



**CAUGHT ON FILM:**

# **THE BUSH CREDIBILITY GAP**



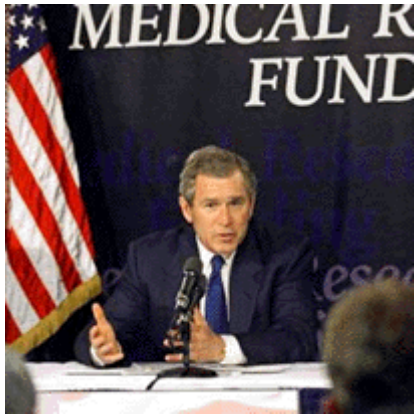
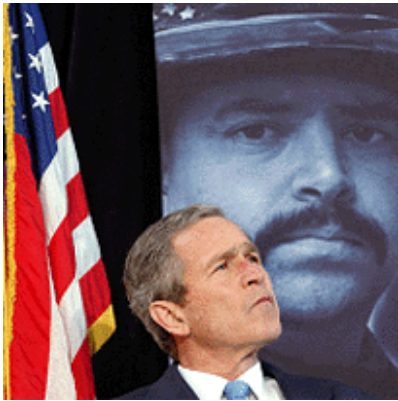

***The Photographic History of the Bush Administration Putting Its  
Mouth Where Its Money Isn't***

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# A chronology of Bush saying one thing then doing another

Bush Event	Bush Rhetoric	Reality
<p><b>Children's Hospitals</b></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 <b>cutting grants to children's hospitals like the one he visited by 15%</b> (\$34 million). His 2004 budget additionally proposes to <b>cut 30%</b> (\$86 million) out of grants to children's hospitals.</p>
<p><b>First Responders</b></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 <b>tried to cut more than \$1 billion</b> out of existing grants to local police/fire departments to fund this. Then, in August of 2002, <b>Bush rejected \$150 million for grants to state and local first responders.</b> 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, <b>"The president has merely been using firefighters and their families for one big photo opportunity."</b></p>
<p><b>Ethanol</b></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 2004 budget proposes to <b>eliminate funding</b> for the bioenergy program that funds the Dakota Ethanol Plant he visited. [4/22/02]</p>



Bush promotes ethanol at Ethanol Plant in Wentworth, South Dakota [4/24/02]

## 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



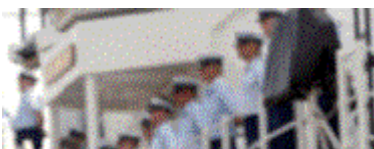
Bush touts housing funds at the Carver Homes in Atlanta, which is supported by a HUD Hope VI grant [6/17/02]

"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



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

## Bush Event

## Bush Rhetoric

## Reality

### Retirement Security



Bush in Madison “calls for worker pension protection [8/7/02]

“We’ve got to do more to protect worker pensions.” – Bush, 8/7/02

Just four months after touting pension security, Bush’s Treasury Department announced plans to propose new rules that “would allow employers to resume **converting traditional pension plans to new ‘cash balance’ plans that can lower benefits to long-serving workers.**

Such conversions are highly controversial. Critics contend that they discriminate against older workers in violation of federal law” [Washington Post, 12/10/02]

### Labor

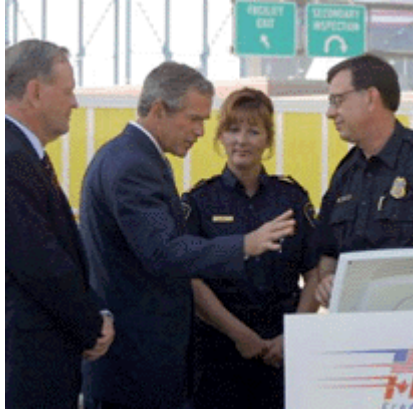


President George W. Bush takes a turn at a table saw before “thanking American Workers” on Labor Day [9/2/02]

“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

Bush’s 2003 Budget proposed a **9% (\$476 million) cut to job training programs** and a **2% (\$8 million) cut to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.** Similarly, his 2004 budget proposes a **\$60 million cut to adult job training programs and a total elimination of the Youth Opportunities Grants,** which provide job training to younger workers.

## Border Security



Bush touts border security with Canadian Prime Minister Chretien in Detroit [9/9/02]

“A secure and efficient border is key to our economic security.” – Bush, 9/9/02

While Bush did hold a photo-op to sign legislation promising more INS/Border Patrol staff and facilities, **his budget provided no additional money** for this. Additionally, in August, Bush **vetoed** \$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.

## Bush Event

## Bush Rhetoric

## Reality

### Fiscal Responsibility

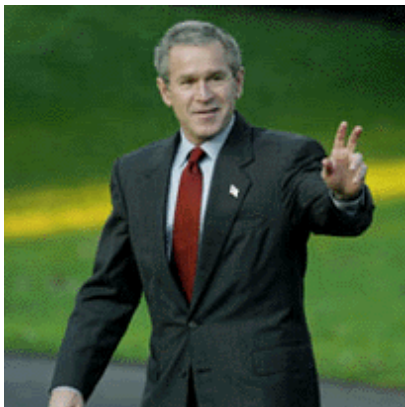


Bush "Stresses Budget Discipline and Fiscal Restraint" in Iowa [9/16/02]

"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

Less than 6 months after this pronouncement, Bush proposed a budget that would put the government more than **\$300 billion into deficit**. 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 would decline after 2006, but with Bush's proposals the deficit would grow indefinitely.

### Vocational/Technical Ed



Bush leaves for his speech at Rochester, MN Community & Technical College [10/18/02]

"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]

Bush's 2004 budget proposes to **cut vocational and technical education grants by 24%** (\$307 million). His budget also proposes to freeze funding for pell grants for low income students.

### Veterans



"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].



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

## Bush Event

## Bush Rhetoric

## Reality

### 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.**

### Veterans



“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

Bush's visit came on the same day that the Administration announced it is immediately **cutting off access to its health care system approximately 164,000 veterans** [W. Post, 1/17/03].



Bush touts the importance of veterans medical care at  
Walter Reed Army Hospital [1/17/03]

## Bush Event

## Bush Rhetoric

## Reality

### Medicare



Bush touts the need to adequately fund Medicare in Michigan [1/29/03]

“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

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 – **85% less than what would be needed to meet his goal**. Additionally, his budget would leave 67% of the total \$400 billion pledge to be spent after 2008. [Bush Budget, pg. 318]

### Boys & Girls Clubs



Bush about the importance of the Boys and Girls Club of America [1/30/03]

“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

In his 2002 budget, **Bush proposed eliminating all federal funding for the Boys and Girls Club of America**. IN his 2003 budget, he proposed **cutting the program by 15%** (from \$70 million down to \$60 million).