

Miers, Bolten contempt vote before House

by UPI

WASHINGTON -- The refusal of the White House to provide information on U.S. attorneys firings could lead to contempt charges against key aides to U.S. President George Bush. The decision by leaders in the U.S. House of Representatives to take a vote follows efforts by House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., to get information from White House Chief of Staff Josh Bolten and former White House counsel Harriet Miers related to the firings, *The Hill*, a Washington newspaper, reported. White House officials have barred Bolten and Miers from testifying before the panel. House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md., said the vote would concern whether Congress "acting pursuant to its Article I authority has the ability to get the information it needs from the executive (branch) to legislate effectively." Hoyer said Conyers made between nine and 12 attempts "to get some cooperation from the White House." The scheduled vote "a sad attempt to distract from the thinness of the Democratic agenda this year," Michael Steel, spokesman for House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio., told *The Hill*. The House Judiciary Committee approved contempt citations against Bolten and Miers on a party-line vote in July.

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