



CAUGHT ON FILM:

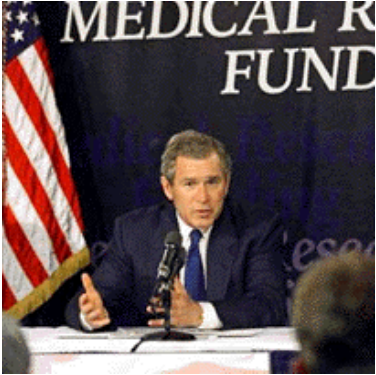
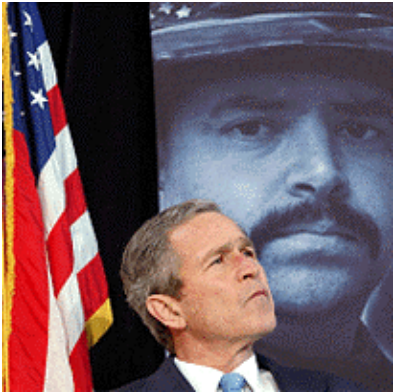

THE BUSH CREDIBILITY GAP



*The Photographic History of the Bush Administration Putting
Its Mouth Where Its Money Isn't*

The Bush Credibility Gap: Real Life Examples

A chronology of Bush saying one thing then doing another

Bush Event	Bush Rhetoric	Reality
<p>Children's Hospitals</p>  <p>Bush touts the need to support children's hospital at Egleston Children's Hospital in Atlanta [3/1/01]</p>	<p>"This is a hospital, but it's also - it's a place full of love. And I was most touched by meeting the parents and the kids and the nurses and the docs, all of whom are working hard to save lives. I want to thank the moms who are here. Thank you very much for your hospitality...There's a lot of talk about budgets right now, and I'm here to talk about the budget. My job as the President is to submit a budget to the Congress and to set priorities, and one of the priorities that we've talked about is making sure the health care systems are funded." – Egleston Children's Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia 3/1/01</p>	<p>Bush's first budget proposed cutting grants to children's hospitals like the one he visited by 15% (\$34 million). His 2004 budget additionally proposes to cut 30% (\$86 million) out of grants to children's hospitals.</p>
<p>First Responders</p>  <p>Bush touts first responder funding in Georgia [3/27/02]</p>	<p>"We're dealing with first-time responders to make sure they've got what's needed to be able to respond." – Bush, 3/27/2002</p>	<p>Bush had been saying that he was proposing \$3.5 billion in "new" money for first responders. However, his budget tried to cut more than \$1 billion out of existing grants to local police/fire departments to fund this. Then, in August of 2002, Bush rejected \$423 million for grants to state and local first responders. Bush's decision prompted the President of the Firefighters Union to say, "President Bush, don't lionize our fallen brothers in one breath, and then stab us in the back by eliminating funding for our members to fight terrorism and stay safe." The President of the Virginia firefighters association said, "The president has merely been using firefighters and their families for one big photo opportunity."</p>
<p>Ethanol</p>  <p>Bush promotes ethanol in South Dakota [4/24/02]</p>	<p>"I said when I was running for President, I supported ethanol, and I meant it. (Applause.) I support it now, because not only do I know it's important for the ag sector of our economy, it's an important part of making sure we become less reliant on foreign sources of energy." – Bush at South Dakota Ethanol Plant 4/24/02</p>	<p>According to the AP, Bush's 2003 budget proposes to eliminate funding for the bioenergy program that funds the Dakota Ethanol Plant he visited. [4/22/02]</p>

Bush Event

Bush Rhetoric

Reality

Even Start



Bush visits Albuquerque to tout Even Start volunteer and mental health care. [4/29/02]

Under the headline “Bush lauds Albuquerque woman for volunteerism” the AP reported on Bush’s visit to New Mexico to tout Lucy Salazar, a volunteer with the Even Start literacy program. “One of the things I try to do when I go into communities is herald soldiers in the armies of compassion, those souls who have heard the call to love a neighbor like you’d like to be loved yourself, and have followed through on that call; Lucy Salazar is a retired federal government worker. She teaches reading skills to pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children -- incredibly important...And oftentimes, citizens such as her never get the praise they deserve. Lucy, thank you for coming and representing thousands of people like you.” - Bush, 4/29/02

According to the Associated Press, Bush proposed “to slash funding 20 percent for the Even Start program, which offers tutoring to preschoolers and literacy and job training for their parents” – the very program he was touting in New Mexico [2/4/02].

Housing



Bush touts housing funds at the Carver Homes in Atlanta, which is supported by a HUD Hope VI grant [6/17/02]

“Part of being a secure America is to encourage homeownership.” He also went on to talk about his experience meeting the residents saying, “You know, today I went to the -- to some of the home -- met some of the homeowners in this newly built homes and all you’ve got to do is shake their hand and listen to their stories and watch the pride that they exhibit when they show you the kitchen and the stairs...They showed me their home. They didn’t show me somebody else’s home, they showed me their home. And they are so proud to own their home and I want to thank them for their hospitality, because it helps the American people really understand what it means.”
– Bush, 6/17/02

According to AP, “President Bush’s proposed 2004 budget for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, announced Monday, phases out HOPE VI” the program Bush visited and touted in Atlanta. “Renee Glover, executive director of the Atlanta Housing Authority said. ‘We didn’t anticipate that HOPE VI would be eliminated.’” [AP, 2/5/2003]

Port Security



Bush talks of the need to fund port security at Port Elizabeth, NJ [6/24/02]

“We’re working hard to make sure your job is easier, that the port is safer. The Customs Service is working with overseas ports and shippers to improve its knowledge of container shipments, assessing risk so that we have a better feel of who we ought to look at, what we ought to worry about.” – Bush, 6/24/02

The President’s 2003 and 2004 budget provides zero for port security grants. The GOP Congress has provided only \$250 million for port security grants (35% less than authorized). Additionally, in August, the President vetoed all \$39 million for the Container Security Initiative which he specifically touted.

Bush Event	Bush Rhetoric	Reality
<p data-bbox="159 180 513 226"><u>Homeland Security</u></p>  <p data-bbox="134 646 540 695">Bush vetoes does photo-op vetoing \$5.1 billion homeland security package [8/13/02]</p>	<p data-bbox="597 180 1097 541">“At the end of the session, the Congress passed an emergency spending bill to strengthen our military, protect the homeland and to complete the commitment of \$20 billion I made to the citizens of New York. They also sent along more than \$5 billion in extra spending I didn't ask for...I made my opposition clear. We were pretty plain-spoken about the supplemental...I understand their position, and today, they're going to learn mine. <u>We'll spend none of it.</u>” – Bush, 8/13/02</p>	<p data-bbox="1127 180 1536 695">Six months after this veto, Bush sent a letter to Congress saying that Democratic efforts to include additional homeland security funding in the 2003 budget was “unnecessary,” and threatened to once again veto additional spending. However, just four weeks later under the headline “White House Concedes That Counterterror Budget Is Meager,” the New York Times reported that “the White House is now saying that the long delayed government spending plan for the year does not provide enough money to protect against terrorist attacks on American soil” [NY Times, 2/27/03].</p>
<p data-bbox="151 758 521 804"><u>Retirement Security</u></p>  <p data-bbox="134 1228 540 1276">Bush in Madison “calls for worker pension protection [8/7/02]</p>	<p data-bbox="597 758 1097 821">“We've got to do more to protect worker pensions.” – Bush, 8/7/02</p>	<p data-bbox="1127 758 1536 1157">Just four months after touting pension security, Bush's Treasury Department announced plans to propose new rules that “would allow employers to resume <u>converting traditional pension plans to new 'cash balance' plans that can lower benefits to long-serving workers.</u> Such conversions are highly controversial. Critics contend that they discriminate against older workers in violation of federal law” [Washington Post, 12/10/02]</p>
<p data-bbox="285 1308 391 1354"><u>Labor</u></p>  <p data-bbox="118 1778 557 1854">President George W. Bush takes a turn at a table saw before “thanking American Workers” on Labor Day [9/2/02]</p>	<p data-bbox="597 1308 1097 1461">“Our workers are the most productive, the hardest working, the best craftsmen in the world. And I'm here to thank all those who work hard to make a living here in America.” – Bush, 9/2/02</p>	<p data-bbox="1127 1308 1536 1644">Bush's 2003 Budget proposed a <u>9% (\$476 million) cut to job training programs</u> and a <u>2% (\$8 million) cut to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.</u> Similarly, his 2004 budget proposes a <u>\$60 million cut to adult job training programs</u> and a <u>total elimination of the Youth Opportunities Grants,</u> which provide job training to younger workers.</p>

Bush Event	Bush Rhetoric	Reality
<p><u>Border Security</u></p>  <p>Bush touts border security with Canadian Prime Minister Chretien in Detroit [9/9/02]</p>	<p>“A secure and efficient border is key to our economic security.” – Bush, 9/9/02</p>	<p>While Bush did hold a photo-op to sign legislation promising more INS/Border Patrol staff and facilities, <u>his budget provided no additional money</u> for this. Additionally, in August, Bush <u>vetoed</u> \$6.25M for promised pay upgrades for Border Patrol agents. Additionally, he vetoed all \$39 million for the Container Security Initiative. His 2004 Budget slashes total total “Border and Transportation Security” by \$284 million.</p>
<p><u>Fiscal Responsibility</u></p>  <p>Bush “Stresses Budget Discipline and Fiscal Restraint” in Iowa [9/16/02]</p>	<p>“One of the ways we've got to make sure that we keep our economy strong is to be wise about how we spend our money. If you overspend, it creates a fundamental weakness in the foundation of economic growth. And so I'm working with Congress to make sure they hear the message -- the message of fiscal responsibility.” Bush, 9/16/02</p>	<p>Less than 6 months after this pronouncement, Bush proposed a budget that would put the government more than <u>\$300 billion into deficit</u>. As National Journal noted on 2/12/02, Bush’s own 2004 budget tables show that without Bush’s tax and budgetary proposals, the deficit deficit would decline after 2006, but with Bush’s proposals the deficit would grow indefinitely.</p>
<p><u>Vocational/Technical Ed</u></p>  <p>Bush leaves for his speech at Rochester, MN Community & Technical College [10/18/02]</p>	<p>“I want to thank the good folks here at Rochester Community and Technical College for your hospitality...The most important issue-- the most important issue for any governor in any state is to make sure every single child in your state receives a quality education.” – Bush, [10/18/02]</p>	<p>Bush’s 2004 budget proposes to <u>cut vocational and technical education grants by 24%</u> (\$307 million). His budget also proposes to freeze funding for pell grants for low income students.</p>

Credibility Gap: 1a: A lack of trust; 1b: lack of believability; 2: Discrepancy (Webster’s Dictionary)

Bush Event

Bush Rhetoric

Reality

Veterans



Bush honors American and British veterans at a White House ceremony [11/11/02]

“These men and women are still the best of America. They are prepared for every mission we give them, and they are worthy of the standards set for them by America's veterans. Our veterans from every era are the finest of citizens. We owe them the life we know today. They command the respect of the American people, and they have our everlasting gratitude.” – Bush, 11/11/02

According to a letter sent to the President by the major veterans groups, **Bush's 2003 budget "falls \$1.5 billion short"** of adequately funding veterans care. [Independent Budget, 1/7/02].

The Disadvantaged



Bush talks about the importance of funding foodbanks at a DC Food Bank [12/19/02]

“I hope people around this country realize that agencies such as this food bank need money. They need our contributions. Contributions are down. They shouldn't be down in a time of need. We shouldn't let the enemy affect us to the point where we become less generous. Our spirit should never be diminished by what happened on September the 11th, 2001. Quite the contrary. We must stand squarely in the face of evil by doing some good.” - Bush, 12/19/02

The 2003 and 2004 Bush budgets proposes to freeze the Congregate Nutrition Program, which assists local soup kitchens and meals on wheels programs. With inflation, this proposal would mean **at least 36,000 seniors would be cut from meals on wheels** and congregate meals programs. Currently, 139,000 seniors are already on waiting lists for home-meal programs. His 2004 budget continues the freeze.

No Child Left Behind





Bush talks up the need for education funding at the one-year anniversary of the No Child Left Behind Act [1/8/03]

“This administration is committed to your effort. And with the support of Congress, we will continue to work to provide the resources school need to fund the era of reform.” – Bush, 1/8/03

The President's 2003 budget – the first education budget after he signed and touted the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) - proposed to **cut NCLB programs by \$90 million overall, leaving these programs more than \$7 billion short of what was authorized under the bill.** Bush's 2004 budget for NCLB is just 1.9% above what he proposed in 2003 - **\$619 less than needed to offset inflation.**

Bush Event	Bush Rhetoric	Reality
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Veterans</u></p>  <p>Bush touts the importance of veterans medical care at Walter Reed Army Hospital [1/17/03]</p>	<p>“Having been here and seeing the care that these troops get is comforting for me and Laura. We are -- should and must provide the best care for anybody who is willing to put their life in harm's way.” – Bush, 1/17/03</p>	<p>Bush's visit came on the same day that the Administration announced it is immediately <u>cutting off access to its health care system approximately 164,000 veterans</u> [W. Post, 1/17/03].</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Medicare</u></p>  <p>Bush touts the need to adequately fund Medicare in Michigan [1/29/03]</p>	<p>“Within that budget I proposed last night is a substantial increase in Medicare funding of \$400 billion on top of what we already spend, over the next 10 years. This is a commitment that America must make to our seniors. A reformed and strengthened Medicare system, plus a healthy dosage of Medicare spending in the budget, will make us say firmly, we fulfilled our promise to the seniors of America.” – Bush, 1/29/03</p>	<p>Under Bush’s proposal, there should be a roughly \$40 billion increase in Medicare each year for a decade. However, Bush’s 2004 budget proposes just \$6 billion – <u>85% less than what would be needed to meet his goal.</u> Additionally, his budget would leave 67% of the total \$400 billion pledge to be spent after 2008. [Bush Budget, pg. 318]</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Boys & Girls Clubs</u></p>  <p>Bush talks about the importance of the Boys and Girls Club of America [1/30/03]</p>	<p>“I want to thank the Boys & Girls Clubs across the country...The Boys & Girls Club have got a grand history of helping children understand the future is bright for them, as well as any other child in America. Boys & Girls Clubs have been safe havens. They're little beacons of light for children who might not see light. And I want to thank them for their service to the country. Part of the vision for America is that we have a mosaic of all kinds of people providing love and comfort for people who need help.” – Bush, 1/30/03</p>	<p>In his 2002 budget, <u>Bush proposed eliminating all federal funding for the Boys and Girls Club of America.</u> IN his 2003 budget, he proposed <u>cutting the program by 15%</u> (from \$70 million down to \$60 million).</p>

Bush Event	Bush Rhetoric	Reality
<p><u>Economic Stimulus</u></p>  <p>Bush cites Blue Chip report as reason why Congress should support his economic plan [2/20/03]</p>	<p>“There's a blue chip survey from leading economists that predict growth this year of 3.3 percent. And that's positive. But I want to remind the members of Congress who are going to be studying whether or not there needs to be tax relief that part of the fine print of this prediction is this: the economists are basing this prediction on Congress passing tax relief this year. In other words, inherent in the 3.3 percent prediction of economic growth is that Congress acts in a positive way.” Bush, 2/20/03</p>	<p>According to Newsday, “There was only one problem with President George W. Bush's claim Thursday that the nation's top economists forecast substantial economic growth if Congress passed the president's tax cut: <u>The forecast with that conclusion doesn't exist...</u> ‘I was a little upset,’ said Randall Moore, who said he complained to the White House. ‘It sounded like the Blue Chip Economic Forecast had endorsed the president's plan. That's simply not the case.’” [Newsday, 2/23/03]</p>
<p><u>Fiscal Discipline</u></p>  <p>Bush tells governors he can't afford to help states with aid because he is trying to restore revenues to the federal treasury while restraining spending [2/24/03]</p>	<p>“I'm going to do everything I can to mitigate the deficit by encouraging, on the one hand, more revenues coming into our Treasury...but also limiting the spending to reasonable amounts. And I thought a 4 percent discretionary spending increase was the right amount.” – Bush, 2/24/03</p>	<p>In terms of revenues, Bush made these comments at the very same time he is pushing a tax cut plan that add <u>at least \$670 billion to the deficit</u>. In terms of spending restraint, while Bush says that he only wants federal spending to grow by 4%, his budget actually proposes to give his own <u>personal office budget a raise</u> of more than 9%.</p>
<p><u>Medicare/Health Care</u></p>  <p>Bush unveils his Medicare drug and modernization plan at a White House photo op [3/4/03]</p>	<p>“Medicare does more than meet the needs of our elderly. It reflects the values of our society. We will set it on firm financial ground.” – Bush, 4/3/2000</p>	<p>Two days after Bush unveiled his prescription drug program at a White House photo op, the Wall Street Journal “President Bush's point man for Medicare said the administration's proposal to change the system will worsen its long-term financial problem, not improve it. In a briefing, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said the cost of adding prescription-drug benefits under Medicare would exceed savings gleaned from the shifting of millions of beneficiaries to private insurance plans -- even over a 75-year time frame. <u>He said passage of Mr. Bush's plan would 'probably' accelerate the date the Medicare trust fund becomes insolvent.</u>”</p>

Bush Event	Bush Rhetoric	Reality
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Smoking</u></p>  <p>Bush talks about the need to prevent smoking and promote fitness [6/21/02]</p>	<p>“Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death and disease in America.” – Bush, 6/21/02</p>	<p>On March 1, 2003 Bush had the U.S. government officially “oppose the World Health Organization's first global anti-smoking pact that would require participating countries to ban all tobacco ads and sales to minors, put larger health warnings on packages and increase tobacco taxes” [Richmond Times-Dispatch, 3/9/03]. As the AP reported, “Over the U.S. objections, more than 170 nations agreed” to the treaty [3/1/03].</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>International Aid</u></p>  <p>Bush pledges new foreign aid initiative to developing countries [3/14/02]</p>	<p>“We will increase our development assistance by \$5 billion over the three -- over the next three budget cycles.” – Bush, 3/14/02</p>	<p>“Jim Kolbe, the Arizona Republican who chairs the foreign ops subcommittee, told Mr Powell the White House had failed to pursue its year-old plans for a Millennium Challenge Account (MCA), which would deliver an extra \$5bn in aid to poor countries. ‘Let me be clear: I support this initiative,’ Mr Kolbe said. ‘Unfortunately, the president's enthusiasm was not followed up with an implementation and marketing strategy by his administration.’” [Financial Times, 3/13/03]</p>

Credibility Gap: 1a: A lack of trust; 1b: lack of believability; 2: Discrepancy (Webster's Dictionary)