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PORTER CALLS ON ENGLISH TO BACK IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

“In 1998 Mr. English cast a vote (H. Res. 581, roll call 498) to authorize a House committee to investigate whether sufficient grounds existed for the impeachment of President Clinton,” said Dr. Steven Porter, Democratic candidate for Congress from the 3rd district of Pennsylvania. “Later Mr. English cast a vote to impeach the President (H. Res. 611, roll call 543) on the grounds that Mr. Clinton had lied under oath about his sex life.

“If Mr. English found it necessary to cast those votes with regard to lies about sexual indiscretions,” Porter went on, “surely he should support Congressman Conyers’ bill to establish a House Select committee to investigate whether sufficient grounds exist to conduct impeachment proceedings against the President for lies about the Iraq war, for falsehoods about national preparedness during Katrina, for the shameful torture of prisoners in US custody, for illegal warrantless domestic surveillance, for the gross misuse of taxpayer money in Iraq, for obstruction of justice in revealing the identity of a covert CIA agent—to mention just a few of the high crimes and misdemeanors President Bush and his Administration appear to have committed.

“It is an appalling perversion of justice for Mr. English, who claims not to be tethered to Bush, to vote to investigate a President for prevarications about sex but not to investigate a President for getting the country into an illegal war or for authorizing illegal wiretapping. It just doesn’t add up. What are you afraid of, Mr. English? Do you fear what might come out if testimony is taken under oath? Aren’t you for the rule of law? Didn’t you campaign on the need for integrity?”

“And while we’re at it, Mr. Congressman, how do you explain running for a 7th term when you promised the voters in 1995 you would abide by a self-imposed 6-term limit? How do you explain voting to prohibit the importation of less expensive prescription drugs from Canada after promising in 2000 you would vote for it? How do you explain your voting for CAFTA after telling labor you were opposed to it?”

“Integrity is a key issue in this campaign, Mr. English, for you and for President Bush—just as it was when you cast your votes against Mr. Clinton in 1998.”