

10/2004

Re: Two Simple Reasons

Dear Editor,

I urge all citizens to consider voting for John Kerry for two simple reasons: Don Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney. Just ignore the rolling back of clean air and water regulations, record deficits, increased tax burden on the middle class, blocking food safety laws, energy policy written by oil companies and pandering to big drug and insurance companies. Don't even consider those issues.

Instead please consider Iraq. Regardless of the actual reasons for invading Iraq, these two architects of the Iraq war have miscalculated their prosecution of the war at critical steps. When Colin Powell tried to plan an exit strategy he was ignored and pushed to the side. When General Shinseki and Secretary of the Army White both testified before Congress that several hundred thousand troops would be needed, they too were ignored and pushed to the side. The real reason we found out this week that high explosives were looted by insurgents, is because these two bureaucrats ignored military expert advice and protected oil fields instead of high explosives confiscated by the UN.

My sister, who was a commander in Naval Intelligence, has told me that not since the Vietnam War has she seen such civilian mismanagement of the Pentagon. There is no question that we will lose the war in Iraq, but the worse part is that we will have created a haven for terrorists that did not exist before the war. Saddam Hussein was disarmed and neutralized by the inspections and he had no hand in 9/11 as reported by a bipartisan congressional committee and 2 non-partisan national security panels, yet Rumsfeld and Cheney tried to convince Bush to invade Iraq BEFORE invading Afghanistan! Only at that one time, was Colin Powell able to convince the president of Rumsfeld's and Cheney's folly. Now Powell's advice is ignored and he is marginalized, when it should be the terrorists that are marginalized.

Please do not allow incompetence such as this to continue to damage the United States and our military. Consider voting for John Kerry and a strong, professional military.

John Donovan
Eugene, OR