

**Surge from page 1**

The broad outlines of this proposal for a new Iraqi law, which went largely ignored by mainstream U.S. media, are reliably reported to have been authored as long as three years ago by one Phillip Carroll. Carroll is a former executive of Shell Oil and the oil servicing firm, the Fluor Corporation, and was specially hired for the job by the White House. Working collaboratively with the British government, this new bill will directly benefit Exxon, Shell and British Petroleum-Amoco, enabling them to generate huge profits from Iraq's oilfields, which has the world's second largest oil reserves.

The proposed measure--named as an innocent sounding "hydrocarbon law"--affirms once and for all that a root motive for the war since the beginning has been to gain control of Iraq's petroleum for U.S. and British interests. This motive has long been vociferously denied in both Washington and London, each of whom have claimed their sole intention was to build "democracy" in the post-Saddam era.

In the face of a large and glaring defeat at the polls in November and a massive shift of public opinion against the war, alongside the official legalization of torture, the use of CIA contracted aircraft to "render" (kidnap) and transport foreign and U.S. nationals to other countries for the purpose of torturing them, the creation and maintenance by the CIA of secret prisons ("black" sites) in a half-dozen foreign countries, the elimination of *habeas corpus* and large-scale surveillance of and spying on lawful citizens in the U.S., among others, illustrates the desperation of the White House.

By design, the so-called "surge" is to be accompanied by an aggressive imposition of virtual martial law in Baghdad, in Anbar province, and in other major cities. New defense secretary Robert Gates has just named Lt. Gen. David H. Petraeus as the senior Army commander in Iraq replacing Bush's formerly trusted Generals George W. Casey, Jr. and Gen. John Abizaid. The latter two had publicly expressed doubts about the "surge" or any other kind of major escalation. Formerly a leading officer of the 101st Airborne Brigade, Petraeus has just completed the urgently drafted and newly-minted Army counterinsurgency manual, still highly classified.

To assuage Bush and Cheney's growing desperation, the agenda of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, directed at every turn by top U.S. generals and CIA controllers, is to order the Shiite-controlled "security forces," armed militias and other local death squads to launch wholesale house-to-house

searches in Sunni areas as part of a just-launched U.S. "pacification" program, strikingly similar to the CIA's infamous Operation Phoenix in Vietnam. Another more appropriate name for this kind of operation is ethnic cleansing.

In closing, we must see these developments as part of a larger, even more ominous picture. It is well known that Bush, Dick Cheney and Condoleezza Rice (and previously Donald Rumsfeld) are quite openly considering further military intervention, this time against Iran. It is thought that in the likely event of opposition from the Joint Chiefs of Staff against such a new war, which would stretch the U.S. military to its limits, the adventurous White House might be willing to "outsource" the operation to Israel. Tel Aviv is already known to be actively considering a "low-level" nuclear strike upon strategic targets inside Iran. Noted Washington investigative journalist Robert Parry writes: "[G]iven Israel's powerful lobbying operation in Washington and its strong ties to leading Democrats, an Israeli-led attack might be more politically palatable with the Congress."

The MSNBC analyst Keith Olbermann observes about the Iran option: "Only this president - only in this time, only with this dangerous, even messianic certitude - could answer a country demanding an exit strategy from Iraq, by offering an entrance strategy for Iran."

Helen Thomas, the dean of the White House press corps who has reported on nine successive presidents, states flatly: "I'm covering the worst president in American history."

These and other moves by Bush & Company, in the Middle East and in many other areas of the world, must be understood within the context of the White House's intense fascination with the military doctrine of "Full-spectrum dominance." It was first advanced in a May 30, 2000 Pentagon document setting forth a new military doctrine for the 21st century, *Joint Vision 2020*. As defined by Wikipedia, full-spectrum dominance is "a joint military structure [that] achieves control over all elements of the battlespace using land, air, maritime and space based assets. Full spectrum dominance includes the physical battlespace; air, surface and sub-surface as well as the electromagnetic spectrum and information space." The U.S. already has 890 military bases in 132 countries across the globe.

Remember the ever popular arcade game, Pac-Man? Pac-Man was and still is the little yellow guy who consumes an endless quantity of pixelated dots. And he never grows tired.

**Whitewash from Page 1**

ber Ronald Reagan in 1986 to examine the Iran-contra affair. The commission was chaired by former Republican Texas Senator John Tower who hailed from the same state as George H. W. Bush, a major conspirator in Iran-contra. The Tower Commission Report, issued in 1987, let Reagan off the hook and was quite easy on Vice President George H. W. Bush. One of the reasons for the soft glove treatment of Bush was the fact that among the members of the Tower Commission was Brent Scowcroft, the former National Security Adviser under Gerald Ford (remember that Ford was a member of the Warren Commission - more tidiness). Who was Scowcroft's aide on the Tower Commission? One Stephen J. Hadley, now National Security Adviser, the job Scowcroft held under Ford (Warren Commission) and George H. W. Bush (who pardoned those identified as major perpetrators in the Tower Report).

Which brings us to the latest cover-up commission: the 9/11 Commission. Members included co-chairman Lee Hamilton, who acted as a gatekeeper while House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence (HPSCI) chairman in curtailing a meaningful investigation of Iran-contra, BCCI, and the Savings & Loan collapse. George W. Bush's first selection as 9/11 Commission chair was none other than Henry Kissinger, whose fingerprints were all over the abuses cited in the Rockefeller Commission Report. Commission member Fred Fielding was a White House deputy counsel for Richard Nixon (Watergate) and counsel for Ronald Reagan (Iran-contra). He is now replacing Harriet Miers as White House counsel for George W. Bush. 9/11 Commission Executive Director Phil Zelikow was a longtime associate of the University of Virginia's Miller Center, which has written extensively defending the first government cover-up, the Warren Report.

The "investigation commissions" in recent U.S. history are tied at their umbilical cords. The same players and the same pabulum for the public are their trademarks. We have truly come full circle from the Warren Commission to the 9/11 Commission.

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**Vaccines from Pg 1**

Should you or your children be exposed to the influenza vaccine containing thimerosal? That is a cost/benefit calculation that each parent must make for themselves. You must weigh the potential danger of thimerosal on the one hand vs. the benefit of the flu vaccination on the other.

The problem is that you will be hard pressed to find evidence for the effectiveness of the flu vaccine. And what few studies there are do not show it to provide much protection against the disease.

According to an article by Mark R. Geier, et. al. in the *Journal of American Physicians and Surgeons* 2006 "The CDC determined that immunization with the 2003-2004 influenza vaccine offered negligible population protection against developing influenza-like illnesses, and that in some of their methods of analysis there were results, which ... , indicated that influenza vaccination was associated

with an increased risk of developing influenza-like illnesses." Another study, conducted by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, looked at influenza-related mortality in the over-65 age group in the U.S. over the past three decades has shown an increase in the death rate despite a concurrent jump in vaccine rates in that group.

And yet, the CDC recommends that children aged 6 months to 5 years old, pregnant women, people 50 years of age and older, people of any age with certain chronic medical conditions, and people who live in nursing homes and other long term care facilities should get an annual flu vaccination.

We question why the CDC would recommend annual flu vaccination given the known dangers of thimerosal and in the absence of any conclusive evidence of benefit from the vaccine.

*Progressive Democrats of America  
Strong in Maryland*

By - Mike Hersh

Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) is promoting Rep. Jim McGovern's (D-MA) petition to cut off funding for the War, and will conduct protests against Lockheed Martin in Bethesda demanding the stop making cluster bombs and depleted uranium weapons. PDA has also met with Members of the House and Senate demanding an end to the war and a start of impeachment hearings.

If you live in Maryland and the D.C. area, PDA needs your help. We'll keep moving ahead on setting up a state-wide coordinating board for PDA. We need representatives from every Congressional District in Maryland and we want a diverse membership to help address issues confronting all Marylanders, working with local activists, County and State Legislators on strategy for health care, environment, voting, ending the death penalty and other issues. We're holding meetings with elected officials, Maryland Democratic Chairperson Terry Lierman and other activists hoping to establish Progressive Caucus in the Maryland Democratic Party.

PDA was extremely effective in 2006 in Maryland. Every candidate endorsed by PDA either won or out-performed expectations.

PDA National Board Member and newly-elected State Senator Jamie Raskin announced his intention to have a progressive convention held in Montgomery County. PDA friend and Maryland Democratic party chair Terry Lierman has said he wants a Maryland State Convention. These are 2 great ideas which could work well together. This year, we could hold a Progressive Convention under PDA leadership in Maryland, and use alliance to help Terry put together a Maryland State Convention in 2008.

Once set up, the Progressive Caucus in Maryland could facilitate election of more progressive candidates locally and state-wide, and can also help organize a Progressive Caucus among state legislators in Annapolis led by Jamie and fellow progressives. We can get that underway in Montgomery County in a matter of months, then work with PDA National Vice Chair Steven Shaff, Congressional Candidate Donna Edwards in Prince George's County, Senate Candidate Kweisi Mfume and other friends in Baltimore to rock the

state. Some of this may come as news to some of these people, but we're not putting any words in their mouths - just thinking about them and hoping we can work together to achieve shared objectives.

I was on Capitol Hill recently with PDA National Board members Cindy Sheehan and David Swanson and allies like Code Pink and Gold Star Families for Peace, the Democracy Cell Project, and many others. We were lobbying to end the war and start investigations, mainly on the House side.

Congress might be able pass restrictions on war spending, but Bush could veto the bill. Or he could sign and then ignore it. Congress already passed a law prohibiting spending for permanent bases in Iraq, but Bush is flouting that law. It would make sense to investigate this as an illegal use of funds. Stopping any escalation legally could be difficult, but we may be able to prevent it by mobilizing public opinion against it. The Republican senator's aide seemed to indicate his boss is wavering on that. A few other Republican senators -- Sen. Arlen Specter and Sen. Richard Lugar - have voiced skepticism that escalation would accomplish anything. So if the Joint Chiefs of Staff, our troops in the field, retired generals and congressional Democrats and Republicans alike all oppose the "Bush Push," why would Bush do it? Perhaps more importantly, how can we help prevent it?

Short of cutting off all funds, placing constraints on newly appropriated funds may not have much if any impact. It could be that only a complete cut-off of funding or impeachment will be effective. PDA is leading the way by building a coalition demanding peace and accountability.

PDA's leadership bridges the peace and impeachment efforts, bringing together organizations and activists who support one or the other into a strong coalition. PDA's inside-outside approach knits together congressional and grassroots efforts to end the war, bring our troops home, and hold Bush, Cheney and others accountable. We accomplished a lot. Still, lobbying is a long-term process. Please get involved and stay involved. PDA is organizing for peace and progress in Maryland. You can get involved with PDA and find our planned events at: [www.pdamerica.org](http://www.pdamerica.org)

Robert Gates, the new US Secretary of Defense, has a 30 year history of treason and deceit. He was the principal bag-man in the 1980 "October Surprise" where arms were exchanged for Iran's promise to keeping American hostages captive long enough to assure Ronald Reagan's election. In 1987, evidence of Gates involvement in the drug running and arms dealing "Iran-Contra" affair was enough to scuttle his nomination to head CIA.

By funding Osama Bin Laden's operations, training camps, weaponry and political influence from 1979 (even before Russia invaded Afghanistan), Robert Gates personally founded the concept of al-Qaeda, which has now been named our principal enemy (some would say "patsies") in the "War on Terror".

With such a history it seems unlikely that his reign at Defense will bring peace and prosperity to the American people.

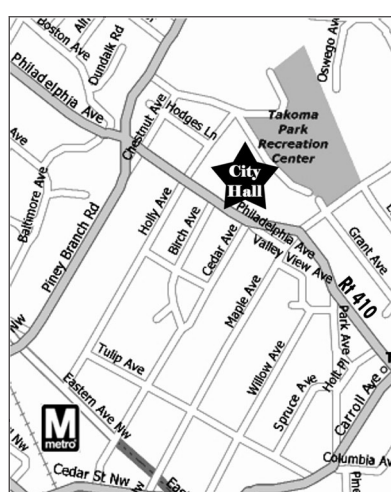
**FREE MOVIE**

Takoma Park City Hall  
7500 Maple Ave.  
Metro: Red line Takoma Park

**Saturday, Jan, 27  
After The March  
6:00 p.m.**

**TERRORSTORM**  
An Alex Jones film.

Experts from the national 9/11truth movement will be on hand to discuss the film and answer your questions. Don't miss this opportunity to find out what everyone has been talking about.



"Look, our strategy is to create chaos, to create a vacuum... We will export death and violence to the four corners of the earth in defense of our great nation." **George W. Bush**

"The easiest way to gain control of a population is to carry out acts of terror. [The public] will clamor for such laws if their personal security is threatened". - Josef Stalin

"If Tyranny and Oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy." - U.S. President James Madison