

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Event: Friday Rally calls for protests at Cheney fundraiser, reviews the record of Bush's champion of corporate cronyism, marks flaws in 9/11 commission report.

Date: Friday, July 23rd, 2004

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Place: Pioneer Courthouse Square

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Friday Rally calls for protests at Cheney fundraiser, reviews the record of Bush's champion of corporate cronyism, marks flaws in 9/11 commission report.

Friday's 5:00 p.m. PPRC rally at Pioneer Courthouse Square reviews the record of Dick Cheney, calling for protests at the Republican fundraiser set for this coming Monday at the Embassy Suites Hotel by the airport. "Dick Cheney was at the very center of Bush's campaign of lies and fear-mongering that defrauded our country into the attack on Iraq," said William Seaman, a spokesperson for PPRC. "This week brought the tragedy of the 900th US soldier to be killed in that criminal war, and Cheney is personally responsible for each of those deaths, and for the more than ten thousand innocent Iraqis who have died, and the thousands more, Iraqis and Americans, who've been grievously injured and traumatized by his war-profiteering plans."

Cheney is the former CEO of Halliburton, the company that has received well over \$1 billion in no-bid contracts for the Iraq war, and has since been investigated and found guilty of significant accounting irregularities and overcharging that tracks into the millions of dollars. Cheney himself continues to receive payments from Halliburton in the form of deferred compensation, and reports have linked him directly to the awarding of the no-bid contracts to the company.

"He Lied, They Died: Bring the Troops Home Now!" will be the message this Friday and at the Monday Cheney visit, according to volunteers organizing the protest on Monday. "As always, we invite everybody to join us in what will be a peaceful, constitutionally-protected, loud and reverberating expression of protest against the criminal, immoral policies of the Bush Administration," said Seaman. "We mean to remind the Republicans, and Dick Cheney in particular, that their crimes and corruptions are known to the American people, and there's a growing tide of public opinion calling them to account."

The Friday rally will also review the recently-released 9/11 Commission report. “There’s much to be praised in the report, but there is also much to question and much more that is missing,” said Seaman. “A cabinet-level post for the intelligence “czar” will only make it easier for an administration to manipulate, politicize and distort the information coming from these agencies, which is precisely what we saw happen to the intelligence leading up to the US attack on Iraq.”

Seaman went on to question the way the report characterized the roots of terrorism. “It is not just a matter of improving the opportunities for people living in poverty and under repressive governments,” said Seaman. “We must also finally face up to the role that our government has played in perpetuating these systems of oppression, whether it is through our government’s support for ruthless, corrupt dictatorships like in Saudi Arabia, our funding and support for the illegal occupation of Palestinian land in the West Bank and Gaza, or the enforcement of unfair and repressive economic structures that have devastated the lives of millions of people throughout the world.”

The plans for Cheney’s visit call for gathering at the Embassy Suites Hotel beginning at 4:00pm, with the rally and vigil to last through Cheney’s fundraiser speech that is currently scheduled for 6:00pm. “We’re asking folks to join us whenever they can,” said one of the planners. The nearest Max stop to the Embassy Suites Hotel is the Mt. Hood station located at NE Cascades Parkway & NE Mt. Hood Avenue. Updates will be posted on the PPRC website at www.pprc-news.org