

Before You Vote: A Dozen Facts and One Opinion

President Bush's top economic advisor has said that the outsourcing of American jobs abroad was "a plus for the economy in the long run".

Source: CBS News

The Bush administration inherited a \$236 billion surplus that they have turned into a \$422 billion deficit.

Sources: Fortune, dfw.com

Bush is the first President since Herbert Hoover (over 70 years ago) to have a net loss of jobs over a four year term.

Source: The Guardian

The Bush Administration's Secretary of Education called the nation's largest teachers union (the NEA) a "terrorist organization".

Source: CNN.com

Since President Bush took office, more than 5 million people have lost their health insurance.

Source: CNN.com

During the Bush Administration's war in Iraq, more than 1,000 US troops have lost their lives and more than 7,000 have been injured. The Bush administration sent troops into battle without adequate body armor or armored Humvees.

Sources: Fox News, Boston Globe, globalsecurity.org

The administration's handpicked weapons inspector, Charles Duefler said, "there is no evidence that Hussein had passed illicit weapons to al Qaeda or other terrorist organizations, or had any intent to do so."

Source: NYTimes

Tons of explosives and weapons US troops had found three weeks after the fall of Baghdad have now disappeared. The weapons had still had the weapons inspectors seals on them when the US troops found them.

Source: ABC News

The Bush administration secured less nuclear material from sites around the world vulnerable to terrorists in the two years after 9/11 than were secured in the two years before 9/11.

Source: nti.org

The Bush administration underfunded the needs of our country's first responders by \$98 billion.

Source: nationaldefensemagazine.org

The Bush Administration awarded a multi-billion dollar no-bid contract to Halliburton. Halliburton repeatedly overcharged the military for services, accepted kickbacks from subcontractors and served our troops dirty food. VP Dick Cheney still receiving hundreds of thousands of dollars from Halliburton in the the form of deferred compensation and stock options.

Sources: BBC News, Washington Post, The Taipei Times

Top Bush administration officials accepted \$127,600 in jewelry and other presents from the Saudi Royal Family in 2003 including a diamond and sapphire piece that was given to Laura Bush which was valued at \$95,500. The Bush administration told Saudi Prince Bandar bin Sultan about the invasion of Iraq before telling Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Sources: Seattle Times, detnews.com

...and one opinion, from a Republican named Tom Terez (from the website AnotherRepublicanForKerry.com)

"Okay my fellow Republicans, it's time to step up and take a big gulp of truth serum.

George Bush is a man of good intentions, but he's a binary thinker who sees the world in stubborn black and white. That's a dangerous mismatch for the reality of our times, when the world is colored in complex shades of gray.

If you still believe that Bush is effectively handling the Iraq situation, turn off the campaign ads and open your newspaper. Republican Senator Chuck Hagel has been trying to shake Bush into reality. "The worst thing that we can do", Hagel said, "is to hold ourself hostage to some grand illusion that we're winning. Right now we are not winning. Things are getting worse"

Republican Senator John McCain also spoke the truth: "We made serious mistakes".

If we were together in a car driving the wrong way down a one-way street, you'd want to change direction, right? But what if I kept me foot on the gas pedal while boasting of my steely resolve? Would you admire me from your passenger seat? Would you ignore those headlights getting closer and closer? Would you vote to keep me in the driver's seat?"

