
Subject: Fraud In Iraq? Impossible.

Posted by [SuperFlyingEngi](#) on Tue, 20 Jun 2006 19:55:40 GMT

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<http://www.nytimes.com/2006/06/20/washington/20cnd-cong.html?ex=1308456000&en=09b84bc82f790b49&ei=5090&partner=rssuserland&emc=rss>

The New York Times Earlier today, Republicans defeated a Democratic proposal for an investigation into waste and fraud in military contracts. The proposal, made by Senator Byron L. Dorgan of North Dakota, called for a panel like the one led by Harry Truman when he was a Senator, which uncovered many abuses in military spending during World War II. It failed by a 52-to-44 vote.

Republicans try hard to avoid accountability. It's almost like they've been profiting through the War In Iraq...

Various Scandals (Courtesy of Salon.com, through <http://www.ecolivingcenter.com/board/politics/messages/73.html>)

Halliburton: Pumping Up Prices

The scandal: In 2003, Halliburton overcharged the army for fuel in Iraq. Specifically, Halliburton's subsidiary Kellogg, Brown & Root hired a Kuwaiti company, Altanmia, to supply fuel at about twice the going rate, then added a markup, for an overcharge of at least \$61 million, according to a December 2003 Pentagon audit.

The problem: That's not the government's \$61 million, it's our \$61 million.

The outcome: The FBI is investigating.

Halliburton's Vanishing Iraq Money

The scandal: In mid-2004, Pentagon auditors determined that \$1.8 billion of Halliburton's charges to the government, about 40 percent of the total, had not been adequately documented.

The problem: That's not the government's \$1.8 billion, it's our \$1.8 billion.

The outcome: The Defense Contract Audit Agency has "strongly" asked the Army to withhold about \$60 million a month from its Halliburton payments until the documentation is provided.

Money Order: Afghanistan's Missing \$700 Million Turns Up in Iraq

The scandal: According to Bob Woodward's "Plan of Attack," the Bush administration diverted \$700 million in funds from the war in Afghanistan, among other places, to prepare for the Iraq invasion.

The problem: Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 of the U.S. Constitution specifically gives Congress the power "to raise and support armies." And the emergency spending bill passed after Sept. 11,

2001, requires the administration to notify Congress before changing war spending plans. That did not happen.

The outcome: Congress declined to investigate. The administration's main justification for its decision has been to claim the funds were still used for, one might say, Middle East anti-tyrant-related program activities.

Iraq: More Loose Change

The scandal: The inspector general of the Coalition Provisional Authority in Iraq released a series of reports in July 2004 finding that a significant portion of CPA assets had gone missing -- 34 percent of the materiel controlled by Kellogg, Brown & Root -- and that the CPA's method of disbursing \$600 million in Iraq reconstruction funds "did not establish effective controls and left accountability open to fraud, waste and abuse."

The problem: As much as \$50 million of that money was disbursed without proper receipts.

The outcome: The CPA has disbanded, but individual government investigations into the handling of Iraq's reconstruction continue.

Iraq: The Case for War

The scandal: Bush and many officials in his administration made false statements about Iraq's military capabilities, in the months before the United States' March 2003 invasion of the country.

The problem: For one thing, it is a crime to lie to Congress, although Bush backers claim the president did not knowingly make false assertions.

The outcome: A war spun out of control with unknowable long-term consequences. The Iraq Survey Group has stopped looking for weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.
