

The 'Greening' of Jeb Bush

Accompanying George Bush on his visit to Brazil on March 8-9 is brother Jeb, former governor of Florida. As a member of the "Ethanol General Staff," set up by the White House earlier this year to oversee a U.S.-Brazil ethanol partnership, Jeb's job is to foster cooperation between the two countries' private sectors.

The former governor is not new to the green game. He began lobbying for a U.S. ethanol partnership with Brazil and other Ibero-American countries as early as 2005, and wrote brother George in April 2006, urging him to lift the 54¢-per-gallon tariff on imported Brazilian ethanol, supposedly to help the U.S. lessen its dependence on foreign oil. But sources have told *EIR* that the White House may lift the tariff because the Bush family itself intends to jump into the ethanol business. Jeb will be a major player in this, and reportedly already has plans to invest in ethanol plants in Peru and Colombia.

In August 2006, George Bush named former State Department official Brian Dean, then head of the "Florida-Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA)" public-private partnership which promoted hemispheric free trade, to lead a delegation to Brazil for talks on ethanol cooperation. Dean is now executive director of the Inter-American Ethanol Commission (IEC), founded by Jeb in December 2006, to expand the ethanol scam, emphasizing the private sector role. Since the FTAA never materialized, the President has said that a biofuel alliance with Ibero-America can "serve as a catalyst to remove barriers to free trade within the region."

—*Cynthia Rush*