

**In Case You Missed It**

by Del Coffee

**In the Dead of Night**

In Washington, cloaked in a veil of corruption, some unknown senator put a "secret hold" on a bill designed to increase the transparency of government. "It really is outrageous to do this in the dead of night as Congress is recessing," said Gary Bass, executive director of OMB Watch, a budget watchdog group based in Washington. Democracy is based on holding the federal government accountable. Why would a senator be against a database that makes it easy for the average citizen to track which companies are awarded grants, procurement contracts, loans, insurances, and financial assistance? This spending is worth \$2.5 trillion. Somebody has something to hide.

Thanks to the web bloggers who helped flushed the turkeys out, we now know the culprits are Senator Ted Stevens, R-Alaska and Senator Robert Bird, D-West Virginia, two of the senate's most skilled purveyors of federal funds. Bird who has lifted his hold claims he wanted time to read the bill and amend it if needed. Stevens who, as of this writing, has not lifted his hold, claims to have concerns about the costs of implementing the bill. The Congressional Budget Office has said the database would cost about \$15 million over 5 years. Senator Stevens has already overseen the passage of some 40 bills in the 109th congress that are expected to increase federal spending by over \$89 billion.

This bill was introduced by Senator Tom Coburn, R-Oklahoma and Senator Barack Obama, D-Illinois and is supported by the leadership of both parties.

**In the Trenches**

After Bush's recent announcement that we would be in Iraq as long as HE was in power, the Marines are ready to call up their last line of defense, the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). These ex-service people are essentially civilians, and they will be activated against their will if necessary. IRR troops were activated in the lead up to the current war in Iraq, and that was the first time such troops had been activated since Desert Storm in 1991. Prior to Desert Storm, IRR troops hadn't been activated since the Korean War in the early 1950s. Experts say, this is the last thing you do *before* the draft. IRR forces were not needed in the Viet Nam war because of the draft.

Just say no to war, just say NO to the draft!

**In Mexico**

The election protests continue in Mexico City. After 8 weeks there are now over 1 million people camping in the streets of the capitol, demanding a full recount. Many Mexican voters believe their election was stolen. After trailing in the polls, ruling party candidate Felipe Calderon launched a western style media blitz, and has since claimed victory by less than 240,000 votes, amongst cries of corruption. Leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obador has been demanding a total *by hand* recount and some of his supporters are saying they'll stay in the streets 6 years if they have to. Felipe Calderon

has the blessings of Washington and while distancing himself from President Vicente Fox during the election, is expected to pursue the same free market policies that their party has championed. Fox, a former Coca-Cola executive and rancher has been unable to deliver on his campaign promises, and the poor and disadvantaged in Mexico want a change. They are fed up with class and racial divisions and no longer want to be ruled by the rich.

The US is trembling with fear that the socialist movement occurring in South America is moving north to Mexico. The Capitalist Party of America will do everything in its power to stop this people centered form of governance from coming to our very doorstep, even if it means meddling in free elections.

**In the Bush White House**

Are we better off today than we were before George W. Bush took office? A recent NPR broadcast stated that 20 million Americans were at least 90 days delinquent on their credit card payments.

Are we better off today with corporate greed running the country? The corporate wars we are witnessing today fly in the face of all reason, except greed. Americans perceive war as a sports event, with established rules that are adhered to and enforced. In "real war" the rules change all the time, in an effort to keep the enemy off balance, to get the enemy on it's back. The Bush Administration, while still in power, is changing the rules of the game in an attempt to set in stone their anti-human neocon model. This is the Corporate Man asserting "power over". It is the same Corporate Man that is steering this middle-class propelled global market toward the abyss of economic melt down and planetary destruction. The American middle class is too busy going to work, paying bills and shopping, to get the picture. Corporate greed *is* the enemy!

The failed policies of this administration, in war and on the domestic front, are glaring indicators that we've got the wrong *men* in power.

Are you better off today? Are your families safer today than when George Bush took office?

In the upcoming elections let's send a clear signal to our *out of touch* leaders in Washington, a warning shot across the bow of their corporate *phantom* ship.

We've got one political party in power in this country, the Capitalist Party. Let's vote against it's Republican wing. If we take back the House and Senate from these right wing zealots this fall, we'll get the attention of the Democratic wing. With this accomplished, we'll have

the momentum we need to demand real campaign reform, that imposes limits on campaign contributions and spending, and insists upon the inclusion of *all* candidates from *all* parties in debate. Then in the 2008 election cycle we'll see some real candidates of the people on the ballots, and regain the Presidency.

*Editor's note: No matter how Carl Rove and the Bush White House try to frame the results of the Connecticut primary, George Bush put the kiss of death on Joe Lieberman.*

"The Kiss of Death", is the Bush trade mark.

**Shambani**  
Organics

**Growers and gardeners**

Place your wholesale quantity orders for organic vegetable & herb bedding plants for next year's growing season, so we can grow your particular varieties.

call/fax **474-1646**  
or e-mail [LWKessler@shasta.com](mailto:LWKessler@shasta.com)  
anytime before January

Our mission is to encourage people to grow their own food and to eat organic.  
Regis. # 45-0049 Calif. Dept. of Food & Agriculture

**Del Coffee, realtor. Let me help you find your land. (530) 474-3961**



cartoon by Pat Maginnis