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PORTER PRAISES WILKERSON CNN INTERVIEW

“Wolf Blitzer’s interview of Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson on CNN Friday night was one of the most important developments in the past five years,” said Dr. Steven Porter, Democratic candidate for Congress in the 3rd district of Pennsylvania. “Colonel Wilkerson was Colin Powell’s top aid,” Porter explained, “and Wilkerson told Blitzer that the Bush Administration had lied to the American people about the intelligence used to justify the invasion of Iraq. The language is his,” said Porter, “not mine. Wilkerson’s words, as best I can recall them, were ‘The American people are beginning to wake up to the fact that the Bush Administration has lied to them.’”

“To lie to Congress and the American people in the run-up to a war is an offense of immeasurable magnitude. Cherry-picking intelligence and concealing this strategy in order to get Congress to authorize the invasion of Iraq is a moral crime beyond justification. Already 2,314 young Americans are dead as a result of those lies and over 17,000 more young Americans have been wounded, many grievously. Thousands of American lives have been shattered, many thousands of American families brought to their knees in grief, hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars spent, with trillions more to be spent on the long-term care of the wounded, all as a result of the Bush lies. And the terrible toll on innocent Iraqis and on the international reputation of the United States is even more immense.

“How any American congressman or ordinary citizen could listen to Colonel Wilkerson and not react with horror is beyond my comprehension. The fact that there is no outcry in or out of Congress for at least an investigation into whether impeachment proceedings are in order is a national disgrace.

“I have no doubt that my Republican opponent, Phil English, will continue to hide behind his ‘no-comment’ evasions with regard to President Bush for whom he has been a pusillanimous yes-man. But for me, I would not be able to look myself in the mirror if I did not again sound a call for enactment of the Conyers bill to establish a Select House Committee to investigate all of the Bush Administration’s misdeeds and determine if they rise to the level of high crimes and misdemeanors. Finding out the truth and acting on it is the way— and the only way—for America to regain its soul.”