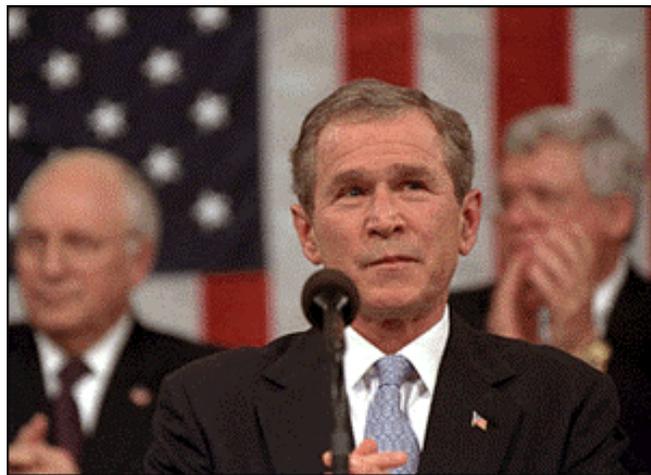


STATE OF THE UNION PROMISES

*All Hat No Cattle: An A-to-Z guide to promises made by George Bush
in his yearly addresses to Congress*



**Prom·ise: to pledge to do, bring
about, or provide** [Webster's Dictionary, pg. 933]

State of the Union Promises

Priority	Bush Promise to Congress	Actual Action
Corporate Responsibility	<p>“Employees who have worked hard and saved all their lives should not have to risk losing everything if their company fails. Through stricter accounting standards and tougher disclosure requirements, corporate America must be made more accountable to employees and shareholders and held to the highest standards of conduct.”</p> <p>– Bush, State of the Union [1/29/02]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The President’s FY2003 budget proposed just \$467 million - <u>40% less than authorized</u>. Bush increased this proposal after he signed the corporate reform bill – but only to \$567 million – still <u>26% less than full funding</u>. ▪ Just months after signing the corporate reform bill, Bush’s SEC staff “<u>softened proposed rules that would impose new obligations on lawyers and accountants</u>.” [NY Times, 1/22/03]
Education	<p>“Education is my top priority... We've increased funding to train and recruit teachers, because we know a good education starts with a good teacher... Good jobs begin with good schools, and here we've made a fine start. We need to prepare our children to read and succeed in school with improved Head Start and early childhood development programs. We must upgrade our teacher colleges and teacher training and launch a major recruiting drive with a great goal for America: a quality teacher in every classroom.”</p> <p>– Bush, Address to Congress [2/27/01] and State of the Union [1/29/02]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The President’s first education budget after he signed and touted the education bill proposed \$22.2 billion for the No Child Left Behind Act - a <u>cut of \$90 million below prior year funding, and more than \$7 billion less than authorized</u>: ▪ Title I: <u>Bush proposed only 18% of the increase promised in his own education bill</u> ▪ Special Education: Bush proposed slowing the 3-year prior growth rate, leading to a <u>delay in reaching full funding by at least four years</u> ▪ After School Centers: Bush proposed a funding freeze - a real cut after inflation, resulting in <u>50,000 fewer children</u> being served despite the tremendous demand from working parents for after school programs ▪ English Language Training: Bush proposed a funding freeze - a <u>real cut</u> after inflation and an increase of an estimated 300,000 students with English assistance needs next year ▪ Homeless Children: Bush proposed a funding freeze - a real cut after inflation, resulting in about <u>8,000 fewer homeless children being served</u> ▪ Teacher Training: Bush proposed to cut teacher quality programs by \$163 million, resulting in <u>16,000 fewer teachers receiving quality training</u> than the year before, and <u>92,000 fewer teachers than could be trained</u> under the education bill ▪ School Libraries: Bush proposed <u>95% less than the amount promised</u> in the education law, resulting in about <u>2.4 million fewer children benefiting</u> from the purchase of new library books than envisioned in the No Child Left Behind Act



“There's an old saying in Tennessee -- I know it's in Texas, probably in Tennessee - that says, fool me once, shame on - shame on you. Fool me -- you can't get fooled again.”

- George W. Bush [9/17/02]

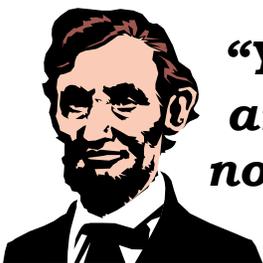
Priority	Bush Promise to Congress	Actual Action
Electoral Reform	<p>“By confronting the tough challenge of reform, by being responsible with our budget, we can earn the trust of the American people. And we can add to that trust by enacting fair and balanced election and campaign reforms.” – Bush, Address to Congress [2/27/01]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bush vetoed \$400 million for election reform meaning no money is going to election reform in the wake of the Florida debacle [August 2002 Bush spending veto].
Fiscal Situation	<p>“[We have a] balanced budget, and big surpluses... My plan pays down an unprecedented amount of our national debt... We should approach our nation's budget as any prudent family would, with a contingency fund for emergencies or additional spending needs. And so, my budget sets aside almost a trillion dollars over 10 years for additional needs. That is one trillion additional reasons you can feel comfortable supporting this budget.” – Bush, Address to Congress [2/27/01]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bush admitted in his State of the Union speech just one year later that “our budget will run a deficit” [1/29/02]. ▪ Bush also said that the deficit “will be small and short-term,” contradicting recent revelations that “the federal government would run deficits for the ‘foreseeable future,’ with far bigger than expected shortfalls of \$200 billion to \$300 billion this fiscal year and next.” As the media noted, “the projections, showing deficits approaching record levels, underscored the dramatic deterioration in the government's fiscal picture since it had a record surplus of \$236 billion in 2000.” [Reuters 1/15/02]
Homeland Security: Border Security	<p>“We will expand patrols at our borders.” – Bush, State of the Union [1/29/02]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While Bush did hold a photo-op to sign legislation promising more INS/Border Patrol staff and facilities, his budget provided no additional money for this. ▪ Additionally, in August, Bush vetoed \$6.25M for promised pay upgrades for Border Patrol agents.
Homeland Security: First Responders	<p>“We'll increase funding to help states and communities train and equip our heroic police and firefighters.” – Bush, State of the Union [1/29/02]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In the post-9/11 emergency bill, Bush proposed no money for first responders. Democrats attempted to provide \$550 million, but Bush threatened to veto it and then the House GOP voted it down [Vote 454, 11/28/02]. ▪ In August 2002, Bush vetoed \$150 million for grants to state and local first responders. ▪ On December 2, the Administration announced that it would not spend \$651 million in grants to state and local first responders that was included in the continuing resolution passed by Congress in November [LA Times, 12/2/02]. ▪ This month, “the Senate rejected Democratic amendments to add first \$5 billion, then \$3 billion, for state and local emergency responders and the FBI, as well as security at airports, energy plants and elsewhere” [AP, 1/17/03]. ▪ Bush continues to brag about his so-called “increases” in first responder funding in his 2003 budget request. But “the fact is, according to the Administration’s own budget documents, the Bush plan for funding first responders amounts to double-entry bookkeeping: changes in the ledger that would result in no net increase in the amount of federal funding flowing to cities, counties and states.” [CQ, 1/2/03].



“Entre dicho y hecho, hay un gran trecho.”
(Between the word and the deed lies a big trench)

- Mexican Proverb

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Homeland Security: Visas	<p>“We will use technology to track the arrivals and departures of visitors to the United States.”</p> <p>– Bush, State of the Union [1/29/02]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In May, “The Immigration and Naturalization Service sought \$52 million to pay for 441 more agents to pursue foreigners who overstay their visas. But <u>the request was turned down by Mitchell E. Daniels Jr., head of the Office of Management and Budget.</u>” [LA Times, 5/2/02]. ▪ In August of 2002, Bush <u>vetoed</u> \$25 million for tracking down absconders included over his objections in the bipartisan counter-terrorism bill.
Housing/ Home Ownership	<p>“Members, you and I will work together in the months ahead on other issues: [including] broader home ownership, especially among minorities.”</p> <p>– Bush, State of the Union [1/29/02]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bush’s 2003 budget proposes <u>eliminating</u> various low-income housing programs in HUD. These include the Empowerment Zone Program, the Rural Housing and Economic Development Program. Additionally, Bush proposes <u>cutting \$400 million (15%)</u> from the public housing capital fund.
Job Training/ Unemployment	<p>“Americans who have lost their jobs need our help and I support extending unemployment benefits and direct assistance for health care coverage. Yet, American workers want more than unemployment checks -- they want a steady paycheck. (Applause.) When America works, America prospers, so my economic security plan can be summed up in one word: jobs.”</p> <p>– Bush, State of the Union [1/29/02]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <u>Bush refused repeated Democratic efforts to extend unemployment benefits.</u> Just this November, the House GOP, with Bush’s backing, rejected Democratic efforts to take up a bill to extend unemployment insurance, meaning almost <u>a million people were cut off during the holidays.</u> ▪ On job training, Bush’s 2002 budget proposed to <u>cut 541 million (10%) from job training programs,</u> \$207 million of which would have come out of formula grants to assist workers dislocated by mass layoffs, plant closings, etc. ▪ Bush’s 2003 budget <u>proposed a \$476 million (9%) cut</u> from 2002.
Military Transformation	<p>“I’ve asked the Secretary of Defense to review America’s Armed Forces and prepare to transform them to meet emerging threats. My budget makes a down payment on the research and development that will be required. Yet, in our broader transformation effort, we must put strategy first, then spending. Our defense vision will drive our defense budget, not the other way around.”</p> <p>– Bush, Address to Congress [2/27/01]]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under the headline “Bush’s Promised Pentagon Reform Remains MIA”, military expert Jeffrey Record wrote, “Sadly, eight months after Bush’s inauguration, real help [on transformation] has yet to arrive. What happened? On the domestic front, Bush has been preoccupied with his domestic political agenda...<u>He seems unwilling to invest the time or political capital required to force radical change on the Pentagon</u>” [LA Times, 8/30/01].
Pension Security	<p>“A good job should lead to security in retirement. I ask Congress to enact new safeguards for 401K and pension plans.”</p> <p>– Bush, State of the Union [1/29/02]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In December “the Bush administration proposed sweeping new pension rules that will encourage companies to adopt a type of retirement plan that has been under attack for three years for what critics call a tendency to <u>strip benefits from older employees</u>” [NY Times, 12/10/02]



“You can fool some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can not fool all of the people all of the time.”

– Abraham Lincoln

Priority	Bush Promise to Congress	Actual Action
<p>Poor/ Disadvantaged</p>	<p>“My budget adopts a hopeful new approach to help the poor and the disadvantaged.”</p> <p>– Bush, Address to Congress [2/27/01]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bush’s most recent budget would eliminate <u>33,000 children from child care programs</u> ▪ Bush’s most recent budget would cut off <u>438,000 families from heating assistance</u> ▪ Bush’s most recent budget would eliminate <u>36,000 seniors from meals on wheels and congregate meals programs</u> ▪ <u>Bush repealed the law</u> that “lets states pay workers who take unpaid time off to care for a newborn child” [AP, 12/3/02]. “The executive action will effectively shut down legislative efforts in as many as 16 states to make unemployment compensation money available to working parents who have taken time off to care for a newborn or adopted child.” [NY Times, 12/4/02]. ▪ As a result of these policies, <u>“the nation's poverty rate rose last year while the typical household's income went down...This was the first increase in poverty since 1993”</u> [Washington Post, 9/25/02]
<p>Toxic Cleanups</p>	<p>“My budget will improve our environment by accelerating the cleanup of toxic brownfields.”</p> <p>– Bush, Address to Congress [2/27/01]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ While Bush’s budget still falls <u>20% below full funding brownfield cleanups</u>, on the issue of the more toxic Superfund sites, Bush “decided to designate fewer [toxic] sites for restoration and to <u>shift the bulk of the costs from industry to taxpayers</u>” [NY Times, 2/24/02]. Specifically, the “Bush administration said it has no intention of asking Congress to reauthorize corporate taxes used to finance toxic waste cleanups since the passage of the Superfund Act in 1980” [CNN, 2/24/02]. ▪ Later that year, Bush’s “Environmental Protection Agency <u>denied requests from its own regional offices to continue cleanup actions at 33 sites in 19 states</u>” [WSJ, 7/2/02]
<p>Veterans</p>	<p>“America's veterans honored their commitment to our country through their military service. I will honor our commitment to them with a million-dollar increase to ensure better access to quality care and faster decisions on benefit claims.”</p> <p>– Bush, Address to Congress [2/27/01]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ According to Veterans groups, <u>the Bush “VA medical care budget fell \$1.5 billion short”</u> of what is necessary [Joint Veterans letter to Bush, 1/7/02] with “the VA ending 2002 facing a serious funding deficit.” ▪ In 2002, Bush actually <u>vetoed \$275 million for veterans medical care</u> that was part of a bipartisan supplemental spending bill. The Vietnam Veterans of America, who characterized Bush’s veto as an “ill-advised decision” said that “this move to diminish resources for the VA healthcare system further weakens the nation's preparedness to care for veterans wounded in previous conflicts” [8/16/2002]. All of this has meant “veterans are currently facing inordinate and unacceptable waiting times for basic healthcare services. Over 286,000 are currently waiting six months or longer for initial and follow-up medical appointments.”



“All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them.”

- Galileo Galilei