

Who Is the Best Flip-Flopper? It's Not Kerry, It's Bush
By Jackson Thoreau

The next time someone criticizes John Kerry for being a flip-flopper remind them:

- Bush was against campaign finance reform; now he's for it.
- Bush was against a Homeland Security Department; now he's for it.
- Bush was against a 9/11 commission; now he's for it.
- Bush was against an Iraq WMD investigation; now he's for it.
- Bush was against nation building; now he's for it.
- Bush was against deficits; now he's for them.
- Bush was for free trade; then he was for tariffs on steel, and now he's against them again.
- Bush was against the U.S. taking a role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; now he pushes for a "road map" and a Palestinian State.
- Bush was for states' rights to decide on gay marriage; now he is for changing the Constitution to outlaw gay marriage.
- Bush said he would provide money for first responders (fire, police, emergency); then he doesn't.
- Bush said that "help is on the way" to the military; then he cuts their benefits and health care.
- Bush claimed to be in favor of environmental protection; then he secretly approved oil drilling on Padre Island in Texas and other places and took many more anti-environmental actions.
- Bush said he is the "education president;" then he refused to fully fund key education programs and rarely does his homework, such as read position papers so he will be more knowledgeable on issues.
- Bush said that him being governor of Texas for six years was enough political experience to be president of the U.S.; then he criticized Sen. John Edwards for not having enough experience after Edwards had served six years in the U.S. Senate.
- During the 2000 campaign, Bush said there were too many lawsuits being filed; then during the Florida recount, he was the first to file a lawsuit to stop the legal counting of votes after Gore took advantage of Florida law to ask for a recount.
- On Nov. 7, 2000, the Bush campaign supported Florida county officials drawing up new copies of some 10,000 spoiled absentee votes in 26 Republican-leaning counties that the machines did not read and marking them for the candidates when they showed "clear intent;" they opposed

doing the same thing after Nov. 7 when Gore asked for such recounts. Bush dominated absentee balloting in Florida by a two-to-one margin.

-Bush said during the 2000 campaign that he did not have a "litmus test" for judges he appointed to be against abortion; then he mostly appointed judges who were against abortion.

-In the early 1990s, Bush led a campaign to raise taxes in Arlington, Texas, to build a new baseball stadium for the team he partly owned; he later criticized politicians for supporting tax increases--after he got rich by selling the team with the new stadium to a wealthy campaign contributor.

-Bush opposed the U.S. negotiating with North Korea; now he supports it.

-Bush went to the racist and segregationist Bob Jones University in South Carolina; then he said he shouldn't have.

-Bush said he would demand a U.N. Security Council vote on whether to sanction military action against Iraq; later Bush announced he would not call for a vote.

-Bush first said the "mission accomplished" Iraqi banner was put up by the sailors; he later admitted it was done by his advance team.

-Bush was for fingerprinting and photographing Mexicans who enter the U.S.; after meeting with Mexican President Fox, he decided against it.

-Bush was opposed to Rice testifying in front of the 9/11 commission citing "separation of powers;" then he was for it.

-Bush was against Ba'ath party members holding office or government jobs in Iraq; now he's for it.

-Bush said we must not appease terrorists; then he lifted trade sanctions on admitted terrorist Mohammad Quaddafi and Pakistan, which pardoned its official who sold nuclear secrets to Iran, Libya, and North Korea.

-Bush said he would wait until after the Nov. election to ask for more money for the war effort; then he decided he needed it before the election, after all.

-Bush said, "Leaving Iraq prematurely would only embolden the terrorists and increase the danger to America." His administration now says that U.S. troops will pull out of Iraq when the new provisional authority asks. Then he said they'll stay "as long as needed" again. Now he's saying that the Iraqis can ask the troops to leave, and they will. Or is he?

-The Bush administration officials said that the Geneva Conventions

don't apply to "enemy combatants." Now they claim they do.

-Bush officials said before the Iraq invasion that Iraq posed an "imminent threat" to U.S. security and that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and even nuclear weapons; after the invasion, they denied saying the word "imminent" and saying that Iraq had WMDs and nuclear weapons, even though they were caught on tape making such statements.

"The most important thing is for us to find Osama Bin Laden. It is our number one priority and we will not rest until we find him." - George W. Bush, Sept. 13, 2001

"I don't know where he is. I have no idea, and I really don't care. It's not that important. It's not our priority." - George W. Bush, March 13, 2002

Are you getting tired of this? Well, some in the American military are getting tired of this, too:

"The (Bush) administration has an overly simplistic view of how and when to use our military. By not bringing in our friends and allies, they have created a mess in Iraq and are crippling our forces around the world." -Retired Admiral William Crowe, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs under Ronald Reagan