

# MY CONVERSATION WITH KENNETH TIMMERMAN



*I was privileged to speak with the author of the must-read **Shadow Warriors: The Untold Story of Traitors, Saboteurs, and the Party of Surrender** [Crown Forum]. My interview with this stellar investigative reporter and 2006 Nobel Peace Prize nominee (for his reporting on Iran's nuclear weapons program) was deeply disturbing, and is guaranteed to make you angry:*

**RUSH:** Thank you for making time for me today. We really appreciate it.

**TIMMERMAN:** It's a pleasure.

**RUSH:** Terrific. Your book is fabulous, and I just want to start right off with something that I have long thought — I've hypothesized on the radio — that there is a sort of shadow government of holdover Clintonites sabotaging the Bush Administration's CIA, State Department, even in the Pentagon. You've confirmed this in your reporting.

**TIMMERMAN:** Yes.

**RUSH:** But also, and this surprised me, you say that some of the saboteurs are actually Bush appointees. How in the world can that be? Were they just not vetted properly?

**TIMMERMAN:** This is one of the more painful parts of the story I've tried to tell. Ultimately, while President Bush has succeeded in Iraq — and the left has not yet granted that success to him — he has failed in his efforts to take control of the United States government. He has not understood the first lesson of Government 101 from Ronald Reagan, which is that people are policy. In many cases, he has allowed enemies of his policies to stay in positions where they're supposed to enforce those policies, or he's actually appointed them to positions where they would enforce policy.

**RUSH:** So is he aware?

**TIMMERMAN:** I don't think he is.

**RUSH:** Now, that's stunning! That is just stunning.

**TIMMERMAN:** Yes. I do not think he is aware, Rush, and I think this is one of the problems.

**RUSH:** With all the partisanship, and all the people who have been out to politically kill him, he doesn't understand he's being undermined?

**TIMMERMAN:** I don't think he does. From what I have understood from my interaction with the White House — and I know that you've had interaction at a much higher level than I have — he has imposed intense loyalty on his immediate circle and that has prevented him from seeing the disloyalty of some of the people lower down. You've had this with the State Department, for example, at virtually all levels. Colin Powell, I think, was a loyal member of the Bush Administration. He had disagreements and those disagreements have been quite public and we know about them.

**RUSH:** You mean loyal at the outset, until the Iraq debacle.

**TIMMERMAN:** Oh, no, I think he was loyal during the Iraq debacle as well. He went to the United Nations and loyally made the case.

**RUSH:** No, but after that?

**TIMMERMAN:** After Colin Powell resigned, he said that those moments at the UN were the worst moments in his career. But when he was there, he put up the fight and he represented the Administration and there were no qualms. I think he was a loyal warrior while he was there. But others clearly were not. I tell the story of a senior State Department official who was going around the world telling heads of state and others in foreign governments that they shouldn't really pay too much attention to the Bush Administration on Iraq because they were going to get it defeated at the UN anyway. This war wasn't going to happen, because it would be defeated at the United Nations. That is an extraordinary act of disloyalty by a senior official.

**RUSH:** There has to be a reason for this, Bush not knowing, or knowing and looking the other way. I go back to the early days in his Administration when he established this "new tone." He was



trying to create the impression that he wanted to get rid of the stridency and the partisanship and the rifts in our society that had taken place during the Clinton years, so he wanted to involve Democrats in legislation, such as Ted Kennedy with “No Child Left Behind,” and so on. I asked Karl Rove, in a similar interview for this publication, if they had any regrets about doing it. He said, “No; we had no choice. Our margins were so small we couldn’t get anything done without Democrats being on board.” So this “new tone” was a conscious effort to bring Democrats in. I wonder if not getting rid of some of these traitorous, poisonous Clinton holdovers was not part of the same mental attitude.

**TIMMERMAN:** I think you might be right. Certainly Karl Rove is someone who would be in a position to know that, and Karl is a brilliant political operator. But it’s one thing to bring Democrats on board for a shared agenda; it’s another thing to put Democrats in charge of an

read the papers, he’s got people who do, who give him a summary every day.

**TIMMERMAN:** The leaks were something that obviously distressed the White House, and that’s one of the reasons they didn’t want to cooperate too much in investigating the leaks with somebody on the outside, such as myself. They wanted to pretend as if they didn’t exist. They were afraid, I think, at the same time, to seriously launch a Justice Department investigation, especially into the CIA, because it might have uncovered other things. [Then-CIA Director] Porter Goss did not want to unleash Justice Department investigators to find out who had leaked the secret prisons.

**RUSH:** But he did want to find out himself, didn’t he?

**TIMMERMAN:** Oh, you bet. And he took a very, very active role in that investigation to find out who leaked to *The Washington Post*. As I report in *Shadow Warriors*, it wasn’t, in fact, even *The Washington Post* that first

about where CIA flights originated in this country, taking these prisoners out?

**TIMMERMAN:** Yes.

**RUSH:** That was somewhere in South Carolina.

**TIMMERMAN:** Yes, and this all came out bit by bit. I tried to track that back in *Shadow Warriors*, and it all began with a leak of a flight log of one of those CIA planes to Stephen Grey. That was way before *The Washington Post* ever began to report on this. Stephen Grey is a very good investigative reporter, by the way, I have nothing against him. He’s somebody who does his job very well, he just happens to be against the U.S. war against the terrorists. He seems to want to undermine what the CIA is doing. But he’s a very competent investigative reporter. So he got a piece of the flight logs, began to pull on the strings, and worked with reporters in Sweden and other countries, and eventually discovered that there were front companies, proprietaries, set

was not successful in prosecuting this war?

**TIMMERMAN:** I think it was a bit of both, but without President Bush they never would have done it. If there had been a Democrat in the White House doing the same things, I don’t think they would have pursued the investigations with the same zeal. And I am convinced that neither *The Washington Post* nor *The New York Times* nor CNN would have put this kind of thing on the front pages and hit on it again and again.

**RUSH:** So could we conclude that the effort here was to destroy Bush, and whatever happened on an ancillary basis was considered tolerable?

**TIMMERMAN:** Yes. My main point in *Shadow Warriors* is that the Democrats and their allies created an underground resistance movement within the United States government, and they used these allies on the outside of government as well, to undermine the Bush Presidency, to subvert his policies, and if U.S. soldiers died in Iraq, if U.S. national security interests were harmed, they didn’t care.

**RUSH:** How many people are involved in this underground resistance movement, as you call it?

**TIMMERMAN:** That’s a good question, Rush, and I can’t put a real number on it. I’ve dealt with this anecdotally, individual stories, and I’ve dealt with it in terms of the kind of damage they did overall to the policy.

In Iraq, for example, they succeeded — and I can’t tell you how many people actually pulled this off — in transforming the liberation of Iraq, which was the Bush Administration’s strategy, into an occupation, which they had never planned for. By the way, that’s the one thing that the Democrats are right about; there was never a plan to occupy Iraq. The original plan was to liberate, turn government over to

## “While President Bush has succeeded in Iraq, he has failed in his efforts to take control of the United States government.” — KENNETH TIMMERMAN

agenda they don’t agree with. And that’s what we saw again and again in the liberation of Iraq. It’s what we saw when people at the Pentagon were appointed to positions — for instance, John Kerry loyalists appointed to build coalitions for the war, when they never believed in the war to begin with.

**RUSH:** People reading this, and myself included, just find this incomprehensible. You say you got the idea to do your book when all this classified intelligence showed up in *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*, stories of the CIA secret prisons and so forth. I want to ask you how you tracked that down, by the way, and what kind of sources helped you. But how could the President not know he’s being undermined? Even if he doesn’t

broke that story; a British journalist named Stephen Grey who used to work for *The [UK] Sunday Times* broke the story, never got credit for it. It was *The Washington Post* that got the Pulitzer Prize. But Grey broke the story, I believe, by gaining access to former CIA officials who had broken with Porter Goss and had either resigned or been fired in disgrace, and who went to London and leaked information to Stephen Grey about it.

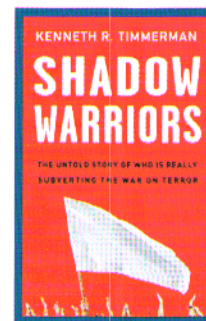
**RUSH:** This is the secret prison story?

**TIMMERMAN:** Yes. I think it was leaked specifically to embarrass the Bush Administration, to embarrass Porter Goss, and to undermine the CIA’s effort to interrogate some of these al Qaeda prisoners.

**RUSH:** This is the story that also contained information

up by the CIA in Virginia and in other places in the United States that owned the aircraft. Bit by bit he was able to exploit public-source information through the FAA, and then got access to Eurocontrol logs — this is a European-Union-wide organization that has flight logs of all aircraft — and was able to trace these aircraft and match them with the prisoners, the al Qaeda people, who had, quote, “disappeared.”

**RUSH:** Was the purpose for these leaks to undermine President Bush alone, or was the purpose to undermine American policy, independent of Bush? Were these people trying to make sure the United States





that were never found, according to the formerly mainstream media, but they were discovered by U.S. combat troops on the way up to Baghdad in March and April of 2003. One of the great ironies of the story is that at one occasion when an underground bunker full of chemical precursors was found, there was a CNN camera crew along with the soldiers, and they had to be scrubbed down in extremis before they got hit with these toxic chemicals. Of course they never reported the truth and never cared afterwards. Biological weapons precursors, the strains to make biological weapons, were found. The plans to make nuclear weapons were found. The teams of scientists and technicians that had been assembled by Saddam Hussein in the 1980s were discovered. They had never been disbanded. They were kept on the payroll

**RUSH:** Then there's an obvious question: why did the Administration go along with the notion there weren't any?

**TIMMERMAN:** I asked that question again and again of my sources in the White House, and I almost invariably got the same response. "We lost that one. Why go and fight a battle that we've already lost? We are going to look to the future and fight the future battles."

**RUSH:** You mean lost in the public domain?

**TIMMERMAN:** In the press.

**RUSH:** In the press.

**TIMMERMAN:** You bet. "The media has beaten us. They have driven this notion of 'Bush lied, people died' into the mentality of ordinary Americans to the extent that nobody would believe us." This is what they told me: "Nobody would believe us if we told them that we found

when we went in, in 2003, was a vast weapons manufacturing facility. There are hundreds of these plants all over the country. Everybody knew about it. The United Nations knew about it, we knew about it, the French knew about it, the Germans knew about it, the Russians knew about it, the Chinese knew about it, and even the formerly mainstream media knew about it. And yet they all chose to ignore that evidence.

**RUSH:** Well, those people you mentioned were all on the take in the Oil-for-Food program. Now, you call the sabotage of the Bush Administration "the CIA's greatest covert operation of all time."

**TIMMERMAN:** Yes.

**RUSH:** Is there any element in the CIA that's doing its job?

**TIMMERMAN:** Yes. The paramilitary people who went into Afghanistan right after

who I think have disgraced America and should be swept into the dustbin of history, and certainly out of government.

**RUSH:** Readers of this interview are going to be stunned by this, but you report in your book that the CIA has actually supported the Iraq insurgency. You say they have poured millions of dollars into efforts that have killed American soldiers. Now, Kenneth, that's a shocking allegation. Unbelievable. And the Administration has not done anything to counter it, or nothing that we know, anyway.

**TIMMERMAN:** As we were going into Iraq, in March and April of 2003, there were CIA teams on the ground who were dead set against the Administration's plan, which was to empower the Iraqi National Congress — which was a coalition of groups, including Kurds, Shiites, Sunnis — that

**"Democrats and their allies created an underground resistance movement to undermine the Bush Presidency, and if U.S. soldiers died in Iraq, they didn't care." — KENNETH TIMMERMAN**

all during the period of the United Nations sanctions when Saddam said he had no programs left. Well, he was still paying the scientists and the technicians who developed the programs and had the technology.

As U.S. troops were marching toward Baghdad, the UN still had inspectors in Iraq that were dismantling, destroying long-range ballistic missiles that also had been built in violation of the United Nations sanctions. So you're talking about missiles, you're talking about chemical weapons precursors, you're talking about biological weapons programs, and elements of the nuclear weapons program. All of these things had been found and were completely discounted by the press and by the Congress, even though they were told about it in open session by the U.S. arms inspectors who went in there after the liberation.

chemical weapons, that we found even rockets packed with chemical munitions in Iraq, so why bother? We give up. Let's go on to the next thing." Unbelievable, isn't it?

**RUSH:** Yes, it is so unbelievable you almost have to conclude there's got to be something else guiding this that we might not ever know.

**TIMMERMAN:** I studied Iraqi weapons plants all during the 1980s. I was there many, many times when Saddam was in power. I was the first Western reporter who ever interviewed his weapons designers and the heads of the weapons programs who were later exposed to the United Nations. I was able to help the first UN arms inspectors in 1991, 1992, by identifying the location of many of these weapons plants. I have the map of these plants right here in my office. I'm sitting here looking at it now. The entire country,

9/11, who were on the ground in very small numbers trying to lead in U.S. special forces, and who were using laser range-finders to target Taliban offices and buildings and al Qaeda hideouts and the rest, are true heroes of the war against the terrorists who attacked us. They continue to try to do their job. And there are many young people, I think, in the Directorate of Operations, which is now the National Clandestine Service, who joined the CIA after 9/11 because they wanted to make things right. They wanted to do their bit for their country. What I have talked about in *Shadow Warriors* is really a corrupt old guard full of deadwood, people who are essentially bureaucrats who could be distinguished from the Department of Agriculture only by their Top Secret security clearances. These are the people



was led by Ahmed Chalabi, who the CIA absolutely hated.

**RUSH:** But he was Cheney's guy, right?

**TIMMERMAN:** He was America's guy. He was the United States Congress's guy. They passed legislation in 1998 to support the Iraqi National Congress, and to train an Iraqi Liberation Army that would be led by the Iraqi National Congress. The CIA had people on the ground in March and April of 2003, as we were going into Baghdad, who were going into Anbar Province and other places and saying, "How can we help you to create some kind of alter-



Iraqis, and get out.

**RUSH:** Is it still going on? Bush is in his final year now, the surge appears to be working — even Democrat opponents, other than Harry Reid, are begrudgingly admitting this. Iraq is now off the front pages as an election issue. Is this underground resistant movement still active?

**TIMMERMAN:** Yes, they are. We still see stories about the secret prisons. They've come back, in fact, just recently. They're now talking about the destroyed videotapes of the torture investigations, and waterboarding and these, quote, "horrible" procedures that the CIA has used against committed terrorists who are trying to destroy America. One of the ironies, Rush, is that the CIA probably — and I don't want to state this as a fact, but probably — used waterboarding all of three times on three committed al Qaeda terrorists: Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who is the author of the 9/11 plot —

**RUSH:** — and it worked in that instance, right?

**TIMMERMAN:** Yes, it worked in that instance. And they used it against Abu Zubaydah, who was the hotel manager, if you wish, for al Qaeda in Peshawar, Pakistan, and I bumped up against him when I was there in 1998. And they used it against Ramzi bin al-Shibh, who was the financier of the 9/11 operation. And it worked in all three instances. For the CIA to make those videotapes, I can understand. They wanted to make sure things were done in a controlled manner. For the CIA to destroy the tapes, I think, was entirely proper. They wanted to ensure that the U.S. individuals involved in those extraordinary interrogations were protected.

**RUSH:** Yes, I said at the time: "What's the big deal here? The CIA is about keeping secrets."

**TIMMERMAN:** [Laughs] That's what we used to think, isn't it? But that seems to have taken a real big hit since the Democrats have been in charge.

**RUSH:** I remember when

news of the CIA tapes and their destruction hit, we found out that Nancy Pelosi, Jane Harman, and a couple of Senate Democrats had been brought in by the CIA and given sort of a virtual tour of what the CIA's plans were shortly after 9/11 to apprehend these people and glean information from them. And it was reported — and this was in the mainstream press — that Pelosi and some of the others said, "Are you sure this is tough enough?"

**TIMMERMAN:** [Laughs] Yes.

**RUSH:** Jane Harman and, I think, Sen. Rockefeller admitted that they were told the tapes were going to be destroyed, and they didn't say anything about it, all the way back in 2002. Then when the tapes were finally destroyed and the news got out, they acted outraged, as though they had been sabotaged. This was clearly part and parcel of an effort to continue to undermine this Administration. Your book is incredible because it's scary; our own institutions undermining our own efforts against a genuine enemy about which we have real evidence of their capability: September 11, 2001.

**TIMMERMAN:** Rush, you are really one of the few people who has been following these news stories closely, and have gotten this from the very start. You're absolutely right, that Pelosi, Jane Harman, and Rockefeller — who is a big character in my book — had been complicit all along. They were briefed from the very start. They had the highest clearances of any elected United States government officials. They certainly had the highest clearances of anybody in Congress. So they were very well aware of this.

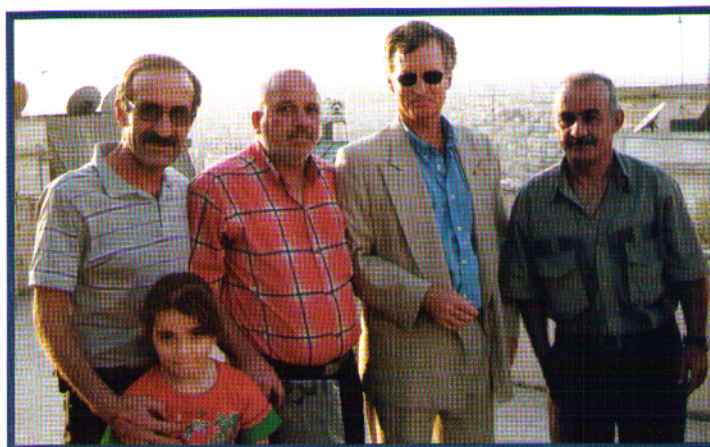
I tell the story in *Shadow Warriors* of a letter, which I'm sure you're aware of, that Rockefeller pulled out of his safe in 2005. He claimed that he had written it three years earlier by hand after he had been briefed by Vice President Dick Cheney on the effort to intercept the communications of terrorists. This became

known as "warrantless wiretapping." Well, for crying out loud, it was a terrorist surveillance program. It was the government's effort to intercept the electronic communications of terrorists. It was very successful, and it was something that everybody had signed off on, including Rockefeller. But later on, when it was leaked to the media, he said, "Oh, no, I objected to this from the very beginning, but because it was so classified, I couldn't get the information I needed."

**RUSH:** He had also written a memo to his staff or other Senate Democrats on the

in order to sandbag the President. Have any of these people responded? Are they fearful at all that you've dug all this up and have reported it?

**TIMMERMAN:** To tell you the truth, I don't know because they have not responded in public. As you say, I name names, and I accuse individuals of having fabricated intelligence. I say exactly what they have done, and I lay out the evidence. None of them has ever responded. By the way, I haven't heard them comment on any of this since the book has come out. So they're laying low. But I've heard a lot of



Intelligence Committee, "We've got to pick the right time, but we're going to use this to destroy the Administration."

**TIMMERMAN:** That was the famous Iraq memo. You're absolutely right, that was a staff memo that showed how absolutely determined and ruthless the Democrats were to politicize intelligence. They said, "We're going to use the investigation of why we got into Iraq and the prewar intelligence and we can pull this trigger once on the Bush Administration. And let's make sure we do it in September 2004, just before the election."

**RUSH:** Has there been any reaction to your book, Kenneth, within the bureaucracies that you show responsible for all of this sabotage? You name names — for instance, the senior intelligence officers who knowingly pushed fabricated intelligence on weapons of mass destruction

chuckles from friends in the intelligence community who are very happy that finally the story's being told.

**RUSH:** They probably think that they would give it life if they reacted. So we're going to have to get this book in the hands of a lot of people so that they're going to perhaps be forced to respond at least in the Senate and the House to constituent letters. Now — and this is a big bugaboo, Kenneth, for a whole bunch of people — you report that weapons of mass destruction were indeed found in Iraq.

**TIMMERMAN:** Yes.

**RUSH:** The mantra is, "Bush lied" about weapons of mass destruction. Is it ever going to be reversed? First, tell me what was found, and where?

**TIMMERMAN:** What was found, Rush, was hundreds of tons of chemical weapons precursors. These were the weapons



native? We don't want to have Chalabi in office." They said, "We don't want to have Chalabi in office, either." They were giving money to these Sunni sheiks in Anbar Province, and they were the ones who, in fact, within weeks turned those millions of dollars over to the former Baathists and to al Qaeda people and launched the insurgency.

**RUSH:** Stunning.

**TIMMERMAN:** All of this

despite all this sabotage?

**TIMMERMAN:** By the grace of God. It's really a miracle that the President has succeeded in anything, given the efforts to undermine his policies within his own Administration by these partisan shadow warriors. Look, it took Abraham Lincoln three years to find his general; it took George W. Bush three years to find his general in Iraq, David Petraeus.

any kind of aggressive U.S. effort to go after the terrorists overseas on our own. We give over our sovereignty to international organizations, such as the United Nations and Interpol. We contract out the stalking of terrorists to the French, to the Germans, to the Pakistanis. The Europeans will be governed by the international criminal court; the Pakistanis will be governed by how much money we pay them. But our national security interests will not be met.

**RUSH:** One other thing here. I saw a recent interview where you said, "We now have only two policy options when it comes to Iran, acquiesce to them having a bomb, or bombing Iran." You say there was a third option, to help the people of Iran overthrow the regime, but you say the shadow warriors of the State Department have seen to it we don't have that option. How so?

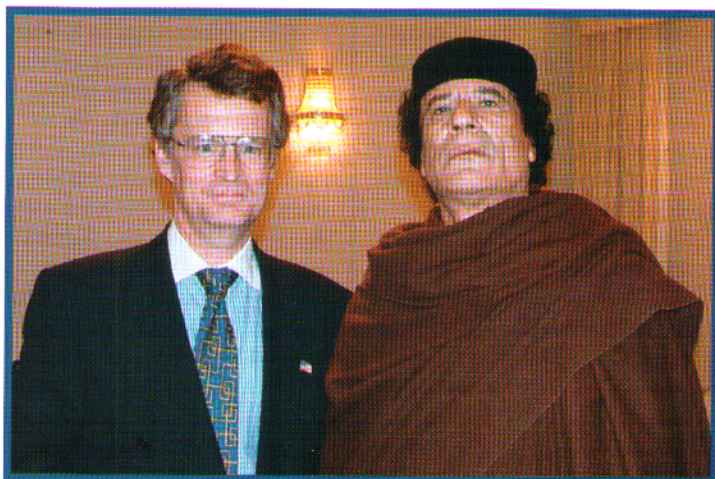
**TIMMERMAN:** That's right. Just to be absolutely clear,

the Democrats we are going to get appeasement, which will lead to war.

**TIMMERMAN:** Absolutely right. It's war sooner or later, as in the famous quote from Churchill: "You were given the choice between war and dishonor. You chose dishonor, and you will have war."

**RUSH:** Final question. You call these saboteurs in your book "traitors." Will they ever pay the price for what they've done?

**TIMMERMAN:** I actually doubt that they will. There is a closing of the ranks, whether it's among individuals in Congress who have politicized intelligence and, I believe, violated the law in many cases, through covert leaks or leaks through cutouts, or whether it's through people in the intelligence community who have done virtually the same thing. One of the people I really go after in *Shadow Warriors* is a guy named Tyler Drumheller, the Director of European Operations at the



was an effort to undermine Chalabi, to prevent Chalabi from coming to power. As I argue in *Shadow Warriors*, it was this effort that was probably the single worst, strategically worst decision in the war. It undermined the Administration's strategy. The final nail in that coffin was planted by Paul Bremer, who was the President's appointee to become the head of the Coalition Provisional Authority. Two days after he arrived in Baghdad — he had never set foot in Iraq before — he claimed he understood Iraq and the Iraqi mentality so well that he knew that the Iraqi National Congress and those Kurds and Sunnis and Shiites were not representative. He fired the Iraqi governing council and decided to rule by decree. That was the end of the liberation; it was the beginning of the occupation, and that is the act that I describe in *Shadow Warriors* that I believe began the insurgency against America.

**RUSH:** Tell me, Kenneth, with all this, how has the President managed to succeed with the so-called surge,

**"If Americans are so unlucky as to elect a Democrat President in 2008, we will shortly be at war with Iran." — KENNETH TIMMERMAN**

**RUSH:** So the question then becomes, can this viper's nest ever be cleaned out? And it seems to me the answer is, only if we elect a Democrat.

**TIMMERMAN:** No. If the Americans are so unlucky as to elect a Democrat President in 2008, I think we will shortly be at war with Iran.

**RUSH:** Let me take a guess, the Iranians think the Democrats are weak.

**TIMMERMAN:** Absolutely correct. They believe they can get away with any kind of attack on America and we will simply send more lawyers, as we did in the 1990s with Osama bin Laden. They've seen what Democrats do in the White House. And elsewhere. If a Democrat wins in 2008, the shadow warriors will have essentially declared victory and they will be able to carry out their policies with no opposition whatsoever from the executive branch. We essentially abandon

I have been proposing, suggesting, supporting that third option of helping the people of Iran for 15 years. I tried to get the Clinton Administration interested in this, and I've tried to get the Bush Administration interested in this, in many different ways. The good news is that Condoleezza Rice declared a program to spend \$75 million to help the pro-democracy movement in Iran; the bad news is that the shadow warriors took over that program and made sure that not a penny got spent where it would do any good. They funded what were essentially think tanks and studies instead of funding people on the ground inside Iran who could have actually gotten things done. As a result of that undermining by the shadow warriors, today we are left with just two options: appeasement or war.

**RUSH:** And of course with

CIA. Drumheller has been all over the media talking publicly about what had been, to my understanding, classified operations. I haven't seen any action taken against him whatsoever.

**RUSH:** This has been quite sobering. It's going to shock a lot of people.

**TIMMERMAN:** I appreciate the time that you're spending on this, Rush. I also love what you've done on this subject on your show. You've been one of the few people who's been actively on top of this for years.

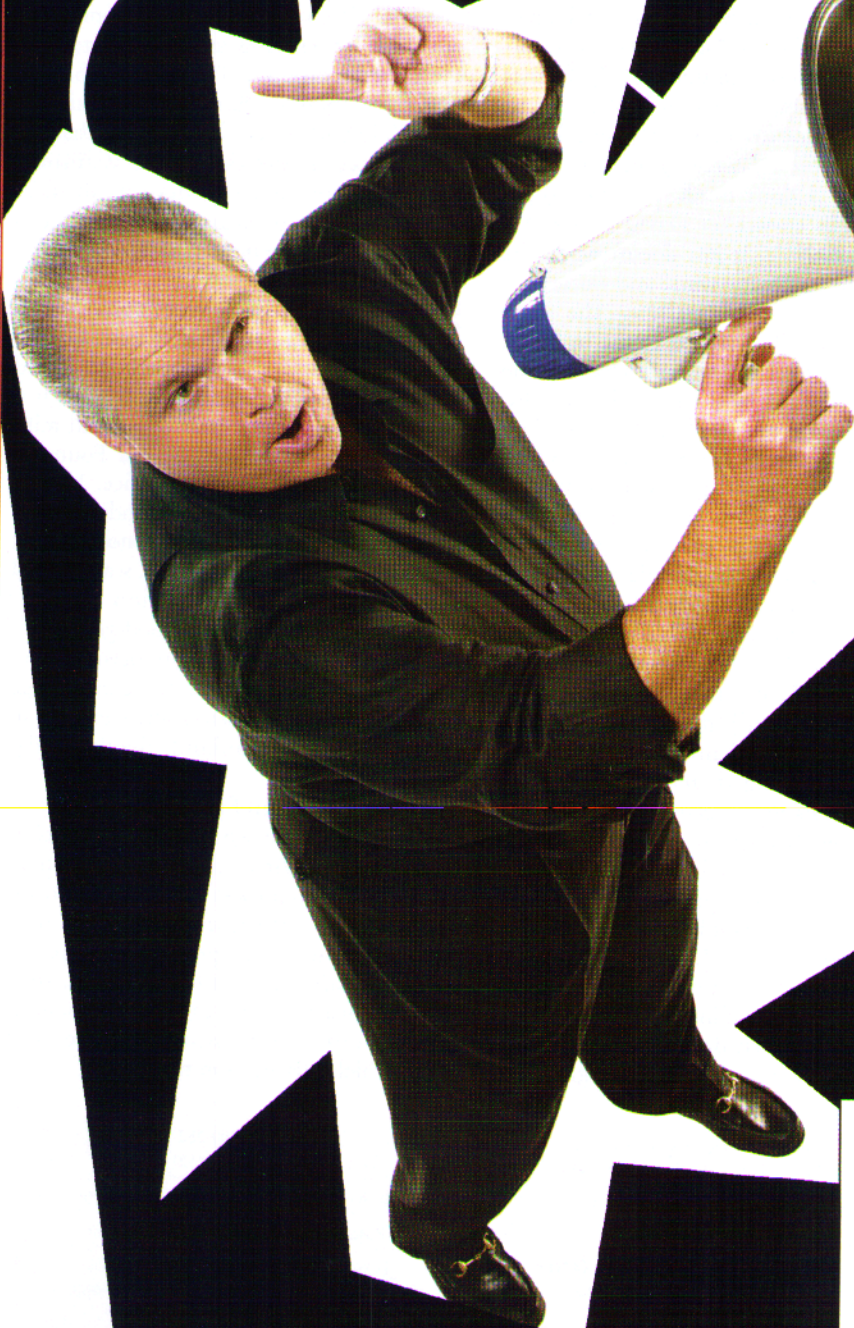
**RUSH:** We all care about the country, and none of this makes any sense.

**TIMMERMAN:** No, it doesn't.

**RUSH:** But you're helping us at least understand what we deal with here. Kenneth, I appreciate your time. This has been as enlightening as it can be. All the best for the book, and we will do what we can to assist. ■



# The Limbaugh Letter



ARE YOU MISERABLE

AND IN A RUT?

**WHAT** ARE YOU  
GOING TO **DO**  
ABOUT IT?

