

Hidden away in the basement of a bank building on Broad Street here, there is a bank of computer servers containing all the evidence Congress and the courts need to investigate and prosecute all the crimes of the Bush years. That includes the mysteriously missing e-mail messages sent by Karl Rove from his White House office through the Republican National Committee e-mail addresses from his special Blackberry reserved for political activities.

Ethics rules prohibit political campaigning from the White House, but since that was Rove's sole job as political adviser to President Bush, what was an operative to do if he wanted to insist that a U.S. attorney be fired for not towing the Bush administration line by prosecuting Democrats? Rove, who has now defied a Congressional subpoena three times — a criminal act unprecedented in American history — is known to have used that Blackberry paid for by the RNC to keep on top of all kinds of nefarious activities, including the political prosecution of former Alabama Governor Don Siegelman.

Jeff Averbeck, the majority owner of Smartech and Airnet, has denied backing up Rove's e-mail that passed through his company's servers, but no news organization, grand jury, special prosecutor or Congressional investigator has asked the right followup questions to get to the bottom of one of the most critical mysteries of the Bush years.

The Chattanooga Times Free Press managed to get a local interview with Averbeck in 2007 about the allegedly missing 5,000 e-mail messages, but what he said makes no technological sense.

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