

A Corrupt Third World Government

2003. Acrylic on canvas, 36x48"

by
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In 2000, Dick Cheney and George W. Bush told the world that Mr. Cheney would interview possible candidates to be George W. Bush's running mate in the Presidential election of 2000. At the end of the charade, Dick Cheney was the running mate - two men personally and financially connected to the oil, gas and energy industries. Two corporate insiders who despised federal regulations, oversight, and corporate accountability.

After the election and during the process of counting ballots, as part of the Florida recount, the United States Supreme Court stopped the counting and made George W. Bush President of the United States.

In the aftermath of the attack of September 11, 2001, and after the collapse of Enron and Worldcom, it was uncovered that just about every member of Congress, especially those members in leadership positions, had all received large financial contributions from not only Enron, Worldcom and other multinational corporations, but also the airlines.

Furthermore, immediately after the September 11 attack, the airline industry ran to its friends in Congress for protection against law suits, knowing full well that it was they, the airlines, who were directly responsible for the security of their own fleets of airplanes and passengers. It was the airlines who didn't want federal law enforcement to operate security. They didn't want to pay for quality security, but rather preferred the cheapest facade of security and safety. However, after that security was penetrated and thousands of people were killed, the airlines wanted legal protection against financial losses and responsibility.

Therefore, Congress granted the request in the form of The Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act, which included the September 11th Victim Compensation Fund of 2001. Family members of the victims of 9/11 were paid, the airlines were compensated for losses, all was forgiven, and no one was held accountable for their actions. Money talked and the airlines walked.

In summary, Congress and the White House were not, and are not, doing the People's work. They were, and are, working for the corporations. In return, like corrupt governments of the Third World and the former Soviet Union, the corporations were, and are, paying off the members of Congress, the President, Vice President and members of the Supreme Court with large campaign contributions, gifts, trips, paid speaking engagements, vacation accommodations, publishing deals, transportation, and employment for family members.

If these same events and practices were to take place in any other country of the world, the United States would declare that country a corrupt Third World government.