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# National News

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## Bush was desperate for a war against Iraq

An excerpt from Bob Woodward's new book, *Shadow: Five Presidents and the Legacy of Watergate*, was the feature in the June 20 *Washington Post* Sunday magazine. In the excerpt, Woodward describes how George Bush reacted to being under constant scrutiny and attack, providing a rather clear picture of Bush's bitterness, confusion, rage, and paranoia. Bush himself did not give Woodward an interview for the book, but Woodward availed himself of private, dictated entries from the President's diary, which were in the records of Independent Counsel Joseph diGenova when he was investigating "Passportgate."

Woodward documents that Bush insisted on going to war against Iraq, and that the threat that Saddam Hussein might pull his troops out of Kuwait by the UN deadline of Jan. 15, 1991, made Bush frantic. Woodward quotes Bush in January 1991 as saying that an Iraqi pullout would be a "nightmare" for the United States. Bush told a meeting of his National Security Adviser Gen. Brent Scowcroft (who agreed with him), Secretary of State James Baker III, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell: "We have to have a war."

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## High court okays bribing 'cooperative' witnesses

The U.S. Supreme Court on June 21 ducked the issue of the Justice Department's practice of offering leniency to witnesses, who are themselves or may be under indictment, in exchange for cooperation against other defendants. The Supreme Court let stand a decision by the full Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals. The full circuit had overturned a previous ruling by its own three-judge panel, which had said that offering leniency to a witness in exchange for testimony violated the Federal anti-bribery statute.

The original ruling, made almost one year ago, sent shockwaves through the Department of Justice, since its prosecutors have always taken the position that they are

exempt from the anti-bribery law—even though the statute contains no such exemption. That ruling explicitly drew the parallel to the Justice Department's position that its prosecutors are exempt from state laws and codes of professional conduct—which the McDade-Murtha Citizen's Protection Act was intended to remedy.

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## PFIAB report targets national labs, science

The President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board (PFIAB) released its report, requested by the President in March, on the "security problems" at the Department of Energy (DOE) nuclear weapons laboratories, in the wake of alleged spying by China. Whereas the House committee report under Chris Cox (R-Calif.) and Norm Dicks (D-Wash.) was intended to attack the Clinton administration's China policy, the mid-June PFIAB report, "Science at Its Best; Security at Its Worst," is a searing attack the nation's science—as well as its weapons research capabilities.

The study's chairman, former Sen. Warren Rudman (R-N.H.), summarized his "findings" on "Meet the Press" on June 20. Anchor Tim Russert asked Rudman about the "culture" at the DOE, which the report had called "saturated with cynicism, arrogant disregard for authority, a staggering pattern of denial, organizational disarray, managerial neglect, pervasive inefficiency, an abominable record of security, with deeply troubling threats to American national security."

Rudman replied: "Number one, the organization is dysfunctional. . . . Secondly, the attitude of people within that department, in that bureaucracy, is astounding. . . . To this day, two of the major components of that directive issued by the President of the United States essentially are not in place. . . . First, the polygraph program, which was suggested 16 months ago, has still not been put into place. And, secondly . . . we have a lot of foreign visitors who come, and most of them are good people who are there to study science at its best. Unfortunately, you ought to check pretty carefully as to who comes in. We haven't been doing that."

Rudman explained PFIAB's recommen-

ation, which is to separate the weapons-related work from the unclassified research and development. "What we essentially are recommending, and I hope that Congress will consider, is to take this incredibly good scientific agency . . . that looks at weapons and maintaining them and other science which is highly classified, put it over to one side, leave it with DOE, have it report to the Secretary, but have no one else in the DOE get their hands on that agency."

However, only 10-15% of the DOE's work is classified, and even at the three nuclear weapons labs, only 25-30% of the work is classified. Rudman has not asked the question what quality of scientific work could go on at the laboratories, if police-state "security" measures are put in place to "protect" what is actually a minor aspect of their research. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson has wisely opposed such a separation, because it would harm the overall research at the labs. For the same reason, he is opposed to the hysterical recommendations that foreign visits to the labs be prohibited or restricted.

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## Bradley calls for end to child poverty

Speaking in Los Angeles on June 16, Democratic Presidential pre-candidate Bill Bradley declared that one in five children in America are living in households at or below the poverty level during a time of economic prosperity. Evoking Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1941 speech about the threat to America's "Four Freedoms," Bradley challenged Americans to commit themselves to protecting the four essential freedoms of childhood: freedom from want; freedom from illness; freedom from ignorance; and freedom from fear. Bradley talked about parents' desire to raise good children, and suggested several policies that the government should implement, such as raising the minimum wage, or expanding the earned income tax credit so that those earning minimum wage can support a family.

He attacked the Clinton administration for ignoring the fact that child poverty has remained the same during its eight-year term, but did not directly take on Al Gore's Welfare Reform Act travesty.