

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today released the following statement after helping the House pass resolutions of contempt against former White House Counsel Harriet Miers and White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolten for failing to comply with congressional subpoenas for information and testimony pertaining to the U.S. attorneys scandal.

"Nobody in this country is above the law. One of the things that makes this country so great is that there is a system of laws in place and a judicial process to deal with those who choose to not follow those laws. That system applies for everyone, including the president and his senior advisors.

"It's pretty clear to me that senior White House and U.S. Department of Justice officials deliberately fired U.S. attorneys who they felt were not acting in ways that were politically advantageous to the Bush administration and the Republican Party. Politicizing the top law enforcement agency in the country goes against everything this country is about.

"The Democratic Congress has aggressively sought information from the White House about its involvement in the firings of several U.S. attorneys in order to more fully understand what happened and who was involved. When the White House failed to cooperate, the House Judiciary Committee issued subpoenas for testimony and materials from former White House Counsel Harriet Miers and White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolten. Those subpoenas have been ignored for far too long, which is why today we finally passed resolutions of contempt against them to begin the legal process of forcing them to comply or, if they continue to refuse, imposing tough consequences.

"We cannot allow the Bush administration to turn the United States into a dictatorship in which the president and his top advisors are exempt from following the law. While President Bush may like to think of himself as king, he is not. He's simply the worst president this country has ever seen."