

## OLD HABITS DIE HARD?

### FLASHBACK TO NOVEMBER 27, 1989....

The [Cold War was ending](#)....

[Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade](#) was in theatres....

Billy Joel's ["We Didn't Start the Fire"](#) was on the radio....

AND CONGRESSMAN MURTHA WAS IN THE NEWS....

[Time Magazine, November 27, 1989](#)

#### **American Notes CONGRESS**

*Even as the House was promising last week to cut down on perks in exchange for a pay raise, old habits were asserting themselves. Speaker Thomas Foley was embarrassed to learn about an amendment slipped into the defense-spending bill that required an Air Force C-20 jet be made available to him at all times. A military version of the Gulfstream III, the C-20 carries just eight passengers and is serviced by a crew of five.*

*But Foley had not asked for an Air Force Three (the President and Vice President have much larger jets). **Pennsylvania Democrat John Murtha had inserted the provision. He enjoys luxurious travel and undoubtedly figured he could borrow Foley's jet.** The Speaker quickly shot down his own plane.*

### FAST FORWARD: FEBRUARY 8, 2007

*Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., the Pelosi ally who chairs the House military appropriations subcommittee, **said he has spoken to Pentagon officials** about the need to provide Pelosi with a bigger plane that can fly passengers coast to coast in comfort.... "I don't need to*

pressure them. **I just tell them what they need to do.**” Murtha said.  
[\(San Francisco Chronicle, 2/8/2007\)](#)

“Late Wednesday afternoon, one of Pelosi's closest allies in the House, Rep. John Murtha, D-Penn., chairman of the key Appropriations Committee subcommittee on defense, told CNN that the Pentagon was making **'a mistake'** by leaking information unfavorable to the speaker **'since she decides on the allocations for the Department of Defense.'**”

[\(CNN, ABC News, 2/8/2007\)](#)

[\(San Francisco Chronicle, 2/8/2007\)](#)

“Murtha predicted that Pelosi would end up getting a plane that would be able to fly across country without stopping to refuel. **'I'm seldom wrong on these kinds of predictions,'** he said.”

[\(CNN, 2/8/2007\)](#)

### **UNANSWERED:**

If **only** the Sergeant at Arms Office was involved in the talks to secure Speaker Pelosi a private jet as has been claimed... **why** on Earth would Mr. Murtha be making demands to Pentagon officials?