

# Rock Creek Free Press

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

## Occupation of Iraq Costing \$720 Million Each Day

*according to Nobel Prize Winning Economist*

The occupation in Iraq is costing \$720 million a day or \$500,000 a minute. That figure is based on the work of Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph E. Stiglitz and Harvard public finance lecturer Linda J. Bilmes published in the *Milken Institute Review*. They estimate the cost of the Iraq war to date, at \$2.2 trillion and climbing.

The \$720 million per day figure includes \$280 million of expenses already funded by Congress, plus \$440 million daily in incurred, but unpaid, long-term costs, such as the continued medical care of injured soldiers. The figure does not include "macro-economic consequences" described by Bilmes and Stiglitz, including higher oil prices, loss of trade because of anti-American sentiments and lost productivity of killed or injured U.S. soldiers.

Congress has only appropriated funds for, about two-fifths of the long term cost of the Iraq war, and even that is largely funded with borrowed money. The net result is that most of

the cost of the war, over 80% of it, will be left for future presidents, and future Congresses and future generations, to pay for.

\$720 million per day adds up quickly. It is over \$5 billion each week, \$20 billion a month, \$260 billion per year. By any measure these are huge outlays of cash which have been committed by Congress and which must ultimately be extracted from American taxpayers. The necessity to meet these incurred obligations will affect the political calculus in Congress for decades to come. The requirement to service this enormous debt incurred by the Iraq folly is already severely restricting, if not outright precluding, Congress' ability to move forward important public policy initiatives.

By not acting to cut-off funding for the occupation, Congress has made a choice. By not shutting down funding for the illegal occupation in Iraq, the Congress has given up any chance for meaningful advances in healthcare reform, support for education,

investments in infrastructure and dozens of other initiatives which could have been possible, but now are impossible. The trillions of dollars spent buying war and occupation in Iraq means that money is not available to invest in healthcare and education at home. It's what economists refer to as 'opportunity cost'. By funding the war in Iraq, the Congress has spent the opportunity for this country to address other pressing needs.

And those needs are many. Here are just some of the other programs Congress could have funded with that \$720M per day.

Just one day's worth of money spent on the war, for example, could have built 6000 new homes for New Orleans flood victims, or provided a 20% down payment on 30,000 homes. In just 10 days we could have funded the replacement of every home destroyed by Katrina and in another fortnight rebuilt the

entire levee system in New Orleans to meet new federal standards. That's New Orleans rebuilt with less than one month's worth of Iraq war spending.

Just one day's worth of money spent on the war, for example, would cover one year health insurance premiums for 650,000 uninsured children or 180,000 families. An entire year of universal health coverage, including the 47

see Occupation Cost p. 4

## President Bush Victim of US Bioweapons Program

By Elaine Sullivan

President Bush disclosed recently that in August 2006 he was treated for Lyme disease. It was reported that the treatment was successful, and he never progressed to other symptoms beyond the initial rash nor has there been a recurrence, lucky for him.

Like the president, the first symptom most people see is a rash, often described as looking like a bull's-eye with alternating light and dark rings. However, it can vary from a reddish blotchy appearance to red throughout and can be confused with poison ivy, spider or insect bite, or ringworm. At about the same time that the rash develops, flu-like symptoms may appear with headache, sore throat, stiff neck, fever, muscle aches, fatigue and general malaise. Some people develop the flu-like illness without getting a rash. Symptoms of Lyme disease can be quite severe and chronic. Muscle pain and arthritis, usually of the large joints is common. Neurological symptoms may develop and heart, eye, respiratory and gastrointestinal problems can develop as well. Symptoms are

often intermittent lasting from a few days to several months and sometimes years. Chronic Lyme disease, because of its diverse symptoms, mimics many other diseases and can be difficult to diagnose. The most common treatment is with antibiotics.

While Lyme cases have been reported in almost every state, about 99% of all reported cases are confined to the half of the country centered around New England with the greatest concentrations in Connecticut, NY and NJ.

Lyme disease is caused by a spirochete bacterium, *Borrelia burgdorferi* (Bb), which is transmitted from animal to human through the bite of a tick. The most common vector for Lyme disease is the deer tick. After the larvae get a blood meal, they molt into nymphs about the size of a sesame seed. It is this stage which is most dangerous for humans because in the spring the nymphs are out looking for more blood at the same time of year that people are out in the woods and not wearing heavy clothing.

see Lyme Disease p. 2

## CIA Spins the Media

The recent revelation that the Air Force transported 6 armed nuclear missiles, mounted in launch position on a B-52 and the subsequent cover-up of the significance of that flight, points out the extreme danger Americans face because of a lack of a free media. Basic questions, such as:

Who authorized the flight?

Were the missiles fueled for launch?

How were electronic safeguards at the nuke storage facility thwarted?

These questions were not reported by the main stream press. Instead, the controlled media, when it covered the story at all, fed the

public the preposterous line that it was all just an innocent mistake.

This effort to downplay the incident was

"The Central Intelligence Agency owns everyone of any significance in the major media."

~ William Colby, Former Director, CIA

spearheaded by Walter Pincus at the *Washington Post*. In an article titled *Missteps in the Bunker*, on

Sep. 23 he made the whole incident out to be sheer incompetence. Of course this level of disinfo is just what one expects from Pincus and the *Post* given their history.

For those who don't know the history:

In 1933 the bankrupt *Washington Post* was sold at auction to Eugene Meyer, a banker and one of the governors of the Federal Reserve. In effect, the *Post* became the house organ of the Federal Reserve. Then in 1948 when the CIA created project MOCKINGBIRD to spread propaganda and control the domestic media, Phil Graham, Eugene Meyer's son-in-law and then owner of the *Post*, was put in charge of the commercial end of the operation.

The Church Commission investigation revealed in 1975 that project MOCKINGBIRD included over 400 "journalists" in the US, including Walter Pincus of the *Washington Post*. Pincus, an admitted CIA asset, has been instrumental over the years in spinning the news to suit his CIA masters. During the Iran-Contra investigation, for example, Pincus reported false leaks that harmed the investigation. He also led the attack on *Mercury News* reporter Gary Webb after Webb published his series "Dark Alliance" which detailed CIA involvement with the Contras and illegal drug smuggling.

The fact that Pincus has now been assigned the task of papering-over the B-52 story should tell us that the CIA wants this story buried. We want to know why.

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## Top US Scientist says:

## Official Account of 9/11 is a Fraud

In the last 6 years thousands of scientists, engineers and public officials have come forward to express their doubts about the veracity of the government's account of 9/11. Now they have been joined by world renowned biologists and researcher Lynn Margulis.

Dr. Margulis, Ph.D. is the Distinguished University Professor in the Department of Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts - Amherst. She was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1983 and is the former chair of the National Academy of Science's Space Science Board Committee on Planetary Biology and Chemical Evolution. She is the recipient of the National Medal of Science, America's highest honor for scientific achievement. She is the recent president of Sigma Xi, the scientific research society and was awarded the Proctor Prize for scientific achievement in 1999 from Sigma Xi. Prior to moving to the University of Massachusetts, Dr. Margulis was a faculty member at Boston University for 22 years. She is the author of over 130 scientific works and numerous books. In short, she is one of this nation's leading scientists.

Dr. Margulis has released the following statement regarding the events of 9/11:

"The 9/11 tragedy is the most successful and most perverse publicity stunt in the history of public relations. I arrive at this conclusion



largely as the result of the research and clear writing by David Ray Griffin in his fabulous books about 9/11. I first met him when he was a speaker at a scholarly conference unrelated to 9/11. He immediately impressed me as a brilliant, outstanding philosopher - theologian - author, a Whiteheadian scholar motivated by an intense curiosity to know everything possible about the world.

On the plane home and for the next two days I did little else but read Griffin's first book about 9/11, *The New Pearl Harbor*. From there I went on to read his even more disturbing account of the bogus 9/11 Commission Report, *The 9/11 Commission Report: Omissions and Distortions*, which provides overwhelming

see Margulis p. 5

## The Air Force Cover-Up of Nuke Missile Flight

By Dave Lindorff

There is something deeply disturbing about the Air Force's official report on the Aug-29-30 "bent spear" incident that saw six nuclear warheads get mounted on six Advanced Cruise Missiles and improperly removed from a nuclear weapons storage bunker at Minot Air Force Base in North Dakota, then get improperly loaded on a B-52, and then get improperly flown to Barksdale AFB in Louisiana—a report that attributed the whole thing to a "mistake."

According to the Air Force report, some Air Force personnel mounted the warheads on the missiles (which are obsolete and slated for destruction), and another ground crew, allegedly not aware that the missiles were armed with nukes, moved them out and mounted them on a launch pylon on the B-52's wing for a flight to Barksdale and eventual dismantling. Only on the ground at Barksdale did ground crew personnel spot the nukes according to the report. (Six other missiles with dummy warheads were mounted on a

pylon on the other wing of the plane.)

The problem with this explanation for the first reported case of nukes being removed from a weapons bunker without authorization in 50 years of nuclear weapons, is that those warheads, and all nuclear warheads in the US stockpile, are supposedly protected against unauthorized transport or removal from bunkers by electronic anti-theft systems—automated alarms similar to those used by department stores to prevent theft, and even anti-motion sensors that go off if a weapon is touched or approached without authorization.

While the Air Force report doesn't mention any of this, what it means is that if weapons in a storage bunker are protected against unauthorized removal, someone—and actually at least two people, since it's long been a basic part of nuclear security that every action involving a nuclear weapon has to be done by two people working in tandem—had to deliberately and consciously disable those alarms.

Since the Air Force report does not explain

how this hurdle to unauthorized removal of the six nukes could have been surmounted by "mistake," the report has to be considered a whitewash, at best, or a cover-up.

That leaves us speculating about what actually happened, and about who might have authorized the removal of those nukes from storage, and why the Defense Department would be covering up the true story. We know that the loading of nuclear-armed missiles or bombs onto an American bomber has been barred since 1991, even for practice and training purposes. We know also that the carrying of nuclear weapons by bombers flying over US airspace has been banned for 40 years. So if the evidence suggests strongly that the removal of the nukes from the bunker was done intentionally and with some kind of authorization from higher authorities, then the loading of nukes onto the plane, and the flight of those nukes to Barksdale have to also be assumed to have been authorized.

This possibility has been dismissed out of

see Air Force p. 5

## Will the GOP election theft machine do it again in 2008?

By Bob Fittrakis and Harvey Wasserman

With record low approval ratings for the Bush/Cheney regime and the albatross of an unpopular war hanging from the GOP's neck, do you think that a Democratic presidential candidate will win the White House, get us out of Iraq, and end our long national nightmare?

Think again – the mighty election theft machine Karl Rove used to steal the US presidency in 2000 and 2004 may be under attack, but it is still in place for the upcoming 2008 election.

With his usual devious mastery, Rove has seized upon the national outrage sparked by his electoral larceny and used it as smokescreen while he makes the American electoral system even MORE unfair, and even EASIER to rig. Thus the administration has fired federal attorneys when they would not participate in

a nationwide campaign to deny minorities and the poor their access to the polls. It has spent millions of taxpayer dollars to install electronic voting machines that can be "flipped" with a few keystrokes. And under the guise of "reforming" our busted electoral system, it is setting us up for another presidential theft in 2008.

Thus it should come as no surprise that our exclusive investigations into the firings of eight federal prosecutors who refused to execute Rove's plans for massive disenfranchisement of Democratic voters reveal a pattern of illegalities and fraud aimed at reducing the number of minority, poor and young voters at the core of Democratic support. In the wake of major news breaks, two felony convictions have come from the rigging of the illegal Ohio 2004 vote count and recount that gave George W. Bush a second illegitimate term. Stunning

new admissions from county election boards that illegally destroyed voter records will almost certainly lead to new convictions. And the multi-million-dollar electronic voting machine scam that made possible the biggest electoral frauds in US history is under massive new attack, with key states moving to scrap the machines altogether in a desperate attempt to restore American democracy – but with the job far from done.

Indeed, the Rovean theft engine is far from dead. The media groundwork has already been laid out for the Republicans to claim that hordes of illegal aliens have registered to vote. The Bush administration has been caught ordering public agencies – possibly in violation of the law – to cease registering voters. In an April, 2006 speech to the Republican National

see Election Theft p.7

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Bethesda, MD 20814

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Lyme Disease from p. 1

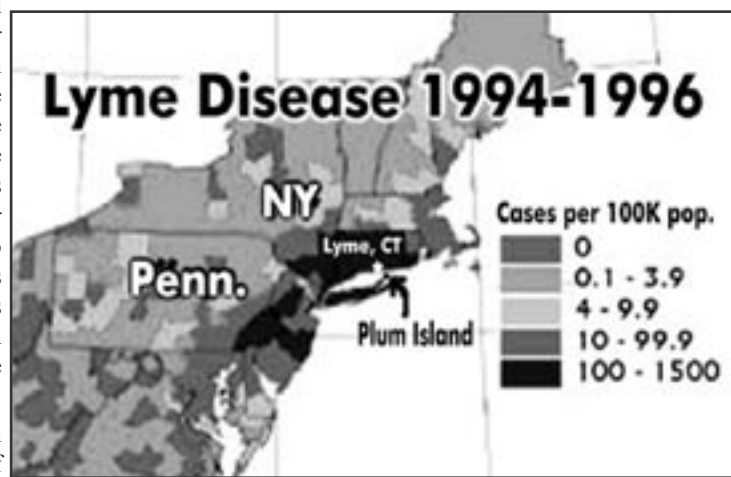
The first record of a condition associated with Lyme disease dates to 1883 in Breslau (formerly in Germany) where physician Alfred Buchwald described a degenerative skin disorder. In 1909, Arvid Afzelius presented research about an expanding, ring-like lesion which, he concluded, had come from the bite of an Ixodes tick, and that meningitic symptoms and signs were reported in a number of cases; this rash is now known as erythema migrans (EM), the skin rash found in early stage Lyme disease. The full syndrome now known as Lyme disease was not recognized until a cluster of cases originally thought to be juvenile rheumatoid arthritis was identified in three towns in southeastern Connecticut in 1975, including the towns Lyme and Old Lyme, hence it's name.

Why the cluster of cases in southeastern Connecticut? If you take out a map showing Long Island, NY and the Connecticut coast line you will see a small island northeast of Long Island called Plum Island. Plum Island, NY is a coastal island approximately 840 acres in size; it is 1.5 miles northeast of the tip of Long Island, NY and about 5.5 miles from Black Point, CT.

Plum Island has long been used by humans, first by the Corchough and Mantuk tribes and then by English settlers. In 1897 the War Department bought 150 acres on the east end for the creation of Fort Terry. By 1914 the fort had 11 batteries, anti-aircraft guns were installed during WWI. During WWII, Fort Terry became a training camp for the Army and new batteries were constructed. In 1948 the Army declared Fort Terry as surplus property. On April 25,

1952 Fort Terry was transferred to the US Army Chemical Corps, which had been planning an animal research lab on Plum Island since 1951. Work was completed in 1954, but the facility was turned over to the USDA, the new Animal Disease Laboratory Building 101 compounds was dedicated on September 26, 1956.

"Plum Island lies in the middle of the Atlantic



flyway, the bird migration highway that runs between breeding grounds and winter homes from the Caribbean to the Florida coast, up the East Coast to the icy reaches of Greenland." Carroll, *Lab 257*, p. 19. Deer are also abundant in this area and are capable of swimming the short distance to the mainland.

So what does Plum Island, deer and the Atlantic fly-way have to do with Lyme disease? According to Michael Carroll, author of *Lab 257*, Plum Island is a germ laboratory experimenting on viruses and bacteria as bio-weapons using animals as the vector. This type of research began during WWII by both the US and Germany and was used by the Germans against Russia. One of the leading scientists in Germany during the

war was Erich Traub. Traub spent his prewar years on a fellowship at the Rockefeller Institute in Princeton, NJ, perfecting his skills in viruses and bacteria before returning to Germany before the war. Erich Traub was a member of Amerika-Deutscher Volksbund, a German-American "club" also known as Camp Sigfried. Camp Sigfried was the national headquarters of the American Nazi movement; Traub was also a member of NSKK, the Nazi Motorists Corps, a powerful Nazi organization that ranked directly behind the SA (Storm Troopers) and the SS (Elite Corps). During the war Traub worked directly for Adolf Hitler's second in charge, Heinrich Himmler. As lab chief of Insel Riems, Dr. Traub's accomplishments included collecting Rinderpest virus from Anatolia, and packaging weaponized foot and mouth disease for dispersal onto cattle and reindeer in Russia during WWII. Dr. Traub also experimented with the glanders bacteria and was fascinated by organisms that attacked the brain.

After the war Traub found himself on the Soviet side of the Iron Curtain. He made a daring escape with his family to West Berlin in 1949, then applying for Project Paperclip employment affirmed that he wanted to do scientific work in the US, become an American citizen and be protected from Soviet reprisals. Carroll claims Dr. Traub to be the father of the Plum Island biological research lab. Dr. Traub is known to have visited Plum Island on at least three different occasions, and was offered the directorship there several times.

Erich Traub's legacy of experimentation

using insects as disease vectors continued during the 1980s at Plum Island under the jurisdiction of Entomologist Dr. Richard Endris, who is reported to have nurtured over 200,000 soft and hard ticks of varying species in tick nurseries on Plum Island. In a footnote in *Lab 257*, Carroll notes that Endris, while under contract with the US Army lab at Fort Detrick had also conducted experiments in 1987 on Plum Island, using sand flies as vectors of the fatal illness Leishmaniasis.

A 1978 US Department of Agriculture (USDA) document titled "African Swine Fever,"



confirms the testing of ticks as bio-war vectors on Plum Island. The report stated:

"In 1975 and 1976 the adult and nymphal stages of *Abyomma americanum* (the Lone Star tick) and *Abyomma cajunense* (the Cayenne tick) were found to be incapable of harboring and transmitting African Swine fever virus." Coincidentally, the Lyme disease outbreak was identified about the time of the Swine Fever tick

study conducted on Plum Island. Also before the Plum Island Swine Fever experiments, the Lone Star tick's range was limited to Texas. Today it is endemic in New Jersey, New York State and Connecticut, and as Carroll states in *Lab 257*, no one can answer how the Lone Star tick migrated from Texas to New York and Connecticut.

According to some accounts, the safety of Plum Island's facilities has been an issue since the 1970s due to budget cuts and relaxation of safety regulations. There have been three outbreaks of infectious diseases in the area around Plum Island, in 1967 duck enteritis virus virtually wiped out the Long Island ducks and associated industries; in 1975 fifty cases of Bb or Lyme disease broke out in Old Lyme, CT, and in 1999 West Nile devastated the Eastern Seaboard bird population and killed many horses in area stables.

There is considerable evidence that Plum Island has been the site of biological weapons testing since it's creation in the 1950s. There is little doubt that Lyme disease, West Nile virus and many other infectious diseases were released, perhaps accidentally, from the facility on Plum Island.

In June 2000 Dr. David L. Huxsoll, formerly Commander of Fort Detrick biological warfare laboratories, was appointed as Plum Island's new director and in 2002 President Bush moved the lab from the USDA to the new Department of Homeland Security -- both tacit admissions of the facility's true mission.

CSRS

# Why Do People Get Flu Shots?

By Wilton D. Alston

"Scientific medicine has taken credit it does not deserve for some advances in health. Most people believe that victory over the infectious diseases of the last century came with the invention of immunizations. In fact, cholera, typhoid, tetanus, diphtheria and whooping cough, etc, were in decline before vaccines for them became available -- the result of better methods of sanitation, sewage disposal, and distribution of food and water." ~ Dr. Andrew Weil, Health and Healing

A good bit of freely-available information paints a rather cautionary and contrary-to-mainstream-orthodoxy picture of vaccinations. According to Vaccination Debate, a private website based in Australia, there is little, if any data-based support for the belief that vaccination is as important as it is often portrayed to be. This is evident when one examines the timing between the introduction of most vaccines and the decrease in death rates for the diseases they supposedly fight. While there are several examples of this phenomenon, I'll only include a couple below; note that year is plotted on the X-axis.

I'm neither an epidemiologist nor an immunologist, but this data -- even though taken from Australia -- seems instructive on a number of levels. Notice when the vaccine was deployed. Contrast that with the slope of the curve. It seems pretty obvious that vaccination had little, if any, effect on death rate. Then again, that's exactly what Dr. Weil says in the quote that heads this essay above. He's far from alone; but wait, there's more.

Andrew Saul, over at DoctorYourself.com stated in a recent newsletter: "There is plentiful evidence that vaccinations are less than beneficial. The venerable British Anti-Vaccination League (and, incidentally, George Bernard Shaw) was vociferously against them. Homeopathic medical writers frequently include passages in their texts on how to treat vaccinosis, or the side-effects of vaccinations (Clarke, 1972). Certainly the U.S. Government cannot say without qualification that shots are either safe or essential. After all, this is what was said about the infamous Swine Flu vaccine in a 1976 FDA Consumer Memo in my possession: 'Some minor side effects -- tenderness in the arm, low fever, tiredness -- will occur in less than 4% of (vaccinated) adults. Serious reactions from flu vaccines are very rare.' So much for blanket claims of safety. Many persons well remember the very numerous and very serious side effects of Swine Flu vaccine that forced the federal immunization program to a halt."

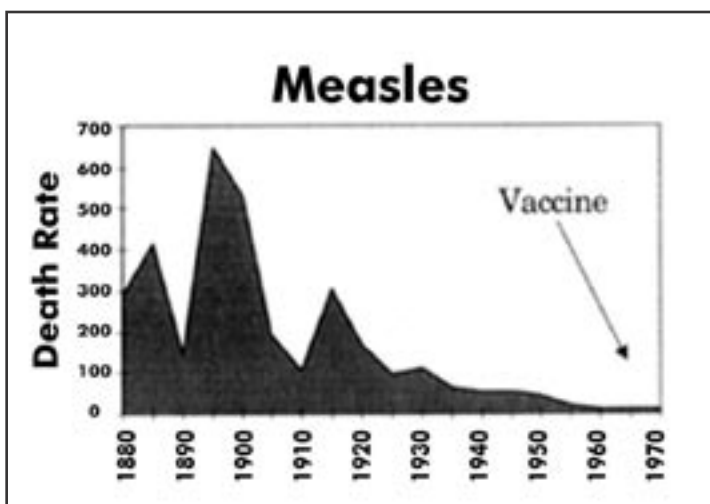
Dr. Joseph Mercola, over at Mercola.com asks in a not-so-recent piece: Do you want any of the following vaccine constituents in YOUR bloodstream?

- \* Ethylene glycol (antifreeze)
- \* Phenol, also known as carbolic acid (this is used as a disinfectant, dye)
- \* Formaldehyde, a known cancer-causing agent
- \* Aluminum, which is associated with Alzheimer's disease and seizures and also cancer producing in laboratory mice (it is used as an additive to promote antibody response)
- \* Thimerosal (a mercury disinfectant/preservative) can result in brain injury and autoimmune disease
- \* Neomycin and Streptomycin (used as antibiotics) have caused allergic reaction in some people.

Vaccines are also grown and strained through animal or human tissue like monkey kidney tissue, chicken embryo, embryonic guinea pig cells, calf serum, and human diploid cells (the dissected organs of aborted human fetuses as in the case of rubella, hepatitis A, and chickenpox vaccines).

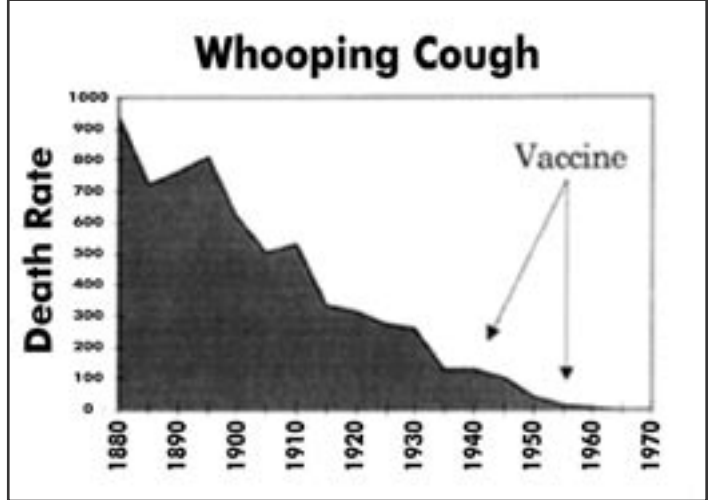
That thimerosal has been banned in several countries while continuing to be used, and in fact, promoted by some doctors' groups in the U.S. is also rather interesting.

From NewsTarget, we have a piece that speaks to the "modest benefit" one can expect



from getting a flu shot: "In their review of 71 studies, Dr. Daniela Rivetti of the public health department of Asti, Italy, and colleagues found that flu shots prevented 45 percent of flu-like illnesses, hospital admissions and flu-related deaths among nursing home and long-term care patients. Flu vaccinations prevented only 25 percent of these outcomes in older adults still living in the community."

NewsTarget also recently reported on the results of a new *British Medical Journal* analysis, which showed why, "Flu Shots are Virtually Worthless." That article states: "Dr. Tom Jefferson, coordinator of the Cochrane



Vaccines Field in Rome, Italy, conducted an extensive review of previous studies on the effectiveness of inactivated [dead virus] flu vaccines on hospital admissions, death rates and time off work." Dr. Jefferson reports that while vaccine recommendations have actually increased in recent years, the data shows that they are largely ineffective in the populations for which they are most highly recommended. Not surprisingly, others have written about this report, as well.

Even the more mainstream media reported that flu shots were "much ado about nothing." Interestingly, the same Dr. Jefferson as quoted by NewsTarget was quoted in an article originally linked by Medline. I found the article on HealthCentral.com, entitled "Study Questions Value of Flu Shots" via another source. That article states: "We've got an

exaggerated expectation of what vaccines can actually do," said study author Dr. Tom Jefferson. "I'm hoping American and European taxpayers will be alerted and will start asking questions."

The article goes on to say: "Overall, Jefferson concluded, influenza vaccines have little or no effect on many influenza campaign objectives, such as hospital stay, time off work, or death from influenza and its complications."

After all this information, there can be little doubt that the usefulness of flu shots is, at very least, questionable. That is the objective data about the shot itself. Yet the establishment continues to push them. Since I do not readily subscribe to the paradigm of random evil in people, there must be some reason, other than ignorance, that drives those with power and influence to support widespread flu shots for the US population.

The FDA recommends vaccinations. Given my impression of that organization, their recommendation alone is almost tantamount to a suggestion to the contrary. The socialist paradigm by which the FDA operates virtually guarantees that its decisions won't be in the best interest of "the customer." As Manuel Lora and I said in that previous column: "The difference, however, between the market and the state is that the latter lacks a negative feedback mechanism. In the market, if a company makes a mistake, it can be severely punished by the customers. With the government, no such thing happens. When the FDA makes a mistake, it doesn't go away or downsize; it cannot be boycotted or legally bypassed; one cannot seek alternate quality control and certification systems. In fact, we are perpetually tied to the FDA and any state agency through taxation. The state has no incentive to be more effective by controlling cost or increasing quality because it can always rely on a constant influx of funds."

We are virtually assured that even demonstrably bad decisions will not be punished, because externalization of risk is one inevitable outcome of a coercive state. The CDC advises everyone to get a shot, including both the young and the old. Yet I cannot find much information that backs this need up with data. Medline showed some positive data about flu shots and their effectiveness. An article entitled, "Studies Support Flu Vaccine's Effectiveness" states: "Using surveillance data, the researchers predicted what the peak week of influenza season would be. They also had parents answer questionnaires about what symptoms, if any, they and their children were experiencing, what medications they had purchased, and any doctor visits, missed school or work days they had logged."

The article goes on to say: "The team

found a significant reduction in influenza-like illnesses in both adults and children from households with a vaccinated child compared to the non-vaccinated households. The researchers also saw significantly fewer numbers of medical office visits, lowered use of prescription and over-the-counter medications and a reduction in missed school days by elementary and high-school children in the vaccinated households."

Certainly this is a positive recommendation, but a lukewarm one at best, given the contrary data presented by *The Lancet*, et al. Not even all mainstream news sources paint a rosy picture, as evidenced by "Universal Flu Shots Urged" published on-line a few years back by the National Women's Health Resource Center. That article states:

"The rationale for universal vaccination comes from the concept of 'herd immunity,' which posits that with more people vaccinated, less overall virus circulates and people, especially frail people, have less chance of contracting the illness."

The article goes on to say: "But this argument comes on the heels of a study in *The Lancet* that showed that even with people for whom the vaccine is most recommended (the elderly), protection can be as low as 30 percent."

So while one can find some positive data from some of the mainstream, there exists a not insignificant amount of data from both the mainstream (e.g., *The Lancet*) and the not-so-mainstream (e.g., Dr. Mercola) that question the usefulness and efficacy of flu shots. At best it appears that one is opting to inject a foreign substance with demonstrated low effectiveness while hoping that no side-effects occur. (Anyone care to pay for the chance to play Russian roulette?)

While the CDC reports that 36,000 people die each year from "flu-like illnesses", a catch-all that includes the common cold and a host of other illnesses; the number of deaths due specifically to the flu are much less, perhaps less than 1000 per year. Contrast that number with this little tidbit, found at Medical News Today: "An average of 195,000 people in the USA died due to potentially preventable, in-hospital medical errors in each of the years 2000, 2001 and 2002, according to a new study of 37 million patient records that was released today by HealthGrades, the healthcare quality company."

Using the numbers above we see that many times as many people will die because they happen to be in the hospital and are unlucky enough to experience a preventable error than will die from getting the flu, if the vaccine itself doesn't put them in the hospital. Seems to me your chances are better on your own anyway, particularly given the performance data.

According to Mercola the myths about vaccination have more efficacy than the vaccines themselves. For example:

Myth One: Vaccines are safe.

The truth is that vaccination side-effects causes significant death and disability at an astounding personal and financial cost to families.

Myth Two: Vaccines are effective.

The truth is that in many cases vaccination is an unreliable means of preventing disease.

Myth Three: Vaccines are responsible for the low incidence of disease in the US.

The truth, as shown by the graphs, is that it is unclear what impact, if any, that vaccines had on 19th and 20th century infectious disease declines.

Until these types of myths are exposed for what they are -- over-statements at best, lies at

worst -- people will, I suspect, continue to line up for flu shots and other vaccinations. Worse yet, many will opt for voluntary vaccinations such as HPV, which is also unwise in my view. The bulk of this behavior is due to heavy propagandization from agents of the State. (Even as reports of deaths from vaccine side-effects start to roll in, Merck continues to lobby.) Why does this occur? It occurs for the same old reasons. People continue to use the power of the State to enrich themselves.

According to Barbara Fisher, who served for ten years on the US National Vaccine Advisory Committee: "We have bad science and bad medicine translated into law to ensure that vaccine manufacturers make big profits, that career bureaucrats at the Public Health Service meet the mass vaccination goals promised to politicians funding their budgets, and pediatricians have a steady flow of patients...As the drug companies have often stated in meetings I have attended, if a vaccine they produce is not mandated to be used on a mass basis, they do not recoup their R&D costs and do not make the profit they want. In the medical literature official studies of vaccine risk are published purportedly proving there is no cause and effect. What the reader does not know is that often the studies have been designed and conducted by physicians who sit on vaccine policy-making committees at the Centers for Disease Control...some of whom receive money from vaccine manufacturers for their universities and for testifying as expert witnesses in vaccine-injury cases. And others are federal employees with an eye on career advancement within HHS and a future job with a vaccine manufacturer after retirement from public service. Many of these same physicians sit on the peer review boards of the major medical journals such as *Pediatrics* and *JAMA*, where they refuse space for studies or letters from the few brave physicians who dare to challenge their assertions that there is no cause and effect."

From my own experience in regulated medical device research and development, I know that it is not uncommon for a manufacturer of diagnostic tests to decide which tests to develop with an understanding (or in fact, an expectation) that the State will mandate the use of the new tests, and thereby furnish the manufacturer with a steady stream of income. And let us be clear, this behavior is not unethical, it is good business planning! (Now if one lobbies on one end while developing items to sell as a result of that lobbying on the other, well...) Still, this behavior is the inevitable result of statist policies -- regulation, mandates, etc. -- distorting the market.

We've uncovered yet another place where data, logic, and common sense go directly against the information spit out by the agents of the State. (Really, it wasn't that hard.) Of course this discovery is not surprising, since basic logic virtually guarantees that the coercive powers of the State will always be used to enrich some at the expense of others. History is an unerring teacher in this regard. As Bastiat so aptly put it, "The State is that great fictitious entity by which everyone seeks to live at the expense of anyone else." Indeed.

This is particularly true when it appears that very little about your or my health and wellness drives many, if not most, of their actions.

CSRS

Wilt Alston is a Libertarian and a principal research scientist in transportation safety, focusing primarily on the safety of subway and freight train control systems.



# Rock Creek Free Press

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Paul Craig Roberts

## Bush Regime Preaches Democracy, Proposes Tyranny

Americans had best rethink the “war on terror” while they still have the liberty to do so. For all of President Bush’s blah-blah talk about bringing democracy to the world, the Bush administration has proved that it is no friend of liberty at home.

The Bush administration has violated constitutional principles, US law, and the Geneva Conventions as no previous administration has done. Here is a short list of the Bush administration’s crimes:

- \* Spying without court warrants on Americans in violation of both the US Constitution and the FISA statute.

- \* The denial of habeas corpus, attorney-client privilege, due process, and Geneva Conventions protections to those, American or foreign, designated without evidence as terrorists or enemy combatants.

- \* The justification and use of torture to coerce confessions and the kidnapping of foreign nationals who are sent to be tortured in foreign prisons.

- \* The initiation of military aggression against states based on intentional deception by the Bush administration of the US public and the United Nations, and the intentional fabrication of “evidence” to justify unprovoked aggression against sovereign states, which is a war crime under the Nuremberg standard established by the US.

- \* Violation of the oath of office to defend the US Constitution by practically every member of the Bush administration and Congress.

- \* Bush has assaulted the separation of powers and the rule of law with “signing statements” and “executive orders” that President Nixon’s White House Counsel John Dean says are commands that treat the co-equal branches of government and the electorate as subservient to executive authority. In April 2006, *Boston Globe* reporter Charlie Savage listed 750 laws “challenged” by the Bush administration. Not even the demonized president of Iran claims to be above the law.

- \* Genocide against the people of Iraq where one million Iraqis have died as a result of Bush’s invasion and several million Iraqis are displaced persons.

- \* Massive civilian casualties in Afghanistan, which is a form of genocide in which military force is routinely applied to unarmed noncombatants.

- \* Massive corruption in which no-bid contracts are issued to Republican corporations in exchange for kickbacks to political campaigns.

- \* The theft of two national elections as documented in books by Mark Crispin Miller and Greg Palast.

The Bush administration has even conducted Stalinist show trials against innocent Muslim charities as part of its propaganda to make the American people fearful that they are surrounded by hostile terrorists. In December 2001 President Bush declared the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development to be a “terrorist organization” and seized the charity’s assets. Bush put the charities’ officials on trial as terrorists. Six years later on October 22, 2007, after years of investigations and two months of testimony by who but “Israeli intelligence agents” (according to the *New York Times*), the US government’s case fell apart in the courtroom.

One of the jurors said that the case “was strung together with macaroni noodles. There was so little evidence.”

Georgetown University professor of constitutional law David D. Cole said the case “suggests the government is really pushing beyond where the law justifies them going.”

While committing these unprecedented crimes,

President Bush has claimed the moral high ground despite having lied to the American people and despite devastating two countries in the name of “making the world safe from terrorists.” When people in Iraq and Afghanistan are asked who are the terrorists, they answer that it is the Americans.

The Bush administration has not been held accountable for any of its crimes. By failing to hold government accountable to law, the Constitution, and the American people, the opposition party and the corporate media have abandoned their responsibility to protect freedom and democracy in the United States.

There can be no democracy where there is no government accountability, and there is no government accountability in the United States – except, of course, to the Israel Lobby.

Now the Bush administration wants to take away the American people’s freedom to travel within their own country by airplane. Not content with an 80,000 “no fly” list, a subset of a 500,000–750,000 “watch list,” the Bush administration’s Transport Security Administration has proposed new rules that will require Americans to get government permission 72 hours in advance prior to being allowed to board a domestic flight.

The TSA justifies this extraordinary violation of our constitutional rights on the grounds that 90 to 93 percent of all travel reservations are final by then.

So what?!

And what of the 7 to 10 percent of flights that the TSA estimates are not on the books 72 hours in advance? These are family emergencies and critical business deals. What does the TSA care if a member of your family dies while you await the government’s permission to fly?

Any agency of the government that can propose such a tyrannical regulation should be abolished. The TSA’s mentality shows it to be a far greater threat to Americans than are terrorists.

Even without the “permission to fly” rule, the TSA’s practices are ridiculous and unjustified. The confiscation of tooth paste and unopened bottles of perfume, the harassment of US military officers in uniform, the harassment of old people struggling with their walkers, of mothers struggling with small children – none of this makes any sense except in terms of getting Americans accustomed to harassment as a citizen’s duty to government and to train a cadre to conduct warrantless searches of fellow citizens.

The no-fly list itself is absurd. If a known terrorist were to show up at an airport, he would be arrested, not refused permission to fly. Anyone else who can clear security like other passengers has every right to fly.

Set aside the violation of the Constitution and the Soviet-style tyranny of the loss of the freedom to travel and consider merely the practical aspect of the proposal. What American wants his travel plans dependent on a government bureaucracy capable of putting US Senator Ted Kennedy on the “no fly” list and capable of issuing US visas to two of the alleged 9/11 hijackers six months after they allegedly died in the 9/11 events?

If we believe the official story, 9/11 itself reveals a government totally devoid of any competence whatsoever.

The “war on terror” is fraudulent. The cruel war and the deceptive vocabulary that protects it are a cover for expanding US and Israeli hegemony in the Middle East and for constructing a functioning police state at home. A country in which people cannot make airline reservations without the government’s permission is not a free country.

October 24, 2007

### Letter to the Editor

Editor,

The American political system is failing and will go down from here if the citizens of the US don’t soon find a way to dispose of the incompetent madmen, Bush and Cheney. Our first weapon to do this is to force evacuation of American troops from Iraq by eliminating all war funding. Our troops will gain as will world opinion of the US. The losers will be our criminal leaders and their fat cat friends.

Gen. David Petraeus, current commander in Iraq, says we are a decade from victory. How can that victory ever be achieved with an army that Colin Powell says is “about broken”? How can we continue to finance the Iraq and Afghan fiascos with money borrowed from China and Japan when we are bankrupt already?

We must redouble our efforts to force the

spineless Congress to take the action that 70% of Americans want. The remaining credibility of Bush depends on success in Iraq so we remove two burdens, Bush and Iraq by withdrawing by May 2008.

Then we can push the next American administration to initiate a constitutional reform similar to that of Britain’s new Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, who intends a wide ranging program including giving up the Prime Minister’s power to declare war. The London Telegraph says these measures will restore trust in politics. Is there an American who believes other than that our trust in politics is at an all time low?

Our procedure must be 2008 withdrawal from Iraq and impeachment of Bush and Cheney.

H. Joerger

*“Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both.”*

*Benjamin Franklin*



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## Reason to Impeach is Reason to Withdraw from Iraq

By Matt Sullivan

Sidney Blumenthal recently reported in Salon.com that two former CIA officers have confirmed that President Bush was told in Sept. 2002 that Saddam Hussein did not possess any weapons of mass destruction. According to one officer, CIA director George Tenet provided Bush with top-secret information that “detailed that Saddam may have wished to have a program, that his engineers had told him they could build a nuclear weapon within two years if they had fissile material, which they didn’t, and that they had no chemical or biological weapons.” Bush reportedly dismissed the warning immediately; “Bush didn’t give a f\*ck about the intelligence. He had his mind made up.” And Bush’s mind was made up to invade Iraq, apparently, even before he was elected president in 2000. As former Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neal reports in his memoir about his time in the early Bush cabinet, Iraq was a primary topic of discussion in the Bush administration’s very first cabinet meeting.

That Blumenthal article corroborates, as if further confirmation were necessary, the contents of the “Downing Street Memo” which documented a July 23,

2002 meeting of the British Prime Minister’s senior ministers. The memo, which famously concluded that intelligence, was being cooked by the Bush administration to support a war with Iraq, states, “Bush wanted to remove Saddam, through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD. But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy.”

It is now abundantly clear that the Bush administration orchestrated a sophisticated campaign of lies meant to drum up support for the illegal invasion of Iraq. They even hired a PR firm with deep government ties, The Rendon Group, to assist in manipulating public opinion. The campaign kicked into high gear in September 2002 because, as the President’s advisor Andrew Card revealed, “from a marketing point of view, you don’t introduce new products in August.” But from September 2002 onward the constant flow of cooked up war propaganda, from Judith Miller’s fabrications at the *New York Times*, to the unchallenged pronouncements of the administration spokesmen on shows like *Russett’s* and *Fox News*, pounded home the same theme: Iraq is a threat and the

US must attack.

That public relations campaign was largely successful in getting the American public to accept a litany of false premises with the intended effect of increasing public support for the war. Thanks to this unrelenting campaign of hype and outright lies by administration spokespersons, false ideas such as Saddam being responsible for 9/11, and Iraq possessing nuclear weapons, were erroneously believed by a majority of Americans (as measured by a Feb 2003 Gallup poll).

The Iraq invasion and subsequent occupation have now cost the lives of thousands of US personnel (over 4000 GIs dead, 40,000 wounded) and over 1 million Iraqi deaths as well; not to mention the 4 to 6 million Iraqi civilians displaced by the war and the total environmental devastation of that country. And the final dollar cost of the war including the medical care of thousands of severely disabled vets, will certainly top 2 trillion dollars (*Milken Institute Review*).

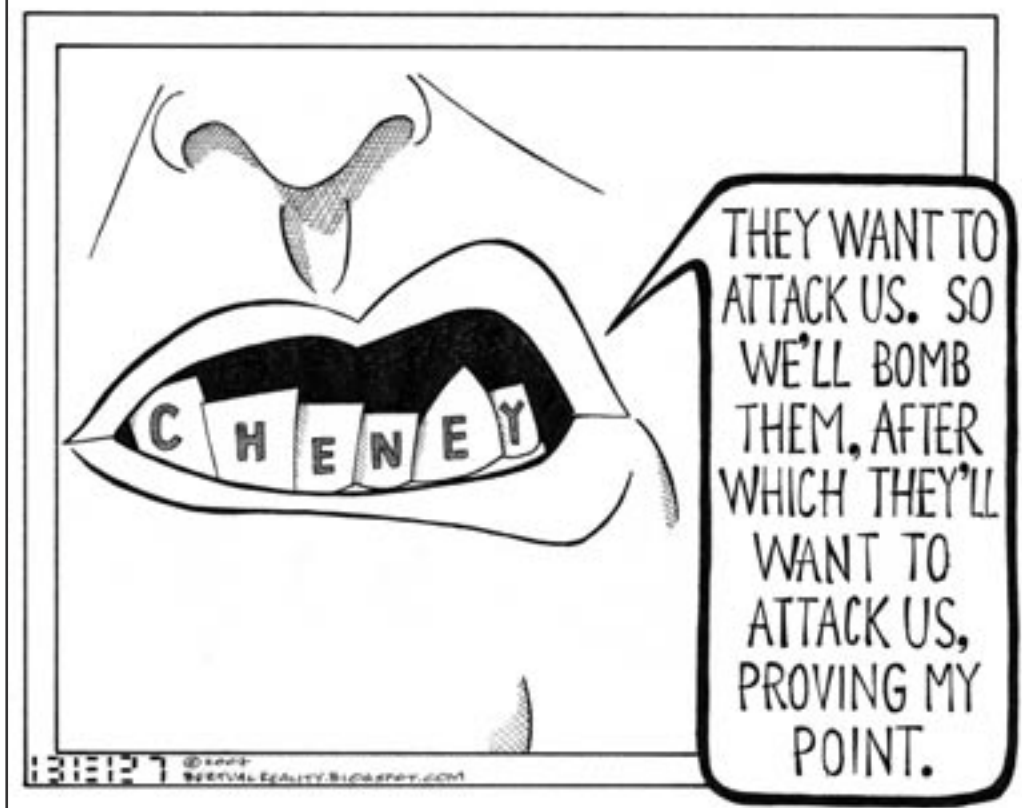
All of these facts I’ve outlined here, and many more, are in the public record and acknowledged by all rational observers.

Certainly every Democrat in Congress knows and understands these facts. And yet, those same Democrats, a majority of them, refuse to even consider bringing impeachment to the floor. How can these elected representatives, who have sworn to uphold the Constitution, stand by while the country is hijacked by a runaway executive branch hell-bent on the destruction of the Republic. And these same publicly acknowledged facts that cry out for impeachment also prove that the invasion of Iraq was an unjustified and illegal aggression and a war crime (the supreme war crime) under international law.

It is now clear that the Bush administration must be not only impeached, they must be subsequently indicted for High Crimes and Felonies.

CRB

### Revisionist Sophestry



## In Praise of Conspiracy

By Robert Shetterly

It is obvious to say that we have been engineered into a culture that values competitive consumption and consumers instead of community cooperation and citizenship. Capitalism with its obsessive and necessary appetite for consumption, expanding markets, resource depletion, and increasing profits has consumed democracy. Have you ever watched a small snake swallow a large frog? The snake’s hinged jaw stretches wider and wider, squeezing the frog millimeter by millimeter into its gullet until finally the snake looks like the Holland Tunnel might if it had devoured the Titanic. Then the acids and enzymes do their corrosive work. The frog becomes the snake. And the snake claims it is the frog. Capitalism has gulped down democracy and claimed it is democracy. When, immediately after 9/11, President Bush advised Americans to demonstrate their love of freedom and their resistance to terrorism by courageously, selflessly, hurrying to the

mall to buy something, he was speaking as the snake that identifies itself as a frog. He was asking us to play a little game with our brains’ synapses, replace the snake icon with the frog’s. Sadly, he may also have been speaking about democracy in the only way that he can understand or recognize it. And, for him, Christianity has been another tidy meal for the snake.

Perhaps this switcheroo is nowhere more obvious than in the military/industrial complex. We are told that the vulnerable frog needs protecting. The threats are grave. So we fork over our money and children’s lives for war and weapons. We are told that we are building security and peace. More lives. More weapons. What we aren’t told is that the largest US export to the world is weapons. What we aren’t told is that enormous fortunes are being made from the arms trade. What we aren’t told is that the more precarious and unstable the world is, the better the business for the arms dealers — that the real promotion is not for security

and peace but insecurity and war, that the lives of our children are the necessary collateral damage for this monster. What we aren’t told is that the only real security is in cooperation, conservation, and fairness, not imperialism. The frog, who is a snake, wrapped in a flag, pleads for patriotism and counts the cash. The snake’s forked tongue is a barbecue fork on which we’ve all been roasted.

I’d call that conspiracy.

The neocons have claimed, with some accuracy, that they can create reality faster than we can react: the deed is done, now deal with it. The troops have invaded, Halliburton, Blackwater, and Lockheed signed their contracts, the prisoners are tortured, your email is bugged, the resources for social programs are gone, the laws are changed, the Wal-Mart is built, the sludge dump has already polluted the aquifer, truth is hollowed out — catch me if you can!

see Conspiracy p. 5



Occupation Cost from p. 1  
 million currently uninsured, could be had for just six months worth of Iraq spending.  
 Just one day's worth of money spent on the war could provide incentives for the replacement of 144,000 gas guzzlers with new Hybrid cars, saving over 20,000 barrels a day in imported oil. Another day's worth of Iraq spending could outfit 360,000 homes with renewable energy technology saving another 20,000 barrels a day. In this way, with just a few month's worth of war spending, we could cut dependence on imported energy in half.  
 One day's worth of Iraq war funding would be enough to provide four-year state college

scholarships to 124,000 students or about 10% of this year's high school graduates. Just 10 day's worth of Iraq war money could have provided free college education to every kid graduating high school last year, and with less than one years worth of Iraq war money we could have provided free college to an entire generation of our kids.  
 Think about that. Who would not trade the last hellish year of death and destruction in Iraq for the promise that an entire generation of American children could receive a free college education? Apparently our Congress, that's who.

# NSA Likely Reading Windows Software on Your Computer

By Sherwood Ross  
 Sooner or later, a country that spies on its neighbors will turn on its own people, violating their privacy, stealing their liberties.  
 President Bush's grab for unchecked eavesdropping powers is the culmination of what the National Security Agency(NSA) has spent forty years doing unto others.  
 And if you're upset by the idea of NSA tapping your phone, be advised NSA likely can also read your Windows software to access your computer.

competitors. Among companies targeted were Thomson S.A., of Paris, Airbus Industrie of Blagnac Cedex, France, and the German wind generator-manufacturer Enercon. "We know this technology("E") is there and it is being used on us," Josef Tarkowski, former head of counter-espionage for the German government told The London *Sunday Times* Internet Edition.  
 "Like a mammoth vacuum cleaner in the sky," Blum documents, NSA's continuously orbiting satellites "sucks it all up: home phone, office phone, cellular phone, email, fax, telex...satellite transmissions, fiber-optic communications traffic, microwave links... voice, text, images." These are then processed by high-powered computers at Ft. Meade, Md., NSA headquarters.

The *Sunday Times* also reported Thomas-CSF, a French electronics maker, lost a \$1.4 billion deal to supply Brazil with radar because the U.S. intercepted details of the negotiations and passed them to Raytheon, the U.S. firm that makes the Patriot missile. Raytheon won the contract.  
 "E" is headquartered on British soil on a 560-acre base at Menwith Hill, in North Yorkshire, the largest listening post in the world, taken over by NSA in 1966. As well, the U.S. operates an enormous radar and communications complex at Bad Aibling, near Munich, that is also an NSA intercept station, and a dozen signals intelligence bases in Japan.

European investigative reporter Duncan Campbell claimed NSA had arranged with Microsoft to insert special "keys" in Windows software starting with versions from 95-OSR2 onwards.  
 And the intelligence arm of the French Defense Ministry also asserted NSA helped to install secret programs in Microsoft software. According to France's Strategic Affairs Delegation report, "it would seem that the creation of Microsoft was largely supported, not least financially, by NSA, and that IBM was made to accept the (Microsoft) MS-DOS operating system by the same administration." That report was published in 1999.

Billions of messages are sucked up daily, Blum writes, including those by presidents, prime ministers, the UN Secretary-General, the pope, the Queen of England, transnational corporation executives, and foreign embassies. It's been estimated "E" sifts through 99.9999 percent of all global communications to get at the 0.0001 percent that is of interest to it.  
 Each of the English-speaking partners, Blum asserts, "is breaking its own laws, those of other countries, and international law --- the absence of court-issued warrants permitting surveillance of specific individuals is but one example."

NSA also read other peoples' mail by inking a secret agreement with Crypto AG, a Swiss maker of encryption technology, to rig their machines before sale so that when foreign governments used the random encryption key the enciphered message would be clandestinely transmitted to NSA.  
 The result: when Iran, Iraq, Libya, Yugoslavia and more than 100 other countries sent messages to their embassies, trade offices, and armed forces around the world via telex, fax, and radio, NSA spooks could read them. NSA, by the way, employs some 30,000 workers and, if it were a private corporation, would rank among the top 50 on the "Fortune 500." It's budget, of course, is secret but it's a bet NSA is cheerfully gobbling up umpteen billions of your tax dollars every year. Of course, other countries today emulate NSA's activities. China, for example, is said to have hacked into British defense and foreign policy secrets and the German weekly *Der Spiegel* recently reported German computers at the chancellery, and foreign, economic, and research ministries are infected by Chinese espionage programs.

The French reported a "strong suspicion of a lack of security fed by insistent rumours about the existence of spy programmes on Microsoft, and by the presence of NSA personnel in Bill Gates' development teams." It noted the Pentagon was Microsoft's biggest global client.  
 In the U.S., Andrew Fernandez, chief computer scientist with Cryptonym, of Morrisville, N.C., found Microsoft developers had failed to remove debugging symbols used to test his software before they released it.

Some NSA activities came to light during the countdown to the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003. At the time, the U.S. listened in on the private conversations of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, UN weapons inspectors in Iraq, and on the deliberations about Iraq of all members of the UN Security Council. It also spied on organizations such as Christian Aid and Amnesty International. Earlier, it was said to have spied on U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond(R.-S.C.)  
 Less well known has been "E's" spying on foreign firms. In 1998, German wind generator-maker Enercon developed a cheaper way to generate electricity from wind power, but its U.S. rival, Kenetech, said it had patented a near-identical process, and got a court order to ban Enercon sales in the U.S., reporter Blum writes. NSA's role was exposed when one of its employees revealed he had stolen Enercon's secrets by tapping telephone and computer links between its research and production units.

Rather than shutting down or curbing NSA activities, President Bush is expanding NSA's role. Even if a rubber stamp Congress goes along, not everybody approves. The American Bar Association, our largest lawyer group, has denounced Bush's warrantless domestic surveillance program.  
 "The issue is whether the president can unilaterally conduct secret surveillance, taking into his hands the awesome power to invade privacy," ABA President Michael Greco said.

Apparently, agencies of the military-industrial complex take on a life of their own. NSA, for example, has long engaged in commercial espionage eavesdropping on European businesses to benefit U.S. firms, according to William Blum, author of *Rogue State* (Common Courage Press).  
 NSA achieves this through ECHELON("E") - an intelligence cartel dominated by the U.S. with Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada as junior partners. Launched in the 1970s to monitor Cold War data, "E" morphed into "a network of massive, highly automated interception stations covering the globe," Blum said.

Again, NSA, with CIA aid, Blum and other sources say, obtained covert information from French Airbus Industrie that enabled its U.S. rivals Boeing and McDonnell Douglas to win a \$1 billion contract. "The same agencies also eavesdropped on Japanese representatives during negotiations with the U.S. in 1995 over auto parts trade," Blum added.

Greco may be upset because the Bill of Rights declares: "The right of people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."  
 But what did George Washington know compared to George Bush?

Using "E", NSA has spied on German and French businesses which, as a result, have come off second best against their American

Each of the English-speaking partners, Blum asserts, "is breaking its own laws, those of other countries, and international law --- the absence of court-issued warrants permitting surveillance of specific individuals is but one example."

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 But what did George Washington know compared to George Bush?

# The Money Party

## The Essence of our Political Troubles

By Michael Collins  
 "Scoop" Independent News, Washington, D.C.

The Money Party is a small group of enterprises and individuals who have most of the money in this country. They use that money to make more money. Controlling who gets elected to public office is the key to more money for them and less for us. As 2008 approaches, The Money Party is working hard to maintain its perfect record.

all paid for with our tax dollars.  
 The Money Party gets no-bid contracts as well as the ability to lay off their employees and dump their pension plans just about any time they want. It doesn't get much better than that. It's welfare for big money and survival of the fittest for the rest of us.

It is not about Republicans versus Democrats. Right now, the Republicans do a better job taking money than the Democrats. But The Money Party is an equal opportunity employer. They have no permanent friends or enemies, just permanent interests. Democrats are as welcome as Republicans to this party. It's all good when you're on the take and the take is legal.

When the White House and Congress ignore the health care crisis year after year, why be surprised? They're not in office to serve you. The drug companies and hospitals had their bid in first.  
 When our public servants fail to get us out of Iraq, don't take it personally. That will happen when The Money Party says so.

This is not a conspiracy theory. There are no secret societies or sinister operators. This party is up front and in your face. Just follow the money. One percent of Americans hold 33% of the nation's wealth. The top 10% hold 72% of the total wealth. The bottom 40% of Americans control only 0.3% (three tenths of one percent). And that was before "pay day loans."

When citizens suffer and starve for days after a hurricane, we're told they should have been better prepared. When levees and bridges collapse, it's an act of God. But when the fat no-bid contracts show up, The Money Party takes it all.

The story is as old as civilization but the stakes have never been higher than they are right now.

Unreliable election systems, citizens excluded from the vote on the basis of race and class, and questionable results don't matter as long as the right candidates get in. We pretend to vote, they pretend to get elected, but there's no doubt who is in charge - The Money Party.

In every campaign for major office, the party passes out money and buys candidates from both parties. Thanks to the candidates who get elected, this pay to play system remains perfectly legal. Those elected get luxury trips, sweet jobs for family members, and more campaign contributions for the next round of elections. What they do is perfectly legal even though it looks like bribery.

We let this happen. We can change it. The first step is to name it, and we just did.  
 The Irish fought for 800 years to win their independence from the world's most powerful empire. Generations came and went before the goal even seemed possible. They never gave up.

In return for contributions, the election winners come through by fixing the laws so that The Money Party cleans up. Lower taxes, highly favorable business regulations, laws that shield their businesses from real competition all start with the nonstop flow of Money Party funds. Cost is no object, because in the end it's

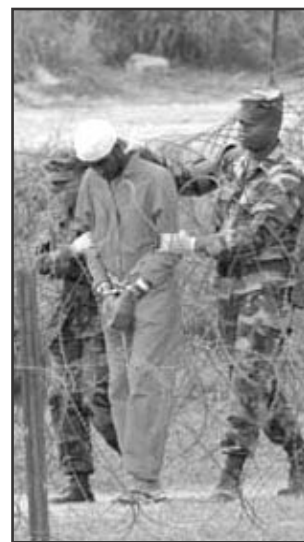
Now it's our turn.



## Plane Used by CIA for Rendition Flights Crashes in Yucatan Filled with Cocaine

On the evening of Sept 24, 2007, a private Gulfstream jet filled with cocaine crashed in Yucatan Mexico. No bodies were discovered at the crash site, but over a hundred military style duffle bags containing several tons of cocaine were pulled from the wreckage. This particular aircraft, N987SA, has a long history of being used by the CIA for Special Rendition flights. It has logged thousands of miles between DC, Connecticut and Guantanamo Bay and to suspected "black sites" in Europe.

Records show that the plane changed hands in the weeks shortly before it crashed. The new operator of the Gulfstream is Donna Blue Aircraft, Inc. of Coconut Creek, Florida. Its address, according to the Florida Division of Corporations, is 4811 Lyons Technology, Coconut Creek, Florida 33073. Daniel Hopsicker reports that when he attempted to visit Donna Blue he discovered it is a phony front company with empty offices and unmarked squad cars in the parking lot. It also



The Charmer, China Trade Clipper Ship launched 1854

happens to be located at one of the airports where 9/11 patsie Mohammed Atta was trained. According to Hopsicker, it is a standard trick of drug traffickers when a plane is going on an illegal operation to fill out a bogus bill of sale for the plane. If the mission is successful, the bill of sale can be torn-up, but if the plane is intercepted, the bogus sale can be registered with the FAA up to 30 days retroactively. That appears to be what happened in this case.

The CIA was involved in heroin smuggling from southeast Asia; reportedly in the bodybags of dead US soldiers. The fact is, drug running is a tradition among the elite families who control the CIA; a tradition that dates back to a time long before the CIA was even created. Yale University, the favorite recruiting ground of the CIA, was established with wealth drawn from opium smuggling, the "China Trade" as it was euphemistically called.

Morgan and many other great American fortunes got their start in the illegal drug trade. And make no mistake, it was illegal (at least in China) and the importance of keeping the trade illegal was openly acknowledged. A legal commodity would not be nearly as profitable.

Could the CIA be involved in drug smuggling?  
 The CIA has a long and storied history of drug-running. Reporter Gary Webb detailed, in the *Mercury News* in the early 1990s, how the CIA supplied much of the cocaine that fueled the crack epidemic of the 1980s. Webb paid for that reporting with his life.

Yale Skull & Bones; co-founder William H. Russell and cousin Samuel Russell formally established Russell & Co. on January 1, 1824 for the purpose of acquiring opium and smuggling it to China. By the 1830s the opium trade had become "the largest commerce of its time in any single commodity, anywhere in the world." Many great family fortunes were built on the "China" trade. Delano, Forbes, Peabody,

The same is true today. One of the reasons efforts to legalize drugs gets so much resistance is in large part due to the huge profits that accrue precisely because they are prohibited. Because the CIA is essentially immune from drug law enforcement, the prohibition is in effect a competitive advantage for the CIA over its private enterprise competitors. The stiffer the penalties, the greater the advantage the CIA and other government players enjoy. So, like the "War on Terror", the "War on Drugs" is waged because it serves the interest of the ruling class.

Among the many cases of proven CIA involvement in drug running, the Iran-Contra investigation revealed that Oliver North's notebooks contained numerous references to drug trafficking. For example, one entry dated July 12, 1985, "14M to finance came from drugs."

In Afghanistan when the CIA was cooperating with the Mujahadeen (Al Qaeda), opium cultivation and processing was largely controlled by the Northern Alliance. The Taliban took control and eradicated the opium crop in 2000. The US invasion restored the druglords to power and an increase in heroin production quickly followed. In recent years the opium crop has reached record levels.

Before that, during the Viet Nam conflict,

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Margulis from p. 1

evidence that the official story is contradictory, incomplete, and unbelievable.

It is clear to me that David Ray Griffin and his fellow critics are correct: the 9/11 'new Pearl Harbor' was planned in astonishing detail and carried out through the efforts of a sophisticated and large network of operatives. It was more complex and far more successful than the Allende assassination, the US bombing of our own ship the "Maine" that began the Spanish-American war (and brought us Guam, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and the Philippines), the Reichstag fire that was used to justify the suspension of most civil liberties in Germany in the 1930s, and even Operation Himmler, which was used by Germany to justify the invasion of Poland, which started World War II.

Whoever is responsible for bringing to grisly fruition this new false-flag operation,

which has been used to justify the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq as well as unprecedented assaults on research, education, and civil liberties, must be perversely proud of their efficient handiwork. Certainly, 19 young Arab men and a man in a cave 7,000 miles away, no matter the level of their anger, could not have masterminded and carried out 9/11: the most effective television commercial in the history of Western civilization.

I suggest that those of us aware and concerned demand that the glaringly erroneous official account of 9/11 be dismissed as a fraud and a new, thorough, and impartial investigation be undertaken."

*Find more information about Dr. Margulis, and hundreds of other scientists, engineers, military and political leaders who share her convictions about 9/11 at:*

*www.patriotsquestion911.com.*

Air Force from p. 1

hand by the Air Force and Defense Department. The very idea is, in fact, not even discussed in the Air force report released in mid-October.

Yet we are left with the unresolved question of how the weapons could have been moved out of the bunker accidentally.

The Air Force has not been forthcoming about the automated alarm protections on American nuclear weapons, refusing to confirm or deny that they even exist. But we can know that they are in place for several reasons. One is that since writing about this incident in the current edition of *American Conservative Magazine* ("The Mystery of Minot," Oct. 24, 2007 ed.) and in several online venues, I have been contacted by several active-duty and retired military people who have assured me that such electronic protections are in place. A second is that an article in the Oct. 31 issue of the *New York Times*, reporting on the early completion of a project by the National Nuclear Security Administration, to secure Russian nuclear weapons, said that the measures implemented at 25 classified sites on 12 Russian nuclear bases included "measures that have long been part of American efforts" to secure nuclear weapons, and that these included "alarm and motion detection systems," as well as "modern gates, guard houses and fighting positions," and also "detectors for explosives, radiation and metal."

Ask yourselves, would American nuclear weapons be equipped with lesser security systems than those that the NNSA is providing for Russian weapons?

Of course not!

And yet we're asked to believe that some low-ranking ground crew personnel at Minot AFB simply walked out of a nuclear weapons bunker with six nuclear armed Advanced Cruise Missiles, not knowing what they were carrying, and labored for eight hours to mount those missiles and their launch pylon on the wing of a B-52 strategic bomber without ever noticing that they were armed with nuclear weapons. We're asked to believe that none of those electronic alarms and motion sensors built into the system went off during that whole process.

When I mentioned the automated alarm and motion sensors to Lt. Col. Jennifer Cassidy, a public affairs person at the Department of the Air Force, and asked her how the movement of the six nukes could have occurred without those alarms being disabled, she said, "It's an intriguing question, and it makes the hair stand up on the back of my neck."

As it should.

So why isn't it making the hair stand up on the back of the necks of members of Congress?

Incredibly, to date, there has been no demand for public hearings into this frightening incident.

Congress appears ready and willing to accept the Air Force whitewash at face value: It was an accident. It won't happen again.

That is not good enough!

We need honest answers to some hard questions. Among them:

- \* Who disabled the alarm systems on those weapons and on the bunker itself?
- \* Who mounted six nuclear weapons on the noses of six cruise missiles and put those missiles onto a B-52 launch platform?
- \* Who authorized them to perform this operation?
- \* Who moved the armed weapons out of the Bunker at Minot AFB and mounted them on the wing of a B-52 bound for Barksdale AFB? (Barksdale, it should be noted, bills itself as the main staging base for B-52s being flown to the Middle East Theater.)
- \* Were the six missiles flyable? Were they fueled up and ready to fire, or were they not?

fueled at the time of the Minot-Barksdale flight?

\* Was there targeting information in the missile's guidance computers and if so, what were those targets?

\* What happened to the three military whistleblowers who blew the whistle on this incident and reported it to a journalist at the newspaper *Military Times*?

\* Why hasn't the Air Force or the FBI investigated the 6-8 untimely deaths including three alleged suicides, one of a Minot weapons guard, one of an assistant defense secretary, and one of a captain in the super-secret Air Force Special Commando Group, as well as alleged fatal vehicle "accidents" involving four ground crew and B-52 pilots and crewmembers at Minot and Barksdale? Could any of this strange cluster of deaths have been related to the incident? The Air Force "investigation"

a remote location by a B-52, and then to fly close to the ground to its target, using terrain maps and GPS guidance. It is also designed to penetrate hardened sites, such as Iran's nuclear processing and research facilities.

Or was there a plan for a so-called "false-flag incident", where a small nuke—made to resemble a primitive weapon of the type a fledgling nuclear power might construct—might be detonated at a US target abroad, or even within the US?

These are terrible and terrifying questions to have to ask, but when you have six nuclear weapons go missing, when the military investigation into the incident is so clearly a whitewash or cover-up, and when you have a vice president who is openly pressing for an illegal war of aggression against a nation that poses no threat to the US, and who, in fact, appears to be conducting his own treacherous foreign policy behind the back of the president

## Many Americans Still Don't Grasp That Iraq War Is Illegal

By Sherwood Ross

Mistakenly, many Americans still believe President Bush's war on Iraq is justified because Congress supported it and funds it.

Yet, as international legal authority Francis Boyle of the University of Illinois points out, President Bush got congressional backing by lying that Hussein had W.M.D. and that Hussein was connected to 9/11. That's fraud, probably the bloodiest, costliest lie in White House history.

Also, to start a war, a country needs UN Security Council approval, which Bush failed to get. Otherwise, a nation can fight only in self-defense when attacked.

By attacking Iraq, Bush violated the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact of 1928, the UN Charter, the Tokyo War Crimes Tribunals, and the Nuremberg Charter, Judgment and Principles, Boyle said.

As all treaties become the supreme law of the land under Article VI of the U.S. Constitution, the Bush-Cheney presidency is guilty of breaking all of the above, warmongering in spades.

In testimony defending U.S. soldiers who have refused to fight in Iraq, Boyle noted that, under Nuremberg, "a soldier has a right to absent himself or herself from committing international crimes." In short, if given a criminal order, the defense used by Adolf Eichmann, Hitler's master killer, that he was only doing his job, is a phony.

Boyle testified that First Lt. Ehren Watada had the right, "if not the obligation," to say, "I don't want to participate in this." Watada faced an army court martial for not deploying with his unit for Iraq. Watada won a victory when the judge ruled a mistrial.

Boyle believes, "A soldier has an obligation to disobey illegal orders," which he says is printed in black-and-white in the Army's Field Manual (AFM) 27-10.

Without Security Council authority, President Bush's war is "a crime against peace," Boyle says. That's also written in paragraph 498 of the AFM.

"Any person, whether a member of the armed forces or a civilian, who commits an act which constitutes a crime under international law is responsible therefore and liable to punishment (as)...crimes against peace," the AFM reads.

This broad definition would seem to include trigger-happy private contractors in Iraq.

And since the U.S. has committed war crimes in Iraq, U.S. soldiers are legally within

their rights not to serve there, Boyle said.

These crimes include torture of prisoners, authorized by former Defense Secretary Rumsfeld and White House lawyers; the use of cluster bombs in civilian areas; and the firing of depleted uranium shells--- this last also a violation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925. "It's a war crime," Boyle said, that is "not only poisoning Iraqis, it is poisoning our own troops."

President Bush has repeatedly said the U.S. does not torture, but he is no objective arbiter in this matter. The International Committee of the Red Cross, with supervisory jurisdiction, says it is torture and that it is widespread and systematic. Thus Bush and his colleagues are guilty of crimes against humanity.

Curiously, the public reaction to these crimes includes a large measure of denial. If Congress okayed the war and funds it, many people think it's okay.

Besides, much of the bloodshed is concealed from their view. Fox TV, for example, runs little film footage of the real carnage in Iraq while reporting endless trivia and gossip. Fox is also continuing its show "24" over Army protests that the series encourages U.S. troops to torture.

Even though a CNN-Opinion Research Corp. poll last June found 54% of Americans do not believe the war is "morally justified" they appear content to allow Bush-Cheney to serve out their term of office.

Is that because 4 million of us haven't been forced out of our homes, and another million or so killed and wounded and two million forced to escape abroad?

Is that because the \$1 trillion the war is costing will be passed to our children to pay by the profligate in the White House?

Is it because our electricity and water supplies haven't been reduced to a trickle, our hospitals aren't busting at the seams with wounded, and our streets too dangerous to walk and our unemployment hasn't hit 50%?

So far, apart from 3,800 soldiers needlessly killed and 30,000 maimed, the stiffest penalty Americans are paying for Iraq is the gas price spike to \$3 a gallon.

Why is it, the more oil Bush gets his hands on, the higher the price? Maybe Americans would run Bush out of office if the Geneva Conventions made price-gouging by his oil company buddies illegal.

*(Sherwood Ross is an American reporter who covers military and political topics. Reach him at sherwoodr1@yahoo.com)*

Conspiracy from p. 3

How is that not conspiracy?

The cooks & the crooks create a new status quo, legalize it, propagandize it, mythologize it, fundamentalize it, slather it with fear and patriotism, and force feed it to the complacent, sedated cow we call America.

How is that not conspiracy?

Of course, ever since the Constitution was signed and didn't free the slaves or give the vote to women, poor folks, Native Americans and freed blacks so that people with power and money could continue to profit, America has been a conspiracy against itself. It's been cowboy grilling his own heart over a smoke & mirrors campfire, a CEO with inherited wealth and three hundred years of patrician, affirmative action crooning "Only in America."

The reason we can't talk about conspiracy is because it is the modus operandi. It isn't the elephant in the room, it is the room itself. We all live there. We can impeach a few elephants, and we should, but the architecture is in place. And they control it.

When I was in school, I was reminded - repeatedly — to avoid using an indefinite pronoun without identifying whom it refers to, as in, "They are coming to get us," ... or, "They control everything." Who are They? It's bad practice to think and write like that. Without reference it just sounds like paranoia. But the hell of it is that it's damned hard to say who the They are that are in conspiracy to destroy democracy and, by exploitation, nature. Did They do it on purpose or merely discover by serendipity, like cavemen seeing copper ooze

out of a rock by a fire, the wondrous possibility and power of what they had found. For instance, the invention of the TV was not a conspiracy. But once the realization of how TV could be used to submerge the public in a lobotomizing swamp of advertising, sound bites, inactivity, community destruction, titillation, false history, empty myth, consumption, and complicity in making fortunes for the sponsors, the program was clear. Conspiracy was the silent partner in the euphemism good business practice. And, once they saw the implications of giving corporations First Amendment rights, they were home free.

Time to re-think conspiracy.

We need to embrace conspiracy in two ways. One, admit that it's real, its quotidian, it's the fabric of our lives, the mercury in the air, the dioxin in the water, it's filling the airwaves and the marketplace and the courts and the halls of Congress before we even get out of bed every morning. Two, counter it with a conspiracy of our own. On our side we have the fundamental fact that although the corporate "They" can alter many of our realities, they can't alter Reality. They can't change the behavior of Nature. They can sell off the rain forest, but they can't leverage the effect of cutting it. They can keep the mileage of cars poor so we'll buy more gas, but they can't alter the amount of oil in the ground or the damage to the atmosphere. They can privatize every human interaction and every natural resource, but they can't privatize the laws of nature. They have conspired to change reality. We must conspire to live in harmony with Reality.

In the same way, they can conspire to kill Martin Luther King, Jr., but they can't totally eradicate the truth of who did it and why.

Con + spirare, from the Latin. To breathe together. Those are the roots of conspiracy. Breathing together doesn't sound like an activity of the ideologically deracinated whispering seditiously in a dank cellar or a board room, foul breaths denting a weak flame flickering over a candle nub, gunpowder or greed blackened fingers setting a timer, the whites of creased eyes glinting like knives with treason, murder, power, and deceit.

Con + spirare sounds like healthy men and women standing in the sun figuring out how in the hell they are going to take care of each other and their aging mother Earth and love life while doing it. Breathing together, sharing the same air, plotting to make sure that what's mine is yours, conspiring to save their self-respect, their ideals, the future for their children.

I want to be part of a conspiracy. Pervasive, populist, revolutionary, and totally transparent. Grassroots. Idealistic. Simplistic. Life-affirming. Community building.

A conspiracy to make the common good and the love of nature the common denominator of every economic transaction.

And the simple truth is either we start breathing together, conspiring big time, right out in the open, nakedly, unashamedly, or we will have conspired in secret, by default, in our own demise.

We have let them breathe for us, and they have stolen our breath, our air, our spirit.

Secret con + spirare is death. Open con + spirare is life.

Conspiracy is dead. Long live conspiracy!

Robert Shetterly lives in Brooksville, Maine You can read this essay and more at [www.AmericansWhoTellTheTruth.org](http://www.AmericansWhoTellTheTruth.org)



didn't even mention these incidents, and as I disclosed in my article, none of the police investigators or medical examiners in those incidents had even been contacted by Air Force or other federal investigators.

The Secretary of Defense appears to have been upset about this incident. Secretary Robert Gates ordered an unprecedented stand-down of all air bases in mid-September to check out and account for the entire nuclear inventory, and a general was dispatched immediately to Minot after the discovery of the wayward nukes on August 30 to investigate what had happened. Following a subsequent Air Force investigation, 70 people at Minot and Barksdale AFBs were removed from their posts and decertified from handling nuclear weapons, including five officers, one of them the Minot base commander.

\* But a base commander does not have the authority to order nuclear weapons to be loaded on a plane and flown. So who issued that order and why has no one at a senior level in Washington been sacked?

There is speculation that the order may have come via an alternate chain of command.

Vice President Dick Cheney is known to be pressing within the administration for a war with Iran, to be launched before the end of President Bush's second term of office. According to some reports, Cheney has even, on his own authority (or lack thereof), urged Israel to attack Iran's nuclear facilities, in hopes that Iran might retaliate, thus drawing the US into a war.

Could the nation's war-mongering VP have used his neo-con contacts in the Defense Department or some of the Armageddon-believers in the Air Force to bypass the official chain of command and spring those nukes from their bunker?

Was there a plan to use one or more of those nukes—W80-1 warheads that can be calibrated to detonate with an explosive power ranging anywhere from 150 kilotons down to just 5 kilotons—against Iran? The Advanced Cruise Missile, a stealth weapon almost impossible to spot on radar, is designed to be launched from

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## Who Runs the World from p. 6

member of the Bilderberg Group, the CFR, and the TC, what kind of "news" should one expect from Leher's News Hour? Consider also that many of the journalists on the News Hour: Paul Gigot, David Gergen, William Kristol, and William Safire are members of one or more of the three groups. (153)

Likewise, when we consider the membership in one or more of these groups of almost every American president since the inception of these organizations, we can no longer pretend that any Democratic or Republican presidential candidate offers the American people an alternative to ruling elite global hegemony.

In fact, Estulin's research reveals that "the Council on Foreign Relations creates and delivers psychopolitical operations by manipulating people's reality through a 'tactic of deception', placing Council members on both sides of an issue. The deception is complete when the public is led to believe that its own best interests are being served while the CFR policy is being carried out." (117)

And what happens if the "anointed ones" become too autonomous? One chapter in the book, "The Watergate Con-Game", answers that question. In it Estulin suggests that Richard Nixon was set up by the Council on Foreign Relations of which he was a member because of his insubordination and unwillingness to submit to the shadow government. Presumably, Nixon's demise was carefully crafted to demonstrate to subsequent Chief Executives the price they would pay for disregarding the agenda of those who anointed them.

In the book's final pages, Estulin's research waxes increasingly relevant to the present moment in history. He asks: "Why would David Rockefeller and other U.S. Trilateralists, Bilderbergers and the CFR members want to dismantle the industrial might of the United States?" (184). He then launches into a summary of the economic history of the twentieth century and makes one of the most powerful statements of the entire book: "What we have witnessed from this 'cabal' is the gradual collapsing of the U.S. economy that began in the 1980s." (187)

In case you haven't noticed, this "gradual collapse of the U.S. economy" is no longer gradual, and what Estulin is asserting confirms a great deal of the assertions made by Catherine Austin Fitts that the current housing bubble explosion/credit crunch/mortgage meltdown has its roots in the 1980s. James Howard Kunstler has also written recently in his blog entitled "Shock and Awe" that the great American yard sale has begun. In other words, as an engineered economic meltdown drives hundreds of thousands and eventually millions of businesses and individuals into bankruptcy, key players in the Big Three ruling elite organizations can buy up the train wreck left behind for pennies on the dollar -- a brilliant fast-track strategy for owning the world.

In the final months of 2007 we are witnessing the stupendous success of the Big Three's strategy for planetary economic hegemony as the cacophony of their carefully engineered global economic cataclysm reverberates across America and around the world. It was never about buyers who didn't read the fine print when taking out liar loans. It was always about silver-tongued, ruling elite politicians and central bankers, anointed by the shadow government, who ultimately and skillfully stole and continue to steal governments from people and replace them with transnational corporations.

No one could have said it better than David Rockefeller, founder of the Trilateral Commission, a Bilderberg member and board member of the Council on Foreign Relations in his Memoirs:

"Some even believe we are part of a secret cabal working against the best interests of the United States, characterizing my family and me as 'internationalists' and of conspiring with others around the world to build a more integrated global political and economic structure-one world, if you will. If that's the charge, I stand guilty, and I am proud of it."

If you want to know who really runs the world and the lengths to which they will go to establish their globalist hegemony, you must read Estulin's well-documented *The True Story of The Bilderberg Group*.



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## Election Theft from p.1



Lawyers Association, Rove openly alluded to the strategy of demanding photo ID and purging voter roles of poor, minority voters just as had been done in 2000 and 2004. And, as always with Bush/Rove, there is much more beneath the surface.

All that has happened to challenge the GOP death grip on the American vote count has been reported in the pages of *Hustler* and on the internet at [freepress.org](http://freepress.org), [bradblog](http://bradblog) and elsewhere, and is being seized upon by a national grassroots movement determined to restore American democracy next year.

Nowhere has that movement been more in evidence than with the high profile firestorm surrounding Bush administration Attorney General Alberto Gonzales' firing of eight federal prosecutors without legitimate cause.

Evidence continues to surface from throughout the United States about this blatant Bush abuse of executive power. But we have traced the roots of the firings to an obscure Congressional hearing held at the statehouse in Columbus, Ohio, on March 21, 2005, and to a shadowy GOP operative named Mark F. "Thor" Hearne.

The hearing was conducted by none other than former US Rep. Bob Ney (R-18th OH). The once-powerful Ohio Congressman (who is now behind bars) was the godfather of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), the national boondoggle that mandated electronic voting machines for the American electoral process.

That the machines would cost taxpayers billions was a big plus for Ney. They would come from Diebold and other companies that poured money into Republican coffers. Thanks largely to the manipulations of disgraced lobbyist Jack Abramoff, these e-voting machine companies would help guarantee the GOP's ability to steal elections.

Ney's hearing featured a marquee appearance by J. Kenneth Blackwell, the Secretary of State responsible for delivering Ohio's decisive 2004 electoral votes to Bush. Blackwell was a key operative for the Bush election campaign in Florida in 2000 and co-chaired the Bush-Cheney 2004 re-election campaign in Ohio.

Congressional protocol required that Ney allow Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D-Cleveland) to question Blackwell. Soon Blackwell and Jones were yelling at each other in a legendary exchange that ended with Jones telling Blackwell to "haul butt" out of the chamber.

Not quite so high profile was the ensuing testimony by Hearne, who identified himself as the head of the American Center for Voting Rights. Hearne is a long-time GOP dirty trickster, with a Rovian rap sheet dating to the 1970s. He did not explain that the ACVR had a post box in a Dallas mall, but no office, few staff, a board stacked with GOP operatives, no grassroots mailing list or much else to confirm the functioning of a real organization. Nor did Ney clarify that Hearne had served as election counsel to the Bush-Cheney campaign, and had founded ACVR the previous month, at the urging of Karl Rove.

While the press corps rushed to report the Jones-Blackwell dust-up, Hearne laid out for Ney and the few of us left listening the essential template for the new GOP strategy for disenfranchising millions of suspected Democrats from voting in future elections. In classic Rovian terms, Hearne bemoaned a litany of "voter fraud" abuses allegedly committed by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Association for Communities Organizing for Reform Now (ACORN) and other multi-racial coalitions working to register millions of new voters across the United States.

Among other things, Hearne told Ney the voter registration campaigns were using "crack cocaine" as an "incentive" for registering new voters. Adding the AFL-CIO and ACT-Ohio to his list of evil-doers, Hearne warned that millions of "fraudulent" ballots would be cast in future elections unless something was done to curb the ability of ordinary citizens to vote without extensive identification papers.

Hearne's testimony drew little press. But it has led directly to the national Bush/Rove push for new laws requiring voters to show picture IDs at the polls and other methods of mass disenfranchisement -- and the firing of eight US prosecutors who apparently refused to go along.

References to Hearne's ACVR have now mysteriously disappeared from the internet. But the McClatchy Newspapers have reported that Hearne's ACVR and the Republican Lawyers Association have

actively campaigned -- with a war chest of at least \$1.5 million -- in at least nine battleground states. They stumped for voter ID laws and rigid registration restrictions and other tactics aimed at radically reducing the ability of Democrat-leaning organizations to register new voters.

The ACVR agenda embraces the Administration's illegal demand that public agencies stop registering new, mostly poor voters. And the pressure to rid our democracy of such voters has carried over to the offices of the nation's federal prosecutors, even in the face of widespread investigations showing the numbers of people illegally trying to register and vote have been miniscule.

Emblematic of the firings is the case of David Iglesias of New Mexico. Iglesias has testified to Congress that Albuquerque lawyer Patrick Rogers pressured him to prosecute alleged vote fraud perpetrators. When he resisted, Iglesias was fired by Gonzales.

Rogers is listed as "secretary" of Thor Hearne's American Center for Voting Rights, as well as a former general counsel to the New Mexico Republican Party.

Meanwhile, the Bush Justice Department's Civil Rights Division has reversed its mandate by fighting to narrow rather than broaden the voting rights of minorities, and to prosecute voter registration operations without just cause. An ACVR director, Cameron Quinn, is now the Division's voting counsel.

A key target has been Project Vote, which registered 1.5 million voters in 2004 and 2006. Five days before the 2006 election, Bush's interim US attorney in Kansas City issued indictments against four ACORN workers under contract with Project Vote. Prosecutions that close to election day have traditionally been discouraged by the Justice Department. ACORN officials had notified the federal officials when they noticed the doctored forms. But ACVR's "job was to confuse the public about voter fraud and offer bogus solutions to the problem," said Michael Slater, the deputy director of Project Vote. They used "deception and faulty research" to help Rove's GOP.

The common denominator in the firings of the federal attorneys has been an unwillingness to pursue prosecutions on the basis of such research. Iglesias, for example, told *Newsweek* magazine he "had been repeatedly pushed by New Mexico GOP officials to prosecute workers for ACORN" who were registering voters.

The media has missed what DID happen when the attorneys complied with the Bush/Rove game plan. Just four days prior to the 2004 vote, Assistant Attorney-General Alex Acosta, the civil rights chief of the Bush Justice Department asked a federal judge in Ohio to sign off on policies that would disenfranchise thousands of black voters. The move almost certainly had a significant impact on Bush's subsequent victory in the Electoral College. Joseph Rich, a former chief of the Justice Department's Voting Rights Section, has called the Ohio scheme "vote caging," which is illegal.

The case arose when Republicans allegedly sent "caging" letters to thousands of registered voters in inner city districts. The letters had "do not forward" stamped on them, with a return receipt requested. When some 23,000 came back as undeliverable, GOP operatives demanded the right to get the names removed from voter rolls. Acosta argued in his letter that restricting such challenges would "undermine" the electoral process.

But an exclusive investigation by [freepress.org](http://freepress.org) found that at least 25% of the people being removed from the voter rolls were in fact still living at their registered address. Greg Palast has reported that the GOP deliberately targeted black soldiers still fighting in Iraq.

Acosta says his letter endorsed the GOP challenges as "permissible" as long as they were not racially motivated, and that anyone whose eligibility was challenged could still get a provisional ballot.

But due to the actions of former Ohio Secretary of State Blackwell, more than 16,000 provisional ballots from the 2004 election remain uncounted. Independent observers have testified that thousands more may have been discarded right at the polling stations. (Bush's official margin of victory in Ohio was less than 119,000 votes.)

Robert Kengle, who served under Acosta at the Justice Department's Voting Rights Section, says Acosta's unsolicited letter to the courts was "cheerleading" for the GOP. "It was doubly outrageous," he said, "because the allegation in the litigation was that these were overwhelmingly African-American voters that were on the challenge list," precisely those whose right to vote the Justice Department was charged to protect.

Acosta was not among the attorneys fired by Bush. In fact, he is now the federal attorney in Miami.

Eyewitness testimony from throughout the state confirms that scores of GOP activists did challenge voters in numerous inner city polling stations. Many carried Blackberries and used sophisticated lists that may have included those illegally garnered caging rosters. The challenges did lead to

numerous voters being turned away, and increased the long delays suffered by inner city voters throughout the state.

Surveys show it took blacks nearly an hour to vote on average in Ohio in 2004, while whites voted in less than fifteen minutes. In the inner city of Columbus, black voters waited between three and seven hours to vote, while in the nearby suburb of Bexley it took just five minutes. The delays in Columbus alone may have cost Kerry up to 60,000 votes.

Similar challenges were also endorsed by White House operative Tim Griffin, who has been widely accused of trying to cage mostly black voters in Florida. Rich says the scheme became public before the election, and the GOP apparently dropped the idea.

But as he was firing the federal attorneys who refused to cage, Bush appointed Griffin to be US attorney for Arkansas. Griffin has since resigned the post under fire. But along with Ohio, the administration used similar tactics in the key swing states of Florida and Pennsylvania, as well as in Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, Texas and Washington. Bush's Justice Department also supported former California Secretary of State Bruce McPherson's rejection of 20,000 voter registration forms, a move later reversed in court. And it has helped push photo ID requirements -- again rejected in court -- devised by Georgia to restrict black and poor voter access.

A 35-year veteran of the Justice Department's Voting Right Sections, Rich told the McClatchey papers that he quit over political appointees who "skewed aspects of law enforcement in ways that clearly were intended to influence the outcome of the elections." Thus Thor Hearne's original blueprint for disenfranchising minorities and the poor is now established administration policy, supported by Bush's Justice Department, and backed by his firing of federal attorneys -- illegal or otherwise -- who refuse to go along. Whether the Democrats in Congress do anything about it, and whether the GOP successfully uses these tactics again in 2008, remain to be seen.

Alongside the Bush/Rove commitment to mass disenfranchisement, the key to the outcome of the 2008 election may be the rise and incomplete fall of electronic voting machines.

Unmonitored DRE (Direct Record Electronic) voting machines have been center stage at every Bush-era stolen election. In Florida 2000, some 16,000 votes that "disappeared" from Al Gore's tallies in Volusia County helped turn the tide for Bush at a key election night moment, even though they were later reinstated. In 2002, fraudulent electronic vote counts in Georgia almost certainly deprived Vietnam war hero Max Cleland of his US Senate seat in a race which all credible polls showed him winning by a substantial margin.

The spread of DREs is at the core of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) pushed through by then-Congressman (now jailbird) Bob Ney. High-powered studies from the likes of the Government Accountability Office, the Brennan Center on Voting Rights, the Carter-Baker Commission on Voting Rights, Princeton University and US Representative John Conyers all conclude that DREs can be easily manipulated, with entire elections illicitly shifted by a few keystrokes.

The GOP's HAVA means to put the nation on DREs as thoroughly as possible by 2008. But a public rebellion has slowed that plan. In Ohio, grassroots campaigners stopped Blackwell from giving Diebold an unbundled \$100 million contract to put virtually the entire state on DREs. Elsewhere, state and local election boards rebelled against the high cost of maintaining the machines, which often must be kept air conditioned around the clock, resulting in huge electric bills. Programming and other costs make administering elections on DREs far more expensive than doing it on paper ballots. The DREs have become infamous because of widespread testimony in Ohio that 2004 voters were pushing John Kerry's name, only to see George Bush's name light up, or to have their Kerry vote simply disappear moments later.

In response to nationwide opposition, US Representative Rush Holt (D-NJ) proposed federal legislation that would have forced all electronic voting machines to be fitted with devices that would produce a paper trail. An accredited scientist, Holt also wanted to force manufacturers to make public the software that ran their machines.

Holt's proposed House Bill 811 divided the election protection movement, much of which saw it as an endorsement of DREs. And as the bill progressed, the GOP gutted it, killing the software transparency requirements and settling for unworkable paper trail provisions.

The governors of Florida and Maryland have already moved to ban DREs in 2008, and to use paper ballots instead. Grassroots confrontations over how to cast and count votes will rage right up to election day.

The need for electronic safeguards has been confirmed to the hilt by an astonishing flood of revelations from Ohio. To report Ohio's 2004 election-night vote count, Blackwell contracted with the same GOP

computer programmer who created the Bush-Cheney web site in 2000. Those GOP-programmed results were then run through servers housed in the basement of a bank in Chattanooga, Tennessee which also housed the servers for the Republican National Committee (through which Karl Rove ran his off-the-record e-mails, now being sought by Congress).

Supervised by Blackwell, those results showed a substantial victory for John Kerry until about 12:20 at night, when reporting inexplicably stopped. When it resumed about 90 minutes later, Ohio's margin -- and the presidency -- suddenly switched to Bush.

After the election, a citizen-based federal lawsuit (in which we are attorney and plaintiff) was filed, aimed at preserving all of Ohio's 2004 election materials for further investigation. Those materials were protected by federal law until September 2, 2006, when Blackwell intended to destroy them. But a week prior, we won a federal court decision barring the counties from destroying any of these materials. Ohio's new Secretary of State (SOS), Jennifer Brunner, then ordered the boards of election to deliver this evidence to her.

But in July 2007, 56 of Ohio's 88 county BOEs admitted to illegally destroying all or some of their records. John M. Williams, Director of Elections in Hamilton County (Cincinnati) told Brunner he was "...unable to transfer the unvoted precinct ballots and soiled ballots" essential to an accurate audit because they "...were inadvertently shredded between January 19th and 26th of '06 in an effort to make room for the new Hart voting system."

In Clermont County, a key Republican stronghold permeated with election irregularities, Director Mike Keeley told Brunner that "in interviewing the staff, no one could remember the disposition of said ballots," meaning the actual number of votes cast remains a mystery. In neighboring Butler County, Director Betty L. McGary informed the SOS on May 9, 2007 that they had lost the "ballot pages" thus making it impossible to confirm how votes were counted.

Delaware County, where the last 359 votes cast in one precinct were all counted for Bush, informed Brunner that they had 29 boxes of ballots, but then delivered only 26. The Delaware BOE initially reported 1872 provisional ballots, but the official number is now 1462, feeding suspicions the boxes were stuffed.

Two election officials in Cleveland have thus far been convicted of felonies stemming from rigged recount procedures after 2004. Now a solid majority of Ohio's election boards face potential federal criminal action. They have made a reliable reconstruction of the true 2004 outcome virtually impossible.

Brunner has pledged to preside over a fair election in Ohio 2008. Like Debra Bowen, California's new Secretary of State, Brunner is running extensive tests on the state's electronic voting machines. Most or all of California and Ohio's DREs could be gone by 2008, possibly to be replaced by paper ballots counted by electronic scanners.

But even those are not immune to fraud. In 2004, Diebold technicians provided inner city precincts with malfunctioning opti-scan machines. Throughout the state, more than 90,000 ballots were never counted because of voting machine malfunctions. At a mostly Democratic precinct in Toledo, poll workers handed out pencils whose marks could not be read by the electronic counters, thus voiding the votes cast there.

Overall, our nation's history has been filled with stolen elections. Most have been robbed with paper ballots and stuffed ballot boxes. But under Bush/Rove, electronics are at center stage.

Bush/Rove stole the 2000 and 2004 elections by intimidation, vote caging, rigged machines, rigged recounts, and much more. Bush's firing of the eight federal attorneys only underscores the fraud perpetrated by those who weren't fired.

Whether Congress gets to the bottom of those firings remains to be seen. But there is little doubt the Democrats were able to retake the House and Senate in 2006 only because of the increased vigilance of a national grassroots voter protection movement.

Though Democrats carried Ohio in the off-year elections of 2006, our research indicates that the GOP still stole as much as 12% of the vote, and is still intent on disenfranchising hundreds of thousands of minority, poor and young voters. In a single election in Franklin County in 2006, a magistrate found that more than 83% of all the precincts were miscounted on the DRE machines.

And though DRE machines are under intense attack, their presence in 2008 will still be substantial, and will still subject the election to GOP theft.

The lessons of 2000 and 2004 are in the terror imposed on the registration process and the error perpetrated in the vote count. Only by saying "never again" can Americans hope to see a return to actual democracy.



Bob Fittrakis and Harvey Wasserman co-wrote *How the GOP Stole America's 2004 Election & Is Rigging 2008*.

See their website: [www.FreePress.org](http://www.FreePress.org)



## An Open Letter to the New Generation of Military Officers Serving and Protecting Our Nation



By Dr. Robert M. Bowman, Lt. Col., USAF, ret., National Commander, The Patriots

Dear Comrades in Arms,

You are facing challenges in 2007 that we of previous generations never dreamed of. I'm just an old fighter pilot (101 combat missions in Vietnam, F-4 Phantom, Phu Cat, 1969-1970) who's now a disabled veteran with terminal cancer from Agent Orange. Our mailing list (over 22,000) includes veterans from all branches of the service, all political parties, and all parts of the political spectrum. We are Republicans and Democrats, Greens and Libertarians, Constitutionists and Reformers, and a good many Independents. What unites us is our desire for a government that (1) follows the Constitution, (2) honors the truth, and (3) serves the people.

We see our government going down the wrong path, all too often ignoring military advice, and heading us toward great danger. And we look to you who still serve as the best hope for protecting our nation from disaster.

We see the current Iraq War as having been unnecessary, entered into under false pretenses, and horribly mismanaged by the civilian authorities. Thousands of our brave troops have been needlessly sacrificed in a futile attempt at occupation of a hostile land. Many more thousands have suffered wounds which will change their lives forever. Tens of thousands have severe psychological problems because of what they have seen and what they have done. Potentially hundreds of thousands could be poisoned by depleted uranium, with symptoms appearing years later, just as happened to us exposed to Agent Orange. The military services are depleted and demoralized. The VA system is under-funded and overwhelmed. The National Guard and Reserves have been subjected to tour after tour, disrupting lives for even the lucky ones who return intact. Jobs have been lost, marriages have been destroyed, homes have been foreclosed, and children have been estranged. And for what? We have lost allies, made new enemies, and created thousands of new terrorists, further

endangering the American people.

But you know all this. I'm sure you also see the enormous danger in a possible attack on Iran, possibly with nuclear weapons. Such an event, seriously contemplated by the Cheney faction of the Bush administration, would make enemies of Russia and China and turn us into the number one rogue nation on earth. The effect on our long-term national security would be devastating.

Some of us had hoped that the new Democratic Congress would end the occupation of Iraq and take firm steps to prevent an attack on Iran, perhaps by impeaching Bush and Cheney. These hopes have been dashed. The Lily-livered Democrats have caved in, turning their backs on those few (like Congressman Jack Murtha) who understand the situation. Many of us have personally walked the halls of Congress, to no avail.

This is where you come in.

We know that many of you share our concern and our determination to protect our republic from an arrogant, out-of-control, imperial presidency and a compliant, namby-pamby Congress (both of which are unduly influenced by the oil companies and other big-money interests). We know that you (like us) wouldn't have pursued a military career unless you were idealistic and devoted to our nation and its people. (None of us do it for the pay and working conditions!) But we also recognize that you may not see how you can influence these events. We in the military have always had a historic subservience to civilian authority.

Perhaps I can help with whatever wisdom I've gathered from age (I retired in 1978, so I am ancient indeed).

Our oath of office is to "protect and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic." Might I suggest that this includes a rogue president and vice-president? Certainly we are bound to carry out the legal orders of our superiors. But the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) which binds all of us enshrines the Nuremberg Principles which this country established after World War II (which you are too young to remember). One of those Nuremberg Principles says that we in the military have not only the right, but also the DUTY to refuse an illegal order. It was on this basis that we executed Nazi officers who were "only carrying out their orders."

The Constitution which we are sworn to uphold says that treaties entered into by the United States are the "highest law of the land," equivalent to the Constitution itself. Accordingly, we in the military are sworn to uphold treaty law, including the United Nations charter and the Geneva Convention.

Based on the above, I contend that should some civilian order you to initiate a nuclear attack on Iran (for example), you are duty-

bound to refuse that order. I might also suggest that you should consider whether the circumstances demand that you arrest whoever gave the order as a war criminal.

I know for a fact that in recent history (once under Nixon and once under Reagan), the military nuclear chain of command in the White House discussed these things and were prepared to refuse an order to "nuke Russia." In effect they took the (non-existent) "button" out of the hands of the President. We were thus never quite as close to World War III as many feared, no matter how irrational any president might have become. They determined that the proper response to any such order was, "Why, sir?" Unless there was (in their words) a "damn good answer," nothing was going to happen.

I suggest that if you in this generation have not had such a discussion, perhaps it is time you do. In hindsight, it's too bad such a discussion did not take place prior to the preemptive "shock and awe" attack on Baghdad. Many of us at the time spoke out vehemently that such an attack would be an impeachable offense, a war crime against the people of Iraq, and treason against the United States of America. But our voices were drowned out and never reached the ears of the generals in 2003. I now regret that I never sent a letter such as this at that time, but depended on the corporate media to carry my message. I must not make that mistake again.

Also in hindsight, President Bush could be court-martialed for abuse of power as Commander-in-Chief. Vice President Cheney could probably be court-martialed for his performance as Acting Commander-in-Chief in the White House bunker the morning of September 11, 2001.

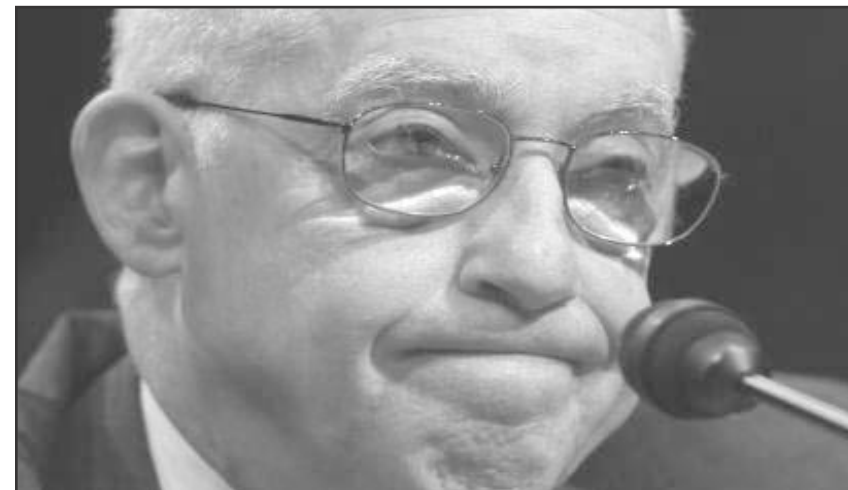
We in the U.S. military would never consider a military coup, removing an elected president and installing one of our own. But following our oath of office, obeying the Nuremberg Principles, and preventing a rogue president from committing a war crime is not a military coup. If it requires the detention of executive branch officials, we will not impose a military dictatorship. We will let the Constitutional succession take place. This is what we are sworn to. This is protecting the Constitution, our highest obligation. In 2007, this is what is meant by "Duty, Honor, Country."

Thank you all for your service to this nation. May God bless America, and sustain us in this difficult time. And thanks for listening to the musings of an old junior officer.

Respectfully,

Robert M. Bowman, PhD, Lt. Col., USAF, ret.

## New AG Mukasey Avoids Torture Question



Mukasey won't say whether waterboarding is torture.

Michael Mukasey could be considered one of the co-founders of the modern era of terrorism. He served as the Judge (Chertoff was the D.A.) on the 1993 WCT bombing case. In that case Mukasey prevented the defense from gaining access to a key government witness, Ali Mohammed, an army Special Forces trained FBI operative who was a key figure in the operation. It was another FBI confidential informer and prosecution witness, Emad Salem, tapes reveal, who actually supplied both the bomb materials and bomb making expertise for the operation. It is no exaggeration to say that the 1993 bombing was largely an FBI run operation.

To protect the government case, and send a chilling message to the civil rights community, prosecutors had the lead defense attorney, Lynn Stewart, arrested and charged with terrorism for making public statements about the case.

Mukasey has also been complicit in the Bush administration's dismemberment of the Bill of Rights. In the wake of 9/11 as the chief federal trial judge in Manhattan, Mukasey approved secret warrants that authorized the detention, without charge, of thousands of Muslim immigrants on flimsy "material witness" warrants.

As a key official in the Jose Padilla case, Mukasey allowed the government to imprison Padilla, a US citizen, without charge for nearly 4 years. All the while, Padilla was subjected to the harshest forms of psychological torture to the point where

his mental faculties are now completely destroyed. Padilla is incapable of aiding in his own defense because he is unable even to distinguish between his defense council and his interrogators. Mukasey made sure that information regarding the conditions of Padilla's detention, the sleep deprivation, mind altering drugs, isolation, and sensory deprivation, was never heard by the jury.

Mukasey's resumé of covering up state sponsored false-flag terrorism, his disdain for constitutional rights of the accused, his demonstrated willingness to bend due process to suit the government prosecutors, all make him the perfect pick, from the administrations point of view, for the new Attorney General.

Mukasey must now confront the question, "is waterboarding torture?" Torture is, of course, illegal under domestic and international law and treaty. If Mukasey admits, as any honest lawyer must, that waterboarding is torture and therefore illegal, as the next Attorney General, he could be forced to pursue the prosecution of very serious criminal charges against a large number of low-level and high-level U.S. officials, including cabinet members and potentially even the President and Vice President. But that would require a moral integrity on Mukasey's part which has not been evident in his career to date.

Bush administration torturers appear to be safe, for now. But as Pinochet discovered, there is no statute of limitations on war crimes, torture and murder, and the victims of such atrocities tend to have long memories.

The question of whether waterboarding is torture would seem to have been settled over four hundred years ago.



Fig. 341.—The Water Torture.—Fac-simile of a Woodcut in J. Damhoudère's "Praxis Rerum Criminalium;" in 4to, Antwerp, 1566.

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Faneuil Hall 9:30am - all day  
Speakers include:  
Joel S. Hirshhorn, Ph.D.  
Steven Jones, Ph.D.  
Richard Gage, AIA Architect  
Kevin Ryan, BS Chem

Tea Party - Sun. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>  
Gather at 11 am at Faneuil Hall  
12 noon — Proclamation & speakers  
2:00 pm — March to Boston Harbor  
3:00 - 4:pm — Dumping of the 9/11 Commission Report  
4:00 - 7 pm — After Party

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