

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: **October 8, 2002**

Can you find the propaganda in Bush's speech? Libertarians ask

Nation urged to remember the tale about babies being pulled from incubators

WASHINGTON, DC — As Americans consider the merits of the case against Iraq as laid out by President Bush last night, they should keep these five words in mind, Libertarians say: Babies being pulled from incubators.

The explosive allegation that Iraqi troops had invaded a Kuwaiti hospital in 1990, pulled babies from incubators and left them on the floor to die — a charge made on national TV by Bush's father — later turned out to be patently false government propaganda.

"There's no way for ordinary Americans to determine whether all of Mr. Bush's claims about Iraq are true," said Libertarian Party Communications Director George Getz. "But we do know that past presidents have told the public bald-faced lies in order to whip up war hysteria."

Last night in his speech, Bush listed several specific acts of cruelty that he says have been perpetrated by Saddam: Opponents have been decapitated, women have been "systematically raped," and "political prisoners have been forced to watch their own children being tortured."

Libertarians are urging the nation not to accept such charges uncritically. One reason: The notorious babies-being-pulled-from-incubators hoax that was perpetrated in 1990 by a Washington public relations firm, with a little help from President George Bush.

"In a nationally televised speech given as the elder Bush tried to build support for invading Iraq, the president said: 'Babies have been ripped off of incubators and those incubators [were] shipped off to Baghdad.'

"There's only problem with the story," Getz continued: **"It wasn't true.** It had been fabricated by Hill & Knowlton, a PR firm that had been paid \$10.7 million by the government of Kuwait to sway U.S. public opinion in favor of the war.

"So, do the satellite photos that Bush mentioned in his speech last night really show the construction of a nuclear power plant outside Baghdad? Did Iraqi intelligence agents really meet with senior al Qaeda operatives? Does Saddam really behead his political opponents and torture children in front of their parents?

"Unfortunately, we may never know. But we do know that before presidents launch military attacks against foreign nations, they sometimes launch propaganda attacks against the American people."

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