning. They have been provided to the committee, along with more detailed coalition written statements on the subject.

Here are a couple of highlights, and I am going to skip them because General Thornburgh mentioned them, but 75 percent of both inside and outside counsel agreed with the statement that a culture of waiver has evolved to the point the Government agencies believe it is responsible and appropriate to expect a company under investigation to broadly waive attorney-client privilege or waiver protections. Of those who have been investigated, 55 percent of outside counsel say that that is the experience that they had.

Now, our coalition is aggressively seeking to reverse this erosion of confidence in the attorney-client provision and the conversations covered there. We are pleased that the U.S. Sentencing Committee has decided to revisit recently amended commentary to the guidelines that allow the waiver to be a cooperation factor in sentencing, and we have submitted more detailed materials to them.

We would encourage this committee to weigh in with its support of the attorney-client privilege to the Sentencing

Commission as it reconsiders its guidelines. It is important to note that the Department of Justice and other regulatory agencies have created this erosion of the privilege without seeking input, oversight, or approval from the Congress or the judiciary. And the plan, Mr. Chairman, that is on the table now, would allow all 92 jurisdictions of the Department of Justice across the country to have their own plan, their own determination, of what is covered and what is protected. That is going to be a circus.

We seek your input and strongly urge you to exercise your oversight of the Department of Justice and the SEC to ensure the protection of attorney-client privilege. Now, let me be very clear as I close: Our efforts are not about trying to protect corrupt companies or businesspeople.

Nobody wants corporate wrongdoers caught and punished more than I do and the legitimate and honest businesspeople that I represent. Rather, this is about protecting a well-established and vital constitutional right.

Mr. Chairman, I thank you and the members of the committee, and I look forward to your questions.

[The statement of Mr. Donohue follows:]

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Mr. COBLE. Thank you, Mr. Donohue.

667 Mr. Sullivan.

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TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM M. SULLIVAN, JR.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Thank you. Good afternoon, Chairman Coble, Ranking Member Scott, and members of the subcommittee. Thank you for your kind invitation to address you today concerning the Department of Justice policies and practices with regard to seeking attorney-client privilege and work product protection waivers from corporations, and whether the waiver of such privilege and protection should be relevant to assessing the corporations' cooperation efforts within the meaning of the organizational guidelines.

I am currently a partner at the law firm of Winston & Strawn, where I specialize in white collar criminal defense and corporate internal investigations. For 10 years, from 1991 to 2001, I served as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. In these capacities, I have been involved in virtually all aspects of white collar investigations and corporate defense.

I have overseen both criminal investigations as a prosecutor and internal corporate investigations as a defense attorney. And I have represented both corporations and individuals in internal investigations and before Federal law enforcement authorities and regulators as well as in class action, derivative, and ERISA litigation.

My perspective on corporate cooperation and the waiver of attorney-client and attorney work product privileges has therefore been forged not only by my experiences on both sides of the criminal justice system, but by my participation in the civil arena as well. This afternoon, I am eager to give you a view from the arena.

The real issue is not the waiver but what is being waived and how it was assembled. For business organizations today, the traditional protections afforded by the attorney-client privilege and the work product doctrine are under siege. The privilege reflects the public priority of facilitating the observance of law through candor with counsel.

Prosecutors and regulators now routinely demand that in return for the mere prospect of leniency, corporations engage in intensive internal investigations of alleged wrongdoing and submit detailed written reports documenting both the depth and breadth of their inquiry as well as the basis for their conclusions. Attorney impressions, opinions, and evaluations are necessarily included.

When pressed on this practice, many prosecutors and regulators will publicly insist that they are only seeking a roadmap--the identity of the individuals involved, the crucial acts, and the supporting documentation. However, this has not been my personal experience.

Just last week I was asked by a Government regulator in our very first meeting to broadly waive attorney-client private and work product protection and to provide copies of interview notes, even before I had completed my client's internal investigation myself, and accordingly, even before I had determined as corporate counsel that cooperation would be in my client's best interest.

Incredibly, I was further asked whether or not I was appearing as an advocate for my client the corporation or whether I was an independent third party. Presumably, the regulators had hoped that I would undertake their investigation for them, despite the fact that I would be paid by my client to do so.

Most importantly, however, such roadmap requests fail to relieve the valid concerns of corporations related to privilege and work product waivers. A less than carefully drawn roadmap risks a broad subject matter waiver of attorney-client privilege and attorney work product protection under a current authority applicable in just about every jurisdiction.

The waiver of attorney-client communications arriving in connection with a factual roadmap subsequently disclosed to law enforcement extends beyond the disclosure itself and encompasses all communications on that subject matter. The consequences of this result can be extreme, in that even a

rudimentary roadmap is the product of information obtained through thousands of hours of legal work spent conducting interviews, parsing statements from hundreds of pages of interview notes, and analyzing thousands and perhaps millions of pages of both privileged and nonprivileged corporate documents.

Furthermore, the waiver would be applicable not only to the law enforcement officials receiving the information, but would also embrace future third parties, including other Government agencies and opportunistic plaintiffs' counsel seeking fodder for class action and derivative strike suits.

In addressing the practice of conditioning leniency for disclosure of otherwise privileged reports, I believe that a balance must be struck between the legitimate interests of law enforcement in pursuing and punishing the legal conduct, the benefits to be retained by corporations which assist this process and determine to take remedial action, and the rights of individual employees.

It is imperative that we do not sacrifice accuracy and fundamental fairness for expedience and convenience now routinely requested by the Government. An equilibrium much achieved between the aforementioned competing concerns.

The issues being addressed today in this committee meeting are not simply part of an academic debate. Across the country, there are dozens of corporations scrutinized in

internal investigations at any one time, with real consequences for real people. These investigations directly impact the lives of thousands of workers and millions of shareholders.

In conditioning leniency upon the disclosure of otherwise privileged information, we need to accommodate the competing interests of effective law enforcement, the benefits down to deserving corporations, the corporation's own interests and its ability to observe law through consultation with counsel, and the fundamental rights of individual employees.

Reaching a consensus on the information sought by the Government, limiting that information to non-opinion factual work product or perhaps the adoption of a selective waiver for cooperating corporations, and lucid, comprehensive standards to guide internal investigations, are each important first steps.

Thank you, and I look forward to your questions.

[The statement of Mr. Sullivan follows:]

******* SUBCOMMITTEE INSERT *******

Mr. COBLE. Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.

Mr. McCallum, I think--by the way, we apply the 5-minute rule to ourselves as well, so we will try to move along here.

Mr. McCallum, I think Mr. Donohue may have touched on this. And where I am coming from is: Does the policy require uniform review? That is to say, a United States Attorney in the Middle District of North Carolina, would it be likely or unlikely that he or she would be operating under a policy that would be identical to the Eastern District of Virginia?

Your mike is not on, Mr. McCallum.

Mr. MCCALLUM. Mr. Chairman, in response to that question, the memorandum that I issued does allow for the different United States Attorneys to institute a review policy in accordance with the peculiar circumstance of their particular district.

For instance, the Southern District of New York may be very different than the District of Montana in terms of the number of sophisticated corporate cases that involve allegations of corporate fraud, and therefore the number of people that are in the Southern District of New York, the number of Assistant United States Attorneys that are available for the review process, may be very different than the number of attorneys that are in a different district.

So it is not identical, but it affords the type of

prosecutorial discretion in the United States Attorney to determine what it will be, and that is coordinated through the Executive Office of United States Attorneys in the Department of Justice as well.

Mr. COBLE. I thank you, sir. Now, you indicated, Mr. McCallum, that in some instances, the corporate defendant may well be the one to initiate the waiver. Do you have any figures as to, comparatively speaking, Government initiated or defendant initiated?

Mr. MCCALLUM. Mr. Chairman, we do not have statistical figures like that. And most of the surveys, including, we believe, the survey that we have not yet seen that the Chamber of Commerce just issued this morning, are based more on perception and anecdotal evidence than they are on very, very specific identification of particular cases.

We have been involved in a dialogue with various business representatives, including the task force of the American Bar Association that is dealing with this issue, with its chairman. And we invited him and Jamie Conrad, who is here today, to come out and talk with the United States Attorneys last year at their annual conference to make sure that the United States Attorneys were aware of exactly the concerns and the issues that the business community was seeing in this.

And we were told at that time that a very detailed study

of particular cases would be prepared and would be provided to us. And just last week, Mr. Ide, the ABA chairman, indicated to me that that was forthcoming. That will allow us to dig down into the specifics because each case is really unique, Mr. Chairman. And it is that sort of detailed analysis that will be necessary to determine or refute the 'routineness' with which these waivers are requested. We do not believe that they are 'routinely' requested.

Mr. COBLE. I thank you, Mr. McCallum.

Mr. Thornburgh, during your many years of public service, were you ever aware of any criminal case in which the Justice Department sought or required an attorney-client privilege waiver from a cooperating corporation, A; and if so, what was and is your position on that issue?

Mr. THORNBURGH. I am not aware of any such request, Mr. Chairman, although I can't absolutely verify that such a request was not made at any time during the 25 years that I have been affiliated one way or another with the Department of Justice. It is a development of the last decade or so.

I would just like to add a footnote to Mr. McCallum's response. It seems to me that the Department is giving up too much by permitting each United States Attorney to frame his own set of policies on this kind of question. Uniformity and internal Department of Justice review has been adopted in any number of areas that are sensitive, such as issuing a

subpoena to an attorney or to a reporter, or using undercover sting operations. Those are not within the discretion of the U.S. Attorney. And when we are dealing with such a sensitive and venerable privilege as the attorney-client privilege, it seems to me that ought to be the kind of rule that is applied.

Secondly, I think that there is a controversy, at least, with regard to statistics about whether or not frequent use is made of this waiver request. And the easiest way to do that is to promulgate a review process within the Department so that you have readily available at your fingertips the absolute number of times it has been carried out.

If, as the Department claims, these are limited and infrequent, it would not impose any undue burden. If, on the other hand, they are as the perceptions indicate from this report, it would provide a solid base for evaluating whether or not this process is going forward in the right manner.

Mr. COBLE. I thank you, Mr. Thornburgh. I see my time has expired. Gentlemen, we probably will have a second round of questioning because I have questions for Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Donohue. This is significant enough, I think, to do that.

The gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman, we have a public policy on the

attorney-client privilege which we are trying to protect. There are other kind of public policies that can't be--where you can't use certain things as evidence when you are trying to investigate and fix a problem. You can't--the fact that you fixed a product subsequently can't be used to show negligence of the former product because that would obviously discourage fixing. Evidence that you tried to settle a case can't be used as an admission because that would discourage settlements.

Is there a public policy that we want to protect in trying to protect, to the extent possible, the attorney-client privilege, Mr. McCallum?

Mr. MCCALLUM. Ranking Member Scott, there is unquestionably recognized within the Department of Justice the societal benefits that attend to the attorney-client privilege and work product privilege and various other privileges. And it is certainly something that the United States Attorneys are--and the other Federal prosecutors are mindful of.

And I think that one of the things that you are alluding to is something that all three of my distinguished panelists have touched on, and that is the providing of information to the Government, whether to a regulator or to a prosecutor, and the consequences of that disclosure in the civil litigation area.

Now, that, I mentioned previously, is an area that the Federal Rules Advisory Committee on Evidence is looking at. It is also an area that there have been bills introduced and the Congress to address that issue. So I think that there is certainly recognition.

Mr. SCOTT. Well, I think Mr. Donohue kind of alluded to civil litigation because if somebody blurts something out in a criminal investigation totally unrelated to what may be said affecting civil litigation, you could open yourself up to all kinds of problems including massive punitive damages if all that information got out. Is that right?

Mr. MCCALLUM. There is a consequence of a waiver of attorney-client privilege, and one context being a waiver in other contexts. That is correct, Mr. Scott.

Mr. SCOTT. Okay. Well, have you ever asked for waivers in individual cases?

Mr. MCCALLUM. I am sure that, like former Attorney
General Thornburgh, I can't tell you that that has never
happened. I am--it has never happened in any case that I am
involved in. And I think there is one issue that needs to be
focused on here, is that there is an issue of attorney-client
waivers, privilege waivers, by the corporation. That is, the
lawyers who represent the corporation. In my opening
statement, I made the point that they do not represent the
management. They do not represent employees.

And I am sure that Mr. Sullivan, every time he does an internal investigation and interviews a witness, he explains to them exactly who he represents, i.e., that it is the corporation, and that that individual who is being interviewed is not his client and there is no attorney-client privilege between him and that individual.

Mr. SCOTT. Well, I mean, in an individual criminal case where an individual is the defendant, have you ever asked for a waiver of attorney-client privilege?

Mr. MCCALLUM. I never have, Mr. Scott. But my experience over my 35-year career has been predominately in the civil litigation area. So I would not be someone who would be able to respond to that effectively.

Mr. SCOTT. Have you ever had cases that the defendant, the corporate defendant, got leniency for cooperation when they had not waived attorney-client privilege?

Mr. MCCALLUM. I cannot personally testify to that. I can tell you that within the Department, I am informed by those that have extensive experience in the criminal area that that is indeed the case, that cooperation is but one factor in the Thompson Memorandum in determining whether to indict someone. And it is a factor, of course, in the Sentencing Commission current matters.

Mr. SCOTT. Can you get the cooperation benefit without waiving attorney-client privilege?

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Mr. MCCALLUM. There are-there are any number of instances, I am informed, in which that is indeed the case, yes, and that the circumstances of a corporation providing information may not require the waiver of attorney-client privileged information of work product information.

Mr. SCOTT. Let me ask one further question. Mr. Sullivan, you represent corporations, many of whom have multi-jurisdictional activities. Would there be a problem in having 92 different processes in terms of what the attorney-client privilege may be?

Mr. SULLIVAN. Ranking Member Scott, yes. I think that would be a very difficult road to navigate. It is difficult enough working with prosecutors and regulators who are insistent that you do their work for them. And in fact, if I am in a situation where I am evaluating a cooperative mode for purposes of obtaining favorable treatment by the Government in exchange for a new compliance program, ferreting out wrongdoing -- which would be my obligation in any event -- to the extent that I would have to, in a multi-district context, deal with a variety of competing considerations along the same lines would make my job much more difficult and would also cause intractable problems on the part of the corporation in terms of negotiating a resolution.

Let me also add that I know the context here is

cooperation, but I don't think the presumption of innocence should be forgotten. And when I addressed the committee a few minutes ago and mentioned that at the very first meeting I was asked to waive the privilege, I also mentioned that I had not even conducted an internal investigation and therefore had not made up my mind as to whether I have defensible conduct or not. So I think that also illuminates the mindset that corporate counsel are dealing with today.

Mr. COBLE. I thank the gentleman.

We have been joined by the distinguished gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Chabot.

And in order of appearance, the Chair recognizes the distinguished gentleman from Florida, Mr. Feeney.

Mr. FEENEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And I am grateful for the testimony from all our distinguished panel.

You know, I had an observation I thought perhaps you could talk a little bit about because I think you have gone into some details about the importance historically of the attorney-client privilege.

By the way, I would point out that most of us who, you know, practiced law at one point think of this more in the context of criminal--of violent crime as opposed to corporate crime, exactly for the reasons that former Attorney General Thornburgh laid out. This really hasn't been used until the last 8 or 10 years, this waiver requirement.

But the average violent criminal doesn't have deep pockets. And other than the fact that if he fails to comply and waive privilege, for example, there is very little incentive. He is not subject to fines because he has got the empty pocket defense. He is not worried about civil litigants. But for a lot of the reasons that Mr. Donohue laid out, the pressure on corporate clients and business clients is immense to find favor as they cooperate, and there is an enormous pressure on them.

I do understand the necessity at times to try in a corporate context, especially with respect to fraud, to find out what everybody knew, and that would include corporate counsel. What I am worried about, and I guess I want to put it in this respect--Mr. Sullivan might be the best person to answer this--we live in a very new climate on Wall Street. I mean, investors appropriately expect a lot more transparency. We had things like Enron and WorldCom.

But in some ways, we may have overreacted.

Post-Sarbanes-Oxley, directors have some real problems.

Number one, we don't have a standard set of accounting principles, so that a major international corporate firm may be responsible, and the directors individually liable, to know where every box of pencils or paper clips are. And we don't have standards to protect people based on de minimis standards.

When directors or executives with corporations go and they hire an independent auditor nowadays, they are not allowed to seek the guidance of their auditor. They can't get help from one of the top four accounting firms that they have to pay. That firm is not allowed to tell them how to comply with Sarbanes-Oxley.

Now we are in a position where if we are going to have what amounts to blanket waivers or, in some jurisdictions, anyway, what amounts to blanket waivers, where corporate executives and corporate directors, who are going to be held personally responsible even if they didn't necessarily know about mis-actions that somebody else in the corporation took over, can't be candid with their lawyer and cannot count on candid advice back.

That type of chilling effect makes it almost impossible for anybody with any sense to agree to be a member of the board of directors today, and I thought maybe Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Donohue could talk about this in the totality of the circumstances today in corporate law. I mean, this is just one more burden that makes it almost impossible to try to do your job in an honest way as a member of a board or an executive at a major corporation.

Mr. Sullivan, go ahead.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Thank you, Mr. Feeney. Well, in fact, you are absolutely correct. Corporations have noticed a

dearth of willing applicants in terms of individuals who are willing to serve on boards. What is attempted these days is to maintain a level of independence, both with outside counsel as well as special audit committees, special litigation committees, and as you mentioned, even accountants.

But it also goes right back to what Mr. McCallum said, and he is absolutely correct. I am well aware of the Upjohn warnings, and when I am pursuing an internal investigation, I am obligated and I do advise the individuals whom I am interviewing that I do not represent them.

But in fact, if we move forward and they are led to believe that not only do I not represent them but I am also going to turn over everything they say to the Government at a moment's notice, upon caprice or whim because I am interested in maintaining the best possible position of the corporation, we are in a situation where, as Mr. Donohue mentioned, I won't get any information at all.

The corporate entity is an artificial entity, true. It has legal responsibilities, true. But it also is run and managed by people. The acts of the employees are imputed to the corporation. So you must deal with the people because they are the ones who bind the corporation.

And for my--from my perspective as well as the perspective of independent directors or board members or

auditors or management, we need to be able to access facts.

We need to be able to do it freely, without any concerns
about where those facts may ultimately go. And we need to be
able to manage the information we have so that we can
evaluate properly how to respond to Government inquiries.

As I mentioned before, all too often the first mode that a corporation will pursue is cooperation. They will find or seek to find responsible employees and throw them under the bus. That is not necessarily the best policy. In a free-flowing exchange of information environment where the lawyer can carefully evaluate the information he has, he can make the best decision for that corporation in how to deal with regulators and ultimately save everybody a lot of money, shareholders and individual investors.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Donohue?

Mr. DONOHUE. I serve on three public company boards of directors. And I will say in response to your inquiry that, first of all, it is getting harder and harder to attract competent directors, not only because of the fear of liability, which is getting greater, but because of the extraordinary amount of time and process that has to be followed following the Sarbanes-Oxley rules and their implementation.

What directors most worry about, other than running the company, leading the company and having good management that

operates in an honorable way, are two things, and that is dealing with regulators of every type and shape and dealing with the Justice Department. And by the way, when you get people like Mr. McCallum here, if he were to come out and deal with the issues that individual companies have to deal with, we would do fine.

But they have the greatest collection of young, soon-to-make-it, want-to-be-famous kinds of lawyers all around the country who, by the way, don't have the same amount of judgment and experience, and many have little or no idea what corporations do and how they are supposed to work.

So when 92 different groups--by the way, and when there is an approval, it will be approval by the U.S. Attorney for one of his underlings--they are going to have 92 different approaches to do this, it is going to get a little more complicated for most of the companies on whose boards I serve.

And I am not--we are not talking about huge criminal issues; there are always questions with the SEC and others. And it gets very, very complicated when everybody has got a different rule. Everybody has got a different way of approaching it. And standing behind them like vultures on a fence are the class action and the mass action lawyers that are sucking the vitality out of American industry. And they are doing it, maybe unintended, but they are doing it with

the help of our Government, who is putting us in that kind of a position that it shouldn't happen.

Mr. COBLE. The gentleman's time has expired.

The distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr.

1141 Delahunt, recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I would think, Mr. Sullivan, that you must find yourself in a position where not only do you have to inform the employee that you are not his lawyer, but there is going to be a likelihood that what he tells you will become--you will at some point in time be compelled to reveal to the Government exactly what he says.

Have you run into that situation?

Mr. SULLIVAN. Yes, Mr. Delahunt. As part of the Upjohn warnings, I am required to advise the employee that I represent the company, that the privilege resides with the company, and that the privilege can be waived by the company at any time--

Mr. DELAHUNT. And that--

Mr. SULLIVAN. -- and in any manner.

Mr. DELAHUNT. --in a significant number of cases, the privilege is waived.

You know what I can't understand, Mr. McCallum, is what happened in the past 10 years? You know, for 20 years of my own professional life, I was a--I was a prosecutor. Did a number of sophisticated white collar crime investigations.

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And, I mean, there are grand juries. There is the use of 1163 informants. You know, we knew how to squeeze people without sacrificing or eroding the attorney-client privilege.

You know, I just have this very uneasy feeling that it is the easy way to do it, you know. There is a certain level of, you know, why should I--why should I have to really exercise myself to secure the truth?

You know, from what I understand, there has been no review in terms of the frequency of the waiver. There is no data. There is nothing empirical. But, you know, Mr. Thornburgh and Mr. Sullivan, you know, I am sure they have had extensive practices. At least anecdotally, you know, they are here. They are concerned.

Is there something that I am missing that the traditional law enforcement investigatory techniques were insufficient?

Mr. MCCALLUM. Mr. Delahunt--

Mr. DELAHUNT. I got to tell you something. I am a little annoyed with the Sentencing Commission, too, making this a factor. You know, where did that come from? ahead.

Mr. MCCALLUM. I believe it came from the defense bar, who wanted to pin down for certain that if there was a waiver--to answer the second question first--

1186 Mr. DELAHUNT. Sure. Thanks.

Mr. MCCALLUM. --if there was a waiver, that it would necessarily be deemed cooperation for purposes of a downward departure. But let me--

Mr. DELAHUNT. Well, I would just dwell on that for a minute because we will get a second round.

Mr. MCCALLUM. Okay.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I would want to--I would want to hear that coming from, you know, some criminal defense lawyer, saying that that is the import of it. Because that tells me that if they are looking for that kind of certainty, that this is being used frequently. This is--this is becoming the rule rather than the exception. But go ahead and take a shot at my--

Mr. MCCALLUM. Let me respond to the first question, Mr. Delahunt, and that is what has happened recently over the years? I think we only have to look back to the 1997 through 2006 era to see a spate of very complicated, very complex, very arcane, very difficult to determine corporate frauds of immense proportions in terms of the dollar amounts involved which also--

Mr. DELAHUNT. With all due respect, Mr. McCallum, I got to tell you something. That just doesn't--that doesn't hold water. You know, I am sure immense complex fraud has been being perpetrated, you know, since the days of the robber barons. If we don't have the resources in the Department of

Justice to conduct the necessary investigations to deal with it, then let's assess it on a resource basis. Let's not do it the easy way that erodes, I believe, a fundamental principal of American jurisprudence.

I mean, if that is what you are telling me, I won't accept it because of my own experience. You know, fraud is nothing new. Uncovering it maybe is, but, I mean, there is--you have--you know, you can use immunity. There are informants. There are grand juries. There are all kinds of ways to do it.

And I am sure Mr. Thornburgh, being a former Attorney General and a former, I think, Attorney General in a State, I am sure he supervised or conducted a series of heavy investigations that are as complex as anything that, you know, occurred from 1997 to date, and did it in a way that didn't erode significant legal principles that are embedded in our jurisprudence.

I will be back, and you can think about the question.

Mr. MCCALLUM. Thank you.

Mr. COBLE. The gentleman's time has expired.

The distinguished gentleman from California.

Mr. LUNGREN. Mr. Chairman, it is always fun being with my friend from Massachusetts. I was trying to figure out what he said when he said ''partay,'' and then I thought he was talking about getting a drink and going out someplace.

[Laughter.] 1237 Mr. DELAHUNT. I can't understand what you are talking 1238 1239 about. Mr. LUNGREN. But I understand. You weren't talking 1240 1241 about a party, you were talking about a part A. I got that. 1242 Okay. 1243 And Mr. Sullivan, I have been informed by counsel here that the two of you used to work together, so that you used 1244 to be one of those fellows that resembled the remarks of Mr. 1245 1246 Donohue. 1247 [Laughter.] 1248 Mr. LUNGREN. But now you have made it. Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Volkoff was a fine mentor. 1249 1250 Mr. LUNGREN. And I wondered if you had to deal with 92 different jurisdictions. It would certainly improve your 1251 1252 billables. 1253 [Laughter.] Mr. SULLIVAN. I try to get involved in--1254 1255 Mr. LUNGREN. But those Italian suits could be kept up, 1256 as it was. 1257 Just to put it on the record, I have submitted a letter 1258 last August to the Sentencing Commission regarding my 1259 concerns about the Sentencing Commission's commentary with 1260 respect to the rule. It looks to me like that amendment 1261 authorizes and encourages the Government to require entities

to waive the attorney-client privilege and work product protections as a condition of showing cooperation. And that is the huge concern I have here.

Let me ask you this, Mr. McCallum: Should we in the Congress believe that any time the administration refuses to waive executive privilege, that the administration is not cooperating with the Congress?

Mr. MCCALLUM. Absolutely not, Mr. Lungren. I would--I would hesitate to make that argument. There are benefits, and I think that in my opening statement I described that there are definitely benefits, societal benefits, from attorney-client privilege.

Mr. LUNGREN. But, see, that—I understand. See, that is my problem. If we in the Congress were to every time the President says that there is a reason to protect executive privilege, not only for his administration but for future administrations, that every time he did that he was violating the sense of cooperation that should prevail between two equal branches of government, I think we would be wrong.

And I see the Justice Department taking a position that if a corporate defendant or potential defendant refuses to waive that privilege, that is a priori evidence of the fact that they are not cooperating. And that is the problem I really have here.

See, the President makes the arguments--and I think that

you should—and the Department makes the arguments that there is a reason for those privileges that at the executive branch has. And the reason is part institutional, but part to have that ability to speak within yourselves, that is, that institution of the administration, which is more than the President but is personified by the President. He can talk to his advisors without believing that we are going to hear everything he says.

And here you have a situation where you want a corporation to follow the law, I presume. And you would want the corporation to listen to good counsel, I would think.

And here we have got a rule that seems to me to work in the opposite direction.

And I think that that weighs heavy on me and other members here on this panel. And so I would ask, don't you see the creeping intrusion here? I mean, first you have the first memorandum. Now we have the second memorandum, which is a little tighter and a little tougher. And then, following that, you have the Sentencing Commission saying, well, that is a bad idea. As a matter of fact, we are going to have that as evidence of cooperation, and the lack of it as evidence of lack of cooperation.

What is a corporate counsel to do under those circumstances?

Mr. MCCALLUM. Well, there are a series of questions

there, Mr. Lungren. Number one, with respect to the Sentencing Commission, the Department's position has been we would be comfortable with the Sentencing Commission going back to where it was before that amendment.

Mr. LUNGREN. Well, is that your position? Is that the administration's position?

Mr. MCCALLUM. I believe that that is the Department of Justice's review--

Mr. LUNGREN. That is what I mean.

Mr. MCCALLUM. --underway at this particular time. I do not know whether that has been absolutely finalized. But my review of that is that there would not necessarily be an objection to going back to the way it was before, where it was not addressed.

Number two, let me talk about the issue of cooperation. Attorney-client privilege waivers are only one factor with respect to cooperation. There are many other ways for a corporation under the Thompson Memorandum to indicate and to provide a degree of cooperation that will impact both the decisions on the charging of the corporation and on the determination of recommendations to be made to any sentencing commission about--or to any sentencing body about a downward deviation. So I don't--I don't think that it is accurate to assert that privilege waivers are the sine qua non or the absolute requirement in order to achieve a status of

cooperation with prosecutors.

With respect to the diversity of jurisdictions, the 92 different districts, as I indicated previously, this is not a situation in which one size fits all. And what the McCallum Memorandum really did was to recognize a best practices that was, in my view, attendant to United States Attorneys across the United States in which privilege waiver requests, formal ones from the Government, as opposed to privilege waiver offers voluntarily from corporations, would go through some sort of supervisory review that would preserve for the peculiar circumstances of that particular district and the United States Attorney there a degree of flexibility.

But all of that would be done in coordination through the Executive Office of United States Attorneys. So I don't think it is an accurate picture to paint, 92 different definitions of what is attorney-client privileged and what is not attorney-client privileged. It is a second set of eyes to reassure that there is a deliberate and considered process before attorney-client privilege waivers are requested by the Department of Justice.

Mr. LUNGREN. Thank you.

Mr. COBLE. The gentleman's time is expired.

The distinguished gentleman from Ohio, Mr. Chabot.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Donohue, if I could begin with you. Can you give

the subcommittee any examples from your members of instances where a request for a Department of Justice--for an attorney-client waiver resulted in unnecessary consequences for the corporation, perhaps a third party suit, for example, and arguably the information could have been gathered without a waiver?

Mr. DONOHUE. Well, sir, you have just put your finger on why this is a very difficult matter to challenge, either here in the Congress or in the courts, because most companies that have been painted into this box are not going to come forward and give you an example. I know many examples. I would suggest it is probably in our mutual best interests not to lay out the names of a bunch of companies.

I could tell you a couple of interesting points. In one matter that I am aware of, the prosecutor in a jurisdiction gave a public speech and said, in our jurisdiction, anybody failing to waive the privilege will be considered guilty. I passed that material on to the Justice Department; I don't know how it was used.

But if you were to go--and by the way, it is very, very important to understand that the SEC and the Justice Department have hundreds and thousands of investigations going on. And the great amount of these have nothing to do with fraud. They have arguments about proper accounting and all kinds of other issues.

Where there is fraud, there should be a vigorous investigation. But, you know, I was trying to think of a good example that I might use. You know, the Inquisition supposedly had the blessing of the Church, but their means weren't very appropriate. And when Mr. McCallum began today, he laid out a rationale of why they should be able to do these things because of the assignment they were given to respond to Sarbanes-Oxley.

My understanding is that the privilege is a constitutional protection, and that the end does not justify the means, and that the serious nature of this--and I think the point made about resources did not--should not put the companies in the position of conducting investigations, which I am aware of many, to supplement the work and actually do to the work of the prosecutors.

And I ended my statement by saying if people maliciously, directly, and intentionally go out and violate the law and they are in the American business community, lock them up. But you try and go out, as Mr. Sullivan indicated, and deal with these prosecutors—and you have got two sets of them; you got the SEC and you got the Justice Department, and they are playing off each other, and they are sitting in the same rooms, you know, when you have a civil issue and you have a criminal issue. And I would just say, you know, if you and I want to walk down a hall one day, I will give you

four or five examples. But with the Chairman's permission and protection, I am not going to do that here.

[Laughter.]

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you very much.

Mr. Sullivan, if I could ask you the next question.

What alternative techniques are available to prosecutors to obtain the needed information from a corporation without requiring a waiver of the attorney-client privilege?

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Delahunt alluded to many, drawing upon his hears as a prosecutor. There are all types of investigative techniques. There is cooperation undertaken by individuals within the corporation. There is the grand jury process, with subpoenas. There are wires.

What also is available, and which I suggested, for purposes of a corporation who is--which is interested in cooperating is the factual recitation, which is actually quite common: a factual review of what the outside counsel's investigation has yielded, with a view toward working in concert with the Government, ferreting out the criminal activity as it is perhaps determined to be a rogue element or an independent group working without knowledge of management. We see that in export control cases, for example, where shipments are made abroad by individuals who have an incentive for sales commissions without the knowledge of management or at least without management understanding that

ineffective internal controls were in place.

All of this suggests that the corporate entity itself and outside counsel, certainly responsible management, as Mr. Donohue has mentioned, has an interest in abiding by the law. And to the extent that it becomes aware of problems with the law, either through its own inquiry or through an external source, a subpoena or whatnot, outside counsel working with in-house counsel wants to ferret that out and find it out.

And we will assist the Government to the extent that it is in our best interests to provide them with the roadmap, with the factual outline, who you should talk to, what this document means. But we shouldn't have to and we don't want to provide them with our mental impressions, our specific interview notes, our opinion work product, and our sensitive discussions with employees because we want to preserve the ability to talk to them again about another problem so that we can continue to observe the law.

And the factual recitation is not something that is ultimately going to be a problem. Factual recitations are found in indictments every day in every public context. If you want to learn what happened in a particular case, what went wrong, read the Government's indictment. And we will help you with that factual outline to preserve our ability to interact with you and to get credit for cooperation. But you should be encouraged, Mr. Prosecutor, and you should insist

1462 on doing your own legal analysis.

Mr. CHABOT. Thank you.

1464 Mr. COBLE. The gentleman's time is expired. I thank 1465 the gentleman.

Gentlemen, as I said earlier, I think this issue warrants a second round, so we will commence that now.

Mr. Donohue, I may be repetitive, but I want to be sure this is in the record. In your testimony, you mentioned that erosion of the attorney-client privilege will frustrate corporate efforts to comply with regulations and statutes. Elaborate a little bit more in detail about that.

Mr. DONOHUE. Mr. Chairman, what happens in a company is when issues of significance--it happens with me every day--come up that we are dealing with some Federal regulation, some political regulation, whatever it is, the first thing we do is call the general counsel. When we are sued, as people are on a regular basis, the first thing we do is call the general counsel. And these are all civil matters.

But I want to have a feeling that when I sit down and talk to Steve Bokat, who is the general counsel of the United States Chamber of Commerce, that what I am talking about is going to stay there. And if I had a feeling that in matters where there may be differences with the Government, there may be differences with regulars, if I talk to him, if anybody

wanted to bring an action against us, he is going to be up sitting--talking about what we discussed, I am not too sure I am going to talk to him. Nor am I going to go and get my regulatory counsel, nor am I going to go down and get my outside counsel.

At least--you know, the term 'counsel' is used up here a great deal. And if you look to your right, you have your counsel, and you sure want to make sure that what you are talking to him about is not blabbed all over this place.

Mr. COBLE. Yes. Well, that is what I thought you-Mr. DONOHUE. And I think we have a constitutional right
to do that.

Mr. COBLE. Thank you, Mr. Donohue.

Mr. Sullivan, in your testimony, you noted that you represented a client before a regulator who requested a waiver prior to your client's declining to cooperate or deciding to cooperate.

What impact would such a waiver have on your ability to represent a client corporation, given--under those facts?

Mr. SULLIVAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Of course, I declined that request immediately. And in fact, as Mr. Donohue so perceptively referenced only upon hearing my anecdote, there were more than one law enforcement agency representative in there. There was the tag team, as he referenced a few moments ago.

As I said before, this was a very early meeting, a meet and greet, if you will, where I was attempting to outline to them what my preliminary view of the evidence I had gathered after only a couple weeks would suggest as a function of how to address their concerns.

I had not made up my mind as to what I would do in terms of seeking cooperation or defending. As I said before, we should never forget about the presumption of innocence as a corporate representative, as a corporate lawyer, and we should always ferret out the facts and then have a good understanding of the law on those facts to understand whether or not there was a crime committed and whether or not there was a credible defense.

But to go directly to answer your question, if I had undertaken to waive the privilege, how would I walk into that company's office the following day? We had not determined that a crime had been committed or that there were regulatory problems. I needed to find out what went on, and in the best way possible, so that I could represent that client in an informed way.

Who would speak to me, Mr. Chairman? What type of evidence would I be able to gain? I would be nothing more than an arm of the Government. I would in fact have been deputized. My role would be completely eliminated. It makes no sense, particularly when, if I found there was wrongdoing

and I needed to work with the Government, I would be most pleased to do so by rendering factual, non-opinion work product.

Mr. COBLE. I thank the gentleman.

The gentleman from Virginia. The distinguished gentleman from Virginia.

1543 [Laughter.]

1544 Mr. SCOTT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Sullivan, why would a corporation do an in-depth investigation of suspected employee misconduct if the report of that investigation has to be turned over to the prosecutors?

Mr. SULLIVAN. Well, frequently reports are turned over to prosecutors. In fact, we see public reports very frequently. We just saw a very public Fannie Mae report. Shell has got a report. Baker Botts has got Freddie Mac's report on its website.

The difference is, again, reports outlining factual undertakings and understandings as opposed to attorney work product and attorney-client communications. And--

Mr. SCOTT. Well, let me ask it another way. If you are writing such a report, would you be writing it to be read by the president of the corporation or by the prosecutor? I mean, you know, you would say things differently depending on who the audience is.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Sure. And it depends who I represent and what my charge might be. The individuals who, for example, are writing the Fannie Mae report may have been reporting to an independent board, an independent accounting board or an independent board of directors, coming in after the fact to outline what facts happened. I think they would be very cautious in outlining any opinion work product in that report.

And to be fair to the Justice Department, I have not seen requests for waiver of attorney-client communications. It is all work product. And I am not saying that in any way to suggest that it is any less nefarious. It is the opinion attorney work product, which is perhaps the most dangerous.

But to the extent that I would undertake to write a report, a report for the general counsel or for the board of directors, I would insist that it be a privileged document, that it would include my mental impressions and opinions, thereby covering it as work product, perhaps made in anticipation of litigation as well. It would certainly be an attorney-client communication because I would be proffering it to the general counsel. But I would never want that to go elsewhere. A parsed, very narrowly drawn factual recitation I might be persuaded to part company with.

One thing I would like to also mention, Ranking Member Scott. You earlier in the hearing talked about public

policies regarding inadmissible information and material. I think that was a very important point. I would like to bring out that I have represented Federal prosecutors in internal DOJ investigations, OPR investigations, Office of Professional Responsibility.

There is no compelled waiver of the Fifth Amendment.

There is no compelled self-incrimination under pain of losing your job in the Justice Department. There is a Supreme Court case on that, Garrity. Nevertheless, I am literally asked by Justice Department officials to bring my employees in and to tell them they either tell me everything or they walk.

And I have no problem doing that because there is no specific type of due process in a corporation. But the next step is, and by the way, once you get something from that employee and if it is an incriminatory Fifth Amendment waiver, I did it, I want it, Mr. Sullivan. And that is where I draw the line.

They don't extract from their own employees. Why should they ask that kind of duress of mine, or of my clients?

Mr. SCOTT. Thank you. Exactly who can waive the privilege?

Mr. SULLIVAN. The corporation, to the extent that the corporation has the privilege when we are dealing with corporations and employees.

Mr. SCOTT. Who? Who? The CEO?

Mr. SULLIVAN. We would have to get that consent of representative management, whoever is running the program, the board, in consultation with counsel.

Mr. SCOTT. Can the CEO waive the privilege?

Mr. SULLIVAN. Not as an individual. He has got to only do it on behalf of the corporation as a function of his role as a corporate representative.

Mr. SCOTT. Is that right, Mr. Donohue?

Mr. DONOHUE. I believe procedurally the CEO could move, with probably advice of his lawyer, to waive the privilege. But in these kinds of instances, this would be so sensitive that it would already be up to the board, and the board would be informed of that change in circumstance.

Mr. SULLIVAN. and that is what I meant by--

Mr. DONOHUE. That probably wouldn't have been done four or five years ago, but it would sure be done today.

Mr. SCOTT. Are you aware of--the Department indicated that they don't--you can get full cooperation without a waiver. Are you aware of cases where full cooperation credit on sentencing was given without a waiver of attorney-client privilege?

Mr. DONOHUE. Mr. Scott, I am sure it has. I cannot give you a definitive case. The more difficult the case, the more visible the Justice Department and the SEC has been in announcing the case and how they are going to be successful

and all these terrible things that have happened before they have had their full investigation, the more aggressive the SEC and Justice Department lawyers are going to be to try and make sure that they are successful.

And when they are having problems in finding what they thought they were going to find, then they want the company to investigate it for them, and they want people to break the privilege. We are not trying to protect criminals. We are trying to protect a constitutional protection that is given to individuals and corporate individuals, and we believe it is being eroded.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Chairman, could I ask one other question?

In terms of corporate organization, which attorney--do all attorneys in the corporation have the privilege, or is it just corporate counsel we are talking about? And let me follow up on that by saying, I mean, there is some--if you are trying to discuss certain activities, trying to come up with a process that may be kind of borderline legal, would you help yourself by having the person in that position you are talking to be an attorney where you wouldn't get that privilege if it was not an attorney? And do you find people hiring lawyers in kind of non-lawyer positions to try to get a privilege?

Mr. DONOHUE. Mr. Scott, I am going to respond and then

ask Mr. Sullivan if he would make sure I am correct. But I am not sending him a fee.

[Laughter.]

Mr. DONOHUE. You know, generally, when one is dealing with broad corporate matters, the general counsel of the corporation, who is an officer of the court by his own professional standing, would be the person that would have this role with the CEO or other executives.

There are, however, issues, for example, on SEC questions or environmental questions or other matters where there are senior lawyers within the institution, probably but not necessarily working for the general counsel, who on those matters would be seen as the more senior person with whom discussions and therefore protected discussions could have been held.

Mr. Sullivan, you have had a minute to think about that.

Mr. SULLIVAN. You are absolutely right. My experience has been working with the general counsel and other lawyers in the company who hold particular expertise in various areas as questions may arise. But no privilege determinations are made without the assent and consent of the board or a special committee who is operating in a joint way--a special committee on accounting, a special litigation committee--so that there is usually a board approval at the highest levels for such--

Mr. SCOTT. Board approval to determine who has a privilege and who doesn't?

Mr. SULLIVAN. Well, board approval relating to waiver of the privilege.

Mr. SCOTT. Well, I mean, if you have in a certain department--for example, sometimes a person may be hired as a lawyer; sometimes they may have expertise and are not a lawyer. Would the lawyer have--would there be a privilege when the person happens to be a lawyer and a privilege when the person does not happen to be a lawyer, and would there be an advantage in hiring somebody for that position who is a lawyer?

Mr. SULLIVAN. The privilege is held by the corporation. And to the extent that, for example, outside counsel is acting at the behest of the corporation for purposes of pursing an internal investigation, individual employees who are interviewed by that counsel does not hold a privilege relationship with that investigating counsel. The privilege is held by the corporate entity, and it can be waived only through the exercise of a determination by management in consultation with the board.

Mr. DONOHUE. But Mr. Scott--

Mr. SCOTT. That is if you have a lawyer. If you have a non-lawyer in that position, he wouldn't have a privilege.

Is that right?

Mr. DONOHUE. Yes. But even the lawyer--for example, as you can imagine in this town, the Chamber is full of lawyers. So if we looked at it as if it were a public company and I walked in the door and talked to any of the lot of lawyers, there is no implied privilege there.

The privilege is when you seek legal guidance from those people who are in a corporate position to give it and protect it. And so walking down to the cafeteria with any number of the lawyers that work for us in some other--and I think Mr. Sullivan--again, I am not paying him a fee--I think he would suggest that there would be no implied privilege there.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I would agree.

Mr. COBLE. The gentleman's time is expired.

The distinguished gentleman from Florida.

Mr. FEENEY. Thank you.

General Thornburgh, you said you don't recall using this required waiver in prosecutions during your tenure as AG.

You can think of, you know, briefly a hypothetical where it would be appropriate in order for a corporation to have considered to have cooperated where the attorney-client privilege would be waived, can you not?

Mr. THORNBURGH. I think there are certainly going to be situations where the corporation itself may take the initiative to waive the privilege in order to make available to the Government--

Mr. FEENEY. But off the top of your head, you can't 1737 think of where it would be appropriate for the Justice 1738 Department to waive--to require a waiver in order for the 1739 corporation to have considered cooperating? 1740 Mr. THORNBURGH. I can't, but I wouldn't want to rule it 1741 out. I mean, there might be--1742 Mr. FEENEY. Okay. I think that is very telling. 1743 And with that, you know, Mr. McCallum, I have to tell 1744 you, I am, you know, typically a huge supporter of giving the 1745 Justice Department the tools that it needs because these are 1746 very dangerous times, and we want to clean up Wall Street, 1747 Enron, and WorldCom. We're a disaster for investors. 1748 But I would ask you: Have there been any successful 1749 prosecutions that you know of of major Wall Street fraud that 1750 1751 would not have been successful in the absence of a required waiver? 1752 I can't speak to that because I was not 1753 Mr. MCCALLUM. personally involved to a degree to be able to assess the 1754 1755 strength or weaknesses of any of those cases.

I would, in response to the previous question, indicate to you, Mr. Feeney, that with respect to circumstances in which it would be clear that a waiver of attorney-client privilege might be necessary would be when the investigation implicates or creates suspicion regarding the general counsel's activity and whether that person is complicit

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within the fraud. That would be one, you know, prime example that is obvious.

But I can't talk to you with regard to the second question. I can't address the issue of would the prosecution of X have succeeded without a--

Mr. FEENEY. If you would be willing to give us a list, I think I would like to know that, Mr. Chairman, with unanimous consent of the committee, if you would be willing to go back and get us that information.

General Thornburgh?

Mr. THORNBURGH. Yeah. I want to amplify a bit my response. Under the crime-fraud exception, there is no privilege. So it's not a waiver of a privilege; it is that the privilege doesn't arise in the first place.

I want to say one thing, if I might. Having been one of those young, zealous prosecutors that Tom Donohue so eloquently described earlier on, I want to come to their defense. We want our prosecutors to use every single tool that is legally available to them. On the other hand, I don't want to castigate those prosecutors for the faults that we are speaking about today.

This, unfortunately, is a matter of Department policy.

And they are empowered to pursue these waivers by the policy of the Department of Justice. And it is that level upon which this requires some redress.

Mr. FEENEY. I thank you, General Thornburgh. And on that one, I wanted to go back to Mr. McCallum.

Mr. McCallum, as I said, I tend to be a huge supporter of the tools the Justice Department needs. But I am not persuaded by the position of the Justice Department in this case--in this case yet. I mean, you start out your remarks by talking about the number of prosecutions.

My goal would be investor confidence and investor security. Prosecuting successfully lots of directors, CFOs, CEOs, and COOs is not necessarily the type of successful, clean Wall Street that I want to see.

And towards that end, you know, Mr. Donohue suggested that a lot of directors nowadays and top level management are spending a good portion, if not the majority of their time, not only building a better, cheaper, quality mousetrap, but on compliance with regulatory burdens and legal burdens. It doesn't seem like that helps investors, and it doesn't seem like that helps a solid corporate governance strategy.

You know, one of the concerns that I have is that if I am a director—let's assume hypothetically I am a director trying to do the right thing, which is to make profits for the shareholders and succeed in business. And let's assume for purposes of my hypothetical that even though I am a Congressman, I am an ethical guy. And let's assume, since it is my hypothetical, that I am trying to do the right thing.

If I have an accounting question, I want to go to my independent auditor. I am not allowed to do that under Sarbanes-Oxley. If there is a close call on a legal or ethical issue, I want to go to the corporation's general counsel. I am terrified to do that for the same reason that if I were a Catholic and there was no protection for things I said to my priest, I would be afraid to confess some of my sins and I would not be able to get the absolution that I were seeking.

So can you see that some of the things that we want to accomplish with solid corporate governance, with people focused on doing the right thing but making a profit for their shareholders, providing a better widget for the marketplace, can you see how some of these concerns--I am not worried about the Enron fraud case. I am worried about the guy trying to do the right thing and how he is afraid to talk to, in the one case, his accountants, and in this case, his lawyers.

Mr. MCCALLUM. Mr. Feeney, we certainly hear the arguments that are made by the business community on that side relating to the chilling effect. I would submit to you that our view of the compliance environment is indeed that corporations are spending more time on compliance. There is more regulatory supervision and oversight that has been imposed as a result of the corporate frauds. And I think

that corporate governance is better off for it.

Rather than being deterred from seeking counsel from the general counsel, we believe that management is—in fact has been encouraged to seek advice and counsel, and there are any number of institutional investors who assess the legal risks and who try to determine whether there are compliance programs in place that are vigorously followed and that are effective. That has become part of the investment decision that institutional investors make these days because of the frauds that—corporate frauds that have been experienced in the financial community over the—over the past 6, 7, 8 years.

Mr. FEENEY. Well, just one brief follow-up. If that is part of the investor decision-making process, does that account for the enormous flight into international investments and the fact that since Sarbanes-Oxley, for example, at that time 90 percent of foreign firms that went public raised 90 percent of their capital in the U.S. Today it's the reverse. Foreign corporations, not just because of Sarbanes-Oxley but because of the legal burden, are fleeing, and capital markets are moving overseas where there is no requirement for some of these things and these burdens.

Mr. MCCALLUM. Well, I think that doesn't speak to the issue of the improvements in corporate governance, corporate standards, and corporate citizenship within the United

States. And there has been, I would submit, a restoration of confidence in the American corporate culture and in the American financial markets as a result of many of the regulatory oversight matters that have been instituted by the Congress and enforced by the Department of Justice.

Mr. COBLE. The gentleman's time is expired.

The distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. McCallum, let me give you a chance to respond to part A. You know, what happened in the past decade since I left, you know, my previous career as a prosecutor? You know, what information do you receive now from waiver of the attorney-client privilege that absolutely cannot be developed from other mechanisms, other tools that have existed, you know, for the past 30, 40 years?

Mr. MCCALLUM. Well, Mr. Delahunt, there are three standards that are articulated in the Thompson Memorandum.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I am not interested in the standards. What I am interested in, you know, is in the course of an investigation, there are--there is a litany of investigative methods, mechanisms, and tools--we could repeat them--that are insufficient that have increased the reliance on the waiver.

Mr. MCCALLUM. All right. There are issues regarding the timeliness of the information and whether or not a particular criminal activity and the consequences of it can

be addressed regardless of the investment of significant resources in an adequately--in a timely manner to respond to both the public need, the financial market needs.

Number two, the completeness of the information. I would submit to you that even in the investigations that you diligently pursued, you were not always confident that despite all of the efforts that you had used and all of the tools that you had used, that the information that you found was, in fact, complete. the whole story, all the facts, with all of the documents. And then--

Mr. DELAHUNT. I--go ahead. I am.

Mr. MCCALLUM. Excuse me. And then thirdly is the accuracy of that information. That is, there are subjective judgments that are necessarily made regarding the credibility of witnesses, the credibility of documentation, and all of that is--

Mr. DELAHUNT. Right. But documentation and witness credibility, they can all be tested via grand jury testimony. I mean, everything that you say I can envision occurring without the need to secure the waiver.

What I am concerned about, even--I think that, you know, there has been a restoration of confidence. I think that that in fact has happened as a result of legislative policy. I think it has happened probably because of aggressive enforcement. And I think that is good for our financial

markets, and over time, I think it would attract capital as opposed to encourage its flight.

But I am concerned about the attorney-client privilege because I can see slippage in that privilege. You know, today it's, you know, the corporation. You know, tomorrow it's that priest, you know, that I might have gone to confession to. All right? I mean, it makes me very, very uncomfortable, and I really do think that this is a shortcut method to secure evidence that can be developed by alternative means.

You know, I thought Mr. Thornburgh made a good suggestion in terms of the review that alluded to. I would like to see you, the Department on its own, conduct a review. Get us some information. You know, get us some data. I mean, who is doing this and who is initiating it? Because it is a concern.

And, you know, I think that you can probably sense by the questions that have been posed, as well as observations by individual members, that there is a real concern here.

And you don't want someone like Lungren from California, you know a far right conservative Republican, and Delahunt, this Northeast liberal, filing legislation on this because I think that is the order of magnitude that is being expressed here.

So respectfully, that is a message that I think you can bring back to Justice, is that there is concern about the

Thompson/McCallum Memorandum. Okay? 1937 Mr. MCCALLUM. I will certainly take that message back, 1938 1939 Mr. Delahunt. Mr. COBLE. And for the record, let me say that far 1940 left-winger and that far right-winger are both pretty good 1941 1942 guys. Gentlemen, before I forget it, I want to introduce into 1943 the record, without objection, coalition letters to preserve 1944 the attorney-client privilege. 1945 [The coalition letters follow:] 1946 1947 ******* INSERT *******

Mr. COBLE. Gentleman, we thank you all very much for being here. In order to ensure a full record and adequate consideration of this issue, the record will be left open for additional submissions for 7 days. Any written questions that a member of the subcommittee wants to submit should also be submitted within the same 7-day period.

This concludes the oversight hearing on white collar enforcement, part 1, attorney-client privilege and corporate waivers. Thank you again, gentlemen. And the subcommittee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 1:50 p.m., the subcommittee was adjourned.]

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TESTIMONY OF ROBERT D. McCALLUM, JR., ASSOCIATE ATTORNEY

GENERAL, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE; HON. DICK THORNBURGH,

KIRKPATRICK & LOCKHART NICHOLSON GRAHAM LLP; THOMAS J.

DONOHUE, PRESIDENT AND CEO, U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE; AND

WILLIAM M. SULLIVAN, JR., LITIGATION PARTNER, WINSTON &

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TESTIMONY OF THOMAS J. DONOHUE

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