OMNI NEWSLETTER: REPORTS, OPINION, COMMENTARY

DECEMBER 7, 2006, BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE AND JUSTICE  Editor: Dick Bennett

SPECIAL NUMBER ON  IMPEACHING PRESIDENT BUSH

Use these materials to educate our leaders and the public about removing despots from office. Send responses and future Newsletter contributions to the editor.

Crime is contagious. If the government becomes a lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law. -Louis D. Brandeis, lawyer, judge, and writer (1856-1941)

"There have been serious crimes committed. People have been killed because of those crimes. They need to be pursued. I would like Democrats, or whoever’s in the winning catbird seat here to realize that they have a responsibility under The Constitution of the United States to pursue violations of the Constitution and violations of criminal law..." Ray McGovern- 27- year CIA analyst.

Things are moving slowly in the US on Impeachment. It's embarrassing that Germany has to do our job for us. Perhaps that will convince our legislators to do a little more housecleaning.... Amy Goodman highlighted the German initiative on her program yesterday. A video version is available online for anyone who missed it: “War Crimes Suit Filed in Germany Against Rumsfeld, Other Top U.S.”
http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=06/11/14/1517243


BOOKS

THE TWO MOST RECENT BOOKS PUB. THIS DEC.

Nichols authored the critically-acclaimed analysis of the Florida recount fight of 2000, Jews for Buchanan, and a best-selling biography of Vice President Dick Cheney, Dick: The Man Who is President. With Robert W. McChesney. Nichols has co-authored the books, It's the Media, Stupid!, Our Media, Not Theirs and Tragedy and Farce: How the American Media Sell Wars, Spin Elections, and Destroy Democracy. McChesney and Nichols are the co-founders of Free Press, the nation's media-reform network, which organized the 2003, 2005, and upcoming 2007 National Conferences on Media Reform. Nichols lays out impeachment from a historical perspective and the importance of impeachment to the founding fathers. He argues that impeachment was provided in the US Constitution to depose elected despots and, rather than fearing the idea of impeachment, that it is the duty of Americans (and their elected representatives) to impeach elected officials who violate the US Constitution.


Vega is a retired government lawyer with more than 20 years of experience. She served as an Assistant US Attorney in Minneapolis, and a member of the Organized Crime Strike Force and Branch Chief in San Jose, California. Why did Ms. de la Vega write this book? She says, "The President will not be held accountable for misrepresenting the pre-war intelligence unless and until Congress conducts hearings similar to the Watergate hearings.” She adds, "Although the evidence of wrongdoing is overwhelming, the facts are so complicated that it’s impossible to have a productive debate about them in the political sphere. One forum where
that's not true is the courtroom."

Does she believe that her book will lead to making her hypothetical case real? She writes, "Consider this my 911 call. I'm calling on Democrats and Republicans to do the right thing ... and convince Congress to do the right thing. I am not talking about bringing people to justice in the vengeful sense that President Bush employs. I am talking about effecting justice ... holding out highest government officials accountable for ... a criminal betrayal of trust that is strikingly similar to, yet far worse, than the fraud committed by Enron's top officials...."

(I deleted most of the review.)

EARLIER 2006 BOOKS ON IMPEACHING BUSH
www.bushscrewedamerica.com

--Peter Phillips is co-editor with Dennis Loo from Cal Poly Pomona of the The Case for Impeachment of Bush and Cheney. Seven Stories, 2006. Phillips is a Professor of Sociology at Sonoma State University and Director of Project Censored. Opens WITH "12 Reasons Why George W. Bush and Richard Cheney Must Be Impeached," backing them up with 16 chapters that cover the impeachable crimes. Pref. and Afterword. Index, contributors' bios, resources. Ch. 13, on the overthrow of the legal Haitian gov't. of Aristide, violated international laws, the US Constitution, and laws of the land (see below). Chap. 16, "What Can Be Done?" At end lists orgs. working to impeach.

Pres. Clinton told one lie about a sexual peccadillo; Pres. Bush has smashed Constitution and international law. If you want to be able to tell your Congressional delegation why you want them to reverse the Bush assaults on democracy and what they are, this one book provides a host of the details.

--Articles of Impeachment Against George W. Bush. Center for Constitutional Rights. Melville House, 2006. www.mhpbooks.com Presents the case for impeachment exactly as it could be presented by the House of Representatives to the U. S. Senate. Clearly and concisely the Center delineates the four strongest charges against the president. Also includes what the Constitution says about impeachment, the rules of procedure, and more. Only $10.


Four intro. chapters (Why Impeachment, etc.) lead to discussion of 6 chapters on 6 Articles of Impeachment, followed by a chapter on “Impeaching Other Bush Admin. Officials,” and 8 important appendices.

Dave Lindorff's “10 Reasons to Impeach”
His writing is available at http://www.thiscantbehappening.net


Again: Hypocrisy, Lawlessness, and the Rape of Iraq. Vienna, Va., Light in the Darkness Pub., 2005. Not specifically about impeachment, but packed with justification. These two huge volumes are from a Catholic publisher and the just war tradition. They offer encyclopedic knowledge and indictments.

Ask local book stores and libraries to order these books, and buy them to support the stores, the publishers, and the writers, all of whom have worked to enable us to be informed citizens. Then write and call Lincoln, Pryor, and Boozman; create petitions; speak over CAT. If we don’t raise our voices the Democrats will do little, for remember that many Bush outrages were supported by some to many Democrats.


The following Wikipedia's page for the Movement to impeach George W. Bush seems to be a useful guide to impeach Bush. Taken from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Movement_to_impeach_George_W._Bush

Subject: [Project-Censored-L] Human Rights Denial Deserves Impeachment
published November 8, 2006 by CommonDreams.org

“Human Rights Denial Deserves Impeachment” by Peter Phillips

Human Rights belong to people collectively. To believe in rights for some and not others is a denial of the humanness of people worldwide. Yet, denial is exactly what Congress and George W. Bush did with the signing of the Military Commission Act of 2006. The new official U.S. policy is that torture and suspension of due process are acceptable for anyone the president deems to be a terrorist or terrorist supporter. This act is the overt denial of the inalienable rights of human beings propagated in our Declaration of Independence and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Our famous words, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," did not declare that some men (and women) are without unalienable rights. Our independence was founded on the belief that all men and women are recognized by this nation as having innate rights derived from their humanness.

Likewise, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, created by the United Nations in 1948 and signed and ratified by the U.S. Congress, specifies in its preamble that "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world."

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a treaty that legally binds the United States government. Article 10 states that "everyone is entitled to full equality, to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him," and Article 5 specifically prohibits torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

For the U.S. government to unilaterally declare that our country will not comply with international human rights laws, nor uphold the core values of our nation's foundation is an indication of extremism that supersedes the values and beliefs of the American people. When such an extremism exists, we may need to take seriously the founders' declaration that, "to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, - That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

The U.S. government is actively torturing people to death. One need only read the 44 official U.S. military autopsy reports on civilian detainees from Afghanistan and Iraq in 2002 to 2004 posted on the American Civil Liberties website to see the horrendous details of deaths by "strangulation," "asphyxiation" and "blunt force injuries."
The Military Commission Act retroactively approved the use of torture to the beginning of the 9/11 Wars. Congress's reaction to the ACLU report in October of 2005 was to pass legislation banning further use of the Freedom of Information Act to request documents on current military operations.

We are in a time of extremism, permanent war, and the unilateral manifestation of ethnocentrism and power by an openly public cabal of people in the U.S. government. Those in power are set on the U.S. military domination of the world. They seem willing to defy the foundational values of the American people to achieve their ends. We have no choice but to declare openly our belief in universal human rights and demand the immediate impeachment of George W. Bush and Richard Cheney and a full accounting of those in their administration. Peter Phillips is a professor of sociology at Sonoma State University and director of Project Censored. He is co-editor with Dennis Loo of the new book "Impeach the President: the Case Against Bush and Cheney," available at: http://www.projectcensored.org/impeach.htm

This from the Ark Times blog: "the L word" (liar) "The Washington Post nailed him on the secret prisons and torture there; CBS and the New Yorker's Seymour Hersh nailed him on Abu Ghraib. Geoffrey Miller, torture at Bagram in Afghanistan was NYT - then the NYT (belatedly which was criminal) nailed him on spying ON AMERICANS. He's been stripped of all cover, hanging out there for two years now while the press WUSSES AROUND about what to do about it, and the former GOP Congress blocked investigations and testimony under oath (thanks, Arlen Specter, et. al.). All four of the things I mentioned above are separate, impeachable offenses. Yet the papers and TV news, one at a time, darted forward to put one lance into the monster and then scuttled backwards." (from Larry W)

From Dick's Talk at the November 5, 2006 Rally

"Let us seek to defend law, our Constitution, and the people of the United States and of the world, by urging a Congressional inquiry into the possible impeachment of President Bush and Vice-President Cheney. Impeachment it must be, because our President cannot be indicted for a felony (a V-P can be), and anyway he has declared and behaved himself to be above the law; that is, like bin Laden, lawless. Impeachment of a president must prove a systematic undermining of the rule of law, of our Constitution, and of the public trust. Here is a partial list any one of which justifies impeachment:

--lying in order to launch an unprovoked, illegal war of aggression upon Iraq;
--authorizing the use of illegal antipersonnel weapons in urban settings in Iraq;
--sanctioning the illegal torture of thousands of captives;
--overthrowing Haiti's democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide;
--issuing over 700 so-called “signing statements” negating Congressional laws;
--illegally spying on millions of citizens;
--obstructing investigations: stonewalling, coverup, false and misleading statements and reports;
--and increasing presidential power to suppress public protests by weakening restraints against martial law.

Today we defend international law, our Constitution, and our freedoms. Sign our petition. Distribute the petition. Call and write our Congressional delegation. And keep up the pressure until these abuses of misplaced power are reversed, and we regain the decent respect of the opinion of the peoples of the world.”

Before you oppose impeachment, read at least one of the books above. Cong. Pelosi has declared there will be no impeachment. Examine the wisdom of that decision. However, whatever the Democrats do or don’t do about impeachment, there is no better way to know what the Cong. committees should do to reverse the Bush assaults on Constitution, international law, and the public trust than to STUDY IMPEACHMENT.

(approx. 700 wds., pub. in Free Weekly Nov. 2, 2006)
IMPEACHING PRESIDENT BUSH by Dick Bennett

The twenty contributors to Impeach the President edited by Loo and Phillips reached a consensus of twelve indictments of High Crimes against President Bush and Vice-president Richard Cheney. The essential charge is their undermining of the rule of law established by the U.S. Constitution, as illustrated by the following six (of the twelve) indictments (reorganized and edited). A High Crime means a serious abuse of power that undermines law and endangers our constitutional system
of government.

A. Foreign
1. Lying to the public and Congress in order to launch an unprovoked, illegal, unconstitutional war of aggression upon Iraq.
2. Ordering free fire zones and authorizing the use of antipersonnel weapons in urban settings in Iraq, contributing to the deaths of some 600,000 Iraqi civilians—war crimes under international law.
3. Authorizing the torture of thousands of captives, out-sourcing hundreds of prisoners to secret sites for torture, hiding prisoners from the Red Cross, and indefinitely detaining people without protection of habeas corpus—all in violation of Geneva Conventions.
4. Overthrowing Haiti’s democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and installing an illegal, highly repressive regime.

B. Domestic
6. Subverting the Constitutional balance of powers by issuing over 700 “signing statements” negating Congressional laws, by weakening the Freedom of Information Act, and by illegally spying on millions of citizens, to mention only three of many violations.

“Regime Change” in Haiti (from the essay by Duff and Bernstein)
I will elaborate on the ousting of Haiti’s President Aristide, not because it is more heinous than some other Bush/Cheney offenses, but because, although it illustrates emphatically the High Crimes of subversion of law and of our Constitution, it has received much less attention than others.

George W. Bush, in violation of international law chose to undermine and then overthrow Haiti’s democratic government (its president was elected with 91 percent of the popular vote to serve a second term in the year 2000) and to fund and militarily support the political opposition.

Under the supremacy clause of the United States Constitution the president has the responsibility to faithfully abide by all sanctioned international treaties. Among these, is the United Nations Charter. Violating the U. N. Charter is a direct breach of the president’s oath “to faithfully carry out the laws of the land.” Article Two of the U. N. Charter requires the leaders of all member states to refrain “from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.”

The actions of President Bush and members of his administration in overthrowing the government of Haiti—by violating the integrity, sovereignty, and self-determination of the Haitian people, by lying about the events, by embargoes and arming the opposition, by a bloody two-year coup in which 4000 U. S. marines were deployed to suppress popular protest, and untold thousands of pro-democracy activists, union leaders, and members of peasant organizations were arbitrarily detained, tortured, killed, women raped, and other thousands disappeared at the hands of death squads, by kidnapping President Aristide in February 2004, and by replacing him and his government with a government with no constitutional or electoral legitimacy—are grounds for impeachment.

OMNI SEEKS A WORLD FREE OF WAR AND THE THREAT OF WAR, A SOCIETY WITH LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL, A COMMUNITY WHERE EVERY PERSON’S POTENTIAL MAY BE FULFILLED, AN EARTH RESTORED. GRASSROOTS NONVIOLENCE, WORLD PEACE, HUMAN RIGHTS, SOCIAL and ECONOMIC JUSTICE, ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROTECTING SPECIES AND THE EARTH.

CONTACT YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

--Senator Blanche Lincoln: Web Site (they have contact links): www.lincoln.senate.gov; http://www.lincoln.senate.gov/index.cfm;
http://www.lincoln.senate.gov/webform.html
Phone: (202) 224-4843 Fax: (202) 228-1371. Fayetteville office: 251-1380;

--Senator Mark Pryor: Web Site (see contact link): www.pryor.senate.gov;
http://pryor.senate.gov/contact/
---Congressman **John Boozman**, District 3, 12 counties from Benton to Washington
Lowell office: 479-725-0400. 213 W. Monroe, Suite K, 72745. Steve Gray, coordinator of office. Web site (with contact link): [http://www.boozman.house.gov/](http://www.boozman.house.gov/) Heath Hasenbeck, intern (one of them). Boozman's new office in Lowell is located at 213 West Monroe in Lowell between I-540 and Business 71. To reach that office take Exit 78 off I-540 and go east. You will be on Hwy 264 which is also West Monroe. The office is in the Puppy Creek Plaza, past the McDonald's on the right. His suite is in the back of the complex to the left.

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