

For immediate release

Contact: Gary Bennett, tel. 520-225-0209

The Black Stone Proposes A Constitutional Amendment

Congress is at it again. They are trying to conduct the War in Iraq – micro-managing it from Capitol Hill. They keep trying to tie funding to troops withdrawals. But they never can manage a veto proof majority in either the House or the Senate.

Congress in *The Black Stone*, the new political thriller coming from Cheops Books in May of 2008, takes “micro-managing the war” one step further. Congress in this novel is so obsessed with the next election that it actually does manage to refuse to pass the President’s war budget.

What does the President do in this semi-fictional scenario? He takes the next step. He takes the case to the Supreme Court. He claims that it is the President’s sole responsibility not only to conduct the foreign policy of the United States, but to act as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, especially in time of war.

To quote from the President’s speech in the novel: “There has never been an instance where Congress has denied funding for a declared war. And Congress declared war on all fronts in September of 2001 and declared war on the Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein in particular in October of 2002. It has funded that war on every occasion until today. Now they are trying to back out of that war declaration.”

The consequences of Congress’ political grandstanding in the name of seeking votes are very severe in the novel. They could be equally severe in reality. We don’t want the conclusion of *The Black Stone* to ever happen. To prevent it the novel suggests a Constitutional Amendment, that would in effect expand the power of the Executive Branch in time of war. It would fall far short of the ancient Roman institution of the "dictatorship" during the time of the Republic, which our Founding Fathers were well aware of, which allowed the consul to continue in office to conduct the war until the war was over. The author of *The Black Stone* does not propose to allow a President to remain for more than two consecutive terms. What she proposes is that, with its declaration of war, Congress gives up the "power of the purse strings" as far as the funding of that declared war is concerned. The President will get what he asks for until his term of office is over.

The Black Stone is available for \$19.95 in most bookstores or by calling BCH Fulfillment & Distribution at 1-800-431-1579.

The Black Stone by Linda Cargill. Original edition. 5 ½ x 8 ½. 520 pages. 1 illustration. ISBN 978-0-9798904-0-6. \$19.95. See our Media Room for a 300 dpi TIF of the cover.

Cheops Books, 8746 E. Wallen Ridge Drive, Tucson, AZ 85710-6235 USA

Tel: 520-225-0209 Fax: 520-407-5467

occultus@cox.net

<http://www.CheopsBooks.org>