

# NINE THINGS ALL SWING VOTERS SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BUSH

(Condensed and adapted from David Corn article appearing in The Nation, 9/13/2004, p. 37)

1. **Bush doesn't understand the basics of 9/11.** After 9/11 Bush tried to convince Americans that we were attacked because Al Qaeda "hated our freedoms." But as the CIA analyst in *Imperial Hubris* says: "attacks are meant to advance bin Laden's clear, focused, limited, and widely popular foreign policy goals...[bin Laden] is out to drastically alter US and Western policies toward the Islamic world not necessarily to destroy America, much less its freedoms and liberties."
2. **Bush is not taking all possible measure to protect us.** The Bush administration siding with the chemical industry has not implemented Tom Ridge's mandatory plans covering security at chemical plants. Bush has also sided with the aviation industry in not ensuring that cargo carried on passenger planes is screened. About 1/5 of all cargo is transported via passenger planes. According to intelligence expert, Richard Clarke, about the only thing that has become more secure in the U.S. under Bush after 9/11 are the airports/airlines.
3. **Bush never bothered to look at the intelligence before going to war in Iraq.** White House House aides finally conceded that Bush had never read the ninety-page National Intelligence Estimate on Iraq's WMD - a flawed document that wrongly stated that Iraq had biological and chemical weapons.
4. **Bush could never cite evidence that Saddam and Al Qaeda were linked.** In making his case for war with Iraq Bush said Saddam "was a threat because he is dealing with Al Qaeda." But the 9/11 Commission, the House and Senate intelligence committees and the CIA have all reported that there was no evidence of a working relationship between Al Qaeda and the Iraq regime.
5. **Bush has been doubly dishonest in endangering the nation's fiscal security.** Bush has been overstating and understating the budget deficits. Often he inflates the budget deficit outlook because he knows that a slightly lower number will make it look like progress is being made. Bush has also finagled the 5-year deficit projections by underestimating them. Several well-respected groups claim the deficits will total \$4.6 trillion in the next 10 years -- more than twice the amount calculated by the Congressional Budget Office. At least 1/3 of these budget deficits are the direct result of the Bush tax cuts.
6. **Bush may have a secret plan to kill social programs.** The Bush plan calls for slashing the domestic discretionary budget, which covers national parks, environmental protection, education, low income energy assistance and much more...They have proposed serious cuts in these programs over the next 10 years.

7. **Bush failed to keep his 2000 promise about tax cuts.** While campaigning in 2000, Bush promised that the vast majority of his tax cuts would go to the bottom end of the spectrum. The reality: About 1/2 of his first round - the biggest round - went to the top 1%, according to Citizens for Tax Justice. The bottom 60% of the taxpayers netted about 13%. The share paid by the bottom 80% of taxpayers has also gone up under Bush, while the portion paid by the richest taxpayers has fallen dramatically. At the same time wages and salaries are being outpaced by inflation.
8. **Bush avoided answering the toughest questions about his past business dealings.** Bush was involved as a Director of Harken Energy in a stock transaction where the company sold stock to a subsidiary to inflate earnings and share prices similar to what Enron did. Soon afterwards, he sold most of his stock before Harken stock took a beating. To this date the minutes of meetings that relate to this transaction have not been made public nor has Bush been willing to acknowledge his role in this transaction when asked nor has the broker who arranged the sale of Bush's shares identified the buyer, although other sources have said his shares were sold to Harvard University.
9. **Bush was not only MIA from the National Guard in Alabama, he was missing in TX too.** Not only are their gaps in Bush's military records in Alabama as records only show that he was paid for a few days of service in October and November of 1972 but his records for his service at Ellington Air Force Base in Houston after he returned from Alabama show he was paid for several days of service in the first few months of 1973 but show nothing about his activity in the first four months of 1973. This gap is as suspicious as the one for Alabama.

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