KARL ROVE

April 19, 2008

Mr. Scotty Pelley
"60 Minutes"
524 West 57th Street
New York, New York 10019

Dear Scott,

I appreciated you taking the time to write but your April 15th letter was deeply unsatisfying, starting with your first paragraph.

The questions I raised about Dana Jill Simpson were not whether Alabamians knew her. My questions were about what you did to look into her claims in her interview with you that she knew me, had worked as an "operative" with me in campaigns and had been asked by me to undertake a series of assignments over the years, including surveillance of Governor Don Siegelman.

Your parsing and failure to answer directly questions lead me to believe either you failed to look into her claims about her relationship with me or, if you did, you could not substantiate them. Which is it?

You make a great deal in your letter about Geber and Bach's October call to me. My recollection is they said they were thinking about doing a story about Ms. Simpson's September claim to the Judiciary Committee that she's been on a conference call with Bill Canary, Terry Butts and others in which the word "Karl" was mentioned.

Since I didn't participate in any such conference call and everyone else she named denied it took place, I saw no reason to offer myself up to "60 Minutes," especially when your producers were tentative and my hope was non-participation would make a story less likely.

In any case, don't you think it was appropriate that as the focus of your story changed over five months that you should have personally called and laid out her claims and asked for comment? After all, it was you on camera, you who left her claims unchallenged on air, and you who arched your eyebrows as you said my name with a hint of amazement and concern in your voice.

4925 WEAVER TERRACE, N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20016-2660

In some way, at some time it will be crystal clear to every one that Ms. Simpson did not tell the truth and Don Siegelman has no evidence for his claim I led a vast conspiracy that duped career officials at Justice, career prosecutors in Alabama and FBI agents into investigating and then indicting him.

When that happens, will "60 Minutes" had done what people expect of journalists and (even belatedly) looked into Simpson and Siegelman's claims? Or will "60 Minutes" have shown itself by inaction to be the equivalent of a super market tabloid, not news magazine?

And what will you personally feel is your responsibility and that of "60 Minutes" and CBS when it is shown that there was no basis for Simpson and Siegelman's stories after you failed to do due diligence and appropriate investigation of the claims before promoting them on air in front of millions?

Sincerely,

Karl Rove

Cc: Sean McManus