



PRESIDENT BUSH AND THE STATE OF THE UNION

A Record of Promises Made, Promises Broken

PROMISES MADE	PROMISES BROKEN
<p><u>National Security</u></p> <p>“During this time of war, we must continue to support our military and give them the tools for victory.” [2005]</p> <p>“Inside the United States, where the war began, we must continue to give our homeland security and law enforcement personnel every tool they need to defend us.” [2004]</p> <p>“Our men and women in uniform deserve the best weapons, the best equipment, the best training. . . . Whatever it costs to defend our country, we will pay.” [2002]</p> <p>“And second, we must prevent the terrorists and regimes who seek chemical, biological or nuclear weapons from threatening the United States and the world.” [2002]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to a secret Pentagon study, nearly 80% of marines who were killed in Iraq from upper body wounds could have survived had they been equipped with extra body armor. • President Bush and Congressional Republicans received 5 “F’s”, 12 “D’s”, and 2 “Incompletes” from the 9/11 Commission for poor progress in terrorism prevention and readiness efforts. • Less fissile material was secured in the two years following 9/11 than in the two years before, according to a Harvard University study.
<p><u>Deficits and Debt</u></p> <p>“I will send you a budget that holds the growth of discretionary spending below inflation, makes tax relief permanent, and stays on track to cut the deficit in half by 2009.” [2005]</p> <p>“We will not deny, we will not ignore, we will not pass along our problems to other Congresses, to other presidents, and other generations.” [2003]</p> <p>“To achieve these great objectives – to win the war on terror, protect the homeland, and revitalize our economy – our budget will run a deficit that will be small and short-term, so long as Congress restrains spending and acts in a fiscally responsible manner.” [2002]</p> <p>“We owe it to our children and grandchildren to act now, and I hope you will join me to pay down \$2 in debt during the next 10 years.” [2001]</p> <p>“My plan pays down an unprecedented amount of our national debt.” [2001]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deficits for 2003, 2004, and 2005 were \$378 billion, \$412 billion, and \$318 billion. The 2006 projected deficit was just increased to nearly record levels. Bush has amassed \$1.58 trillion of deficits. • The \$5.6 trillion projected surplus inherited by the Bush Administration when it took office has been replaced by a deficit of nearly \$4 trillion, a reversal of almost <u>\$10 trillion</u>.

<p><u>The Economy and Jobs</u></p> <p>“By all these actions, we’ll help more and more Americans to join in the growing prosperity of our country.”</p> <p>“Our first goal is clear: We must have an economy that grows fast enough to employ every man and woman who seeks a job.” [2003]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under President Bush, nearly 1.4 million more people are unemployed, the unemployment rate is up 0.7 percentage points, and long-term unemployment has doubled. • Under President Bush, 5.4 million more Americans live in poverty.
<p><u>Health Care</u></p> <p>“On the critical issue of health care, our goal is to ensure that Americans can choose and afford private health care coverage that best fits their individual needs.” [2004]</p> <p>“To make our economy stronger and more productive, we must make health care more affordable, and give families greater access to good coverage and more control over their health decisions.” [2005]</p> <p>“On the critical issue of health care, our goal is to ensure that Americans can choose and afford private health care coverage that best fits their individual needs.” [2004]</p> <p>“Together this Congress and this President will find common ground to make sure doctors make medical decisions, and patients get the health care they deserve with a patients’ bill of rights.” [2002]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 46 million Americans now live without health insurance, a record high, and 6 million more than in 2000. • President Bush killed efforts to create the Patients’ Bill of Rights – the Patients’ Bill of Rights was supported by a majority of both the House and the Senate. • The costs of health insurance have increased by almost 60 percent since 2000.
<p><u>Social Security</u></p> <p>“So we must join together to strengthen and save Social Security. . . . Fixing Social Security permanently will require an open, candid review of the options. . . . I will work with Members of Congress to find the most effective combination of reforms.” [2005]</p> <p>“To make sure the retirement savings of America’s seniors are not diverted in any other program, my budget protects all \$2.6 trillion of the Social Security surplus for Social Security, and for Social Security alone.” [2001]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Republicans’ privatization scheme sought to replace a guaranteed benefit with a guaranteed gamble, would increase the deficit, and did nothing to ensure the program’s solvency. • President Bush has used every penny of the Social Security surplus while racking up historic deficits the past five years. Without counting the Social Security surplus, which is estimated to be \$181 billion this year, the deficit would be \$518 billion.
<p><u>Tax Reform</u></p> <p>“Year after year, Americans are burdened by an archaic, incoherent federal tax code. I’ve appointed a bipartisan panel to examine the tax code from top to bottom. And when their recommendations are delivered, you and I will work together to give this nation a tax code that is pro-growth, easy to understand and fair to all.” [2005]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Republican tax policies have added more than 10,000 pages to the tax code and regulations in just the last four years. Republicans in Congress orchestrated nearly 900 changes to the tax code in the 108th Congress alone. • The Bush Administration has put tax reform on the back burner, decided it was too difficult of an issue to sell to the public.
<p><u>Energy Independence</u></p> <p>“I urge Congress to pass legislation that makes America more secure and less dependent on foreign energy.” [2005]</p> <p>“Our third goal is to promote energy independence for our country.” [2003]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • America is now more dependent on foreign oil than in 2000. According to the EIA, 58.2% of oil consumed in 2000 was imported, as compared to 61.7% today. • The Republican Energy Bill did nothing to promote energy independence.