

## Editorial

# *The Big Lies Are Falling Apart*

The most oft-repeated lies are doomed to collapse in the face of reality. Such is the fate of some of the leading untruths which have been promulgated by the Cheney-Bush Administration over the last months, in the desperate hope of holding things together for the Republican re-election campaign. The collapse of the phony facade has been dramatic.

Most stunning is the situation in Iraq. Since the time of the “handover” of power from the United States to the Iraqis in late June, the official story was that all was proceeding well, except for the resistance of Moqtadar al-Sadr’s Mahdi Army. But reality was that the entire nation was in a state of insurrection, which the U.S. and their British allies, all 140,000 troops, could do nothing about. Every time the occupiers left their bases to try to do something, they would encounter resistance from a population enraged about the destruction of their living standards.

With the arrival of Grand Ayatollah al-Sistani back in Iraq, and the mobilization he was able to muster in order to prevent an assault on the Imam Ali shrine, the reality of who has power, and the allegiance of the people in Iraq, is finally clear. As in the 1920 revolution against the British occupation, the Iraqi people are largely united against their perceived common enemy. The Bush Administration has blown it totally.

Not far behind is the collapse of lies about the “economic recovery.” The building momentum of the anti-austerity demonstrations to Europe has cracked the illusion that the bankrupt financial system is under control, and the international financiers are finding it impossible to contain the damage. Anti-austerity protests are expected to break out imminently in France, and there is reason to believe that the unrest will also surface soon in the United States. Try as they might, the statisticians have been unable to hide the fact that this “jobless recovery” has been exposed as what it is: a collapse of jobs in the midst of physical economic disintegration.

Coming on the eve of the Republican National Convention, this reality is not making the Administration happy.

But their other carefully prepared media lies are imploding as well. Remember the Administration’s story about the torture (they called it “abuse”) at Abu Ghraib being the work of a few low-level Military Police screwing around on the nightshift? Now read the Schlesinger and Fay reports, and get a picture of the systemic, top-down policy of using physical coercion, specifically banned by the Geneva Conventions, to “break” the prisoners under their control. It was always a very transparent lie—but now, even that has broken apart.

And then there’s the most bizarre lie of all—the scam being run by the so-called Swift Boat Veterans for Truth. This attack on John Kerry’s war record has now blown up in the face of the Bush-Cheney campaign. On Aug. 25, the second leading member of the Bush-Cheney election campaign, this time the general counsel, was forced to resign, because it turned out that he was also the attorney for the Swift Boat group. What idiots!

It’s amazing that they thought they could get away with this attack campaign to begin with. Discussion of Vietnam service immediately brings up the question of what George W. Bush and Dick Cheney were doing back in the late 1960s and early 70s. Cheney got five draft deferrals, and dodged service altogether, while Bush used his father’s connections to get into the Air National Guard. While Kerry was earning a silver star, Bush was getting silver fillings; the only evidence he showed up during one year of his Guard Service, was his visit to the dentist!

Put it all together, and the future is not looking bright for the Cheney-Bush team. Which raises the question of whether they will find some new war, or terror incident, to create a climate for cancelling the election, or steamrolling the vote. And, more importantly, the question of whether the Democratic Party will rise to the requirement of mobilizing the “forgotten men and women” of the country into the kind of fight required to take the nation back for FDR-style principles. Reality, and justice, always require human intervention, in order to prevail.