

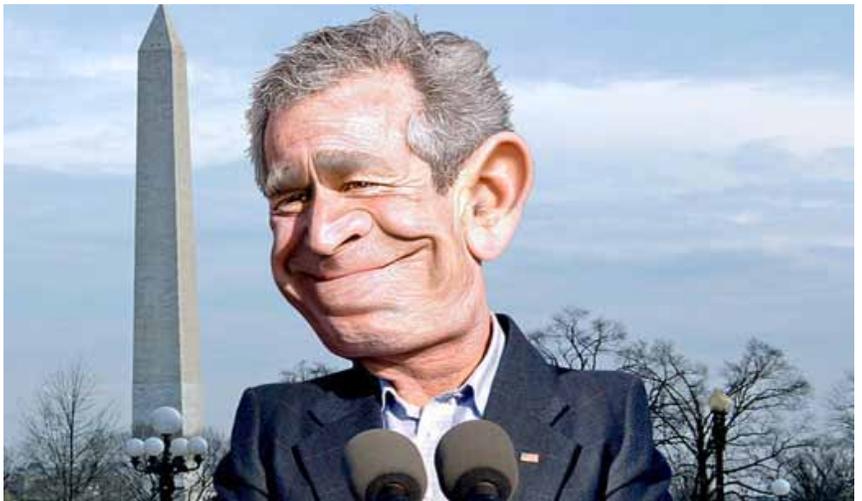
PEOPLE'S WORLD

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The Bush Library: A brazen attempt to rewrite history

By Peoplesworld.org



With a price tag of \$250 million, the George W. Bush library is the biggest and most expensive of the 13 that have been opened to recognize the former presidents. It is a major part of a well-orchestrated campaign underway for months now to whitewash what was very likely the worst presidency in the history of the United States. We don't believe the campaign will succeed, however, because the memories of the American people are not short enough for that to happen.

The theme of the new "library" is not George Bush, the failed president, but George Bush the "statesman" who had to make a lot of "decisions." Laura Bush showed the press yesterday how visitors will be able to enter an "interactive decision making room" where they can participate with the former president in making the many decisions he so bravely made.

"Bush made lots of presidential decisions," right wing pundit Charles Krauthammer opined yesterday on Fox. To all of this we say, "So what? What other kinds of decisions would a president make? The issue is not whether Bush was a major decision maker but what kinds of decisions he made.

He could have decided not to challenge recounts in Florida all the way up to the Supreme Court and allow the man who won the majority of votes in 2000 to become president of the United States or he could have decided to push the issue until the court intervened on his behalf and installed him into the presidency. He decided to push and we ended up with an unelected president. Wrong decision.

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After 9/11 he could have decided to invade Iraq or he could have decided not to invade Iraq. He made the decision that cost thousands of American lives, a million Iraqi lives and perhaps more than a trillion dollars. Wrong decision.

The Bush Library is nothing more than an expensive attempt to rewrite history.

He could have decided to tell the truth about the presence of weapons of mass destruction in Iraq or he could have lied about them. He decided to lie. Wrong decision.

As Hurricane Katrina neared New Orleans he could have decided to monitor and take charge of the crisis or he could have decided to attend Sen. John McCain's birthday party. He decided to go to the party. Wrong decision.

He could have decided to fight for more regulation of Wall Street or he could have decided on less regulation. He went for less regulation and soon there was a total meltdown in the financial markets. Wrong decision. He could have decided to give tax breaks to the rich or he could have decided not to give tax breaks to the rich. He decided on the tax breaks and plunged the economy into its worse crisis since the Great Depression. Wrong decision. He could have decided to rewrite U.S. foreign policy along the neo-con lines advocated by Dick Cheney, his pick for Vice President, or he could have decided not to do that. He decided to go the neo-con way with unilateral intervention in battles underway all around the world. Wrong decision..

He could have decided to hookup with the super rich and their efforts to buy lawmakers all over the country or he could have decided not to do that. He decided to do it by putting Karl Rove in charge of everything in that department, including his own reelection effort. Wrong decision.

The Bush library devotes a huge amount of space to what most say were his good efforts to fight AIDS in Africa. When all else fails the right wing Bush legacy rehabilitation teams point to the former president's support for the efforts to fight the disease as proof of his humanitarianism.

On this issue they fail to mention, however, that it was the Congressional Black Caucus that played the leading role. It was the African American lawmakers who first raised the issue with the former president and who developed and drew up a program and a plan to deliver the help that saved millions of lives.

No "library" operates this way. But we shouldn't be surprised. The Bush Library is nothing more than an expensive attempt to rewrite history.



Detroit needs emergency action

By PW Editorial

The appointment of the emergency manager to rule Detroit will not turn the city around. Nowhere in Michigan have emergency managers worked because their intent is to punish a city or town, its unions and its residents for problems not of their making.

Almost from the beginning Detroit was going to sink or swim with the fortunes of its one cash crop. No other major city in the United States was so tied to a single industry.

Globalization, automation and the seeking of ever greater profits caused all auto companies, domestic and foreign, to move production. All contributed to Detroit losing almost 90 percent of its jobs and tax base.

Another huge factor, too often overlooked, is that Detroit's Black residents have endured a long history of racism and extreme segregation. Southeast Michigan is one of the most racially segregated areas in the entire nation.

"We are all Detroit" should be everyone's cry.

With a dwindling population and tax base, Detroit, as did many other cities, took out loans to keep up with expenses, hoping a better day would come. The Wall Street caused economic crisis robbed any hope of recovery.

Detroit has already downsized its workforce, going from 30,000 public employees in 1970 to well under 10,000 today, but the city is still responsible for the benefits they have rightfully earned. A more equitable way of funding, national or regional in scope, is needed.

Federal action is a must. Unemployment is at crisis levels. Mayor Dave Bing has said the unofficial jobless rate is probably close to fifty percent. Finding a job in the city is next to impossible. While it's known as the motor city, many residents cannot afford cars and rely on a poor transit system that does not connect to jobs in the suburbs.

Further austerity measures and cuts should be unthinkable. We need a national program to rebuild our infrastructure. Detroit is a logical place to begin such initiatives.

"We are all Detroit" should be everyone's cry.

City Council funds jobs center at Oakland Army Base

By Marilyn Bechtel

Meeting in Columbus, Ohio on April 9, the 300 delegates to the Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans (ARA) greeted the president's announcement that his proposed budget would propose cuts to Social Security with outrage.

A major milestone was passed April 16 in the long struggle to win jobs for local workers in redevelopment of the Oakland Army Base, as the City Council voted funds to support a West Oakland Job Resource Center and a commission to monitor fulfillment of broad community benefits requirements approved last year.

Redevelopment of the base, and its future function as a site of logistical and warehouse operations for the neighboring Port of Oakland - the country's fourth busiest container port - is expected to bring thousands of new jobs to the city.

The jobs center is seen as essential to the success of provisions won by community, labor and faith organizations, including requirements that at least half the workers on the city's portion of the former base must be from Oakland, and all new union apprenticeships during construction must go to Oakland residents.

Chants of "More jobs, less violence!" focused on Oakland residents' concerns about the city's high rates of both joblessness and violence, as participants in the 30-organization Revive Oakland! coalition rallied outside City Hall before the council meeting.

While high in the city overall, unemployment



for Community Empowerment (ACCE) said the jobs center is vital "so people can go there to get connected with the jobs, get connected with the training that's available, counseling if they need it, to make sure they are job-ready."

Burnell emphasized the importance of the oversight commission to be appointed by the mayor, as she pointed out that "everything we've won so far is just words on paper until it's implemented." The commission will include representatives of the community, labor, employers, and the city.

The City Council's action will fund the Jobs Resources Center with \$300,000 annually for two years, and appropriate \$200,000 annually for two years to provide city staff to aid the oversight commission's work - funds coalition members see as a good start to what they hope will become ongoing support.

When the Oakland Army Base was decommissioned in 1999, its land - the size of 200 football fields - was divided between the city and the Port of Oakland.

The jobs center is seen as essential to the success of provisions won by community, labor and faith organizations.

Survivor of Bangladesh factory fire, tours U.S.

By Rossana Cambron

Sumi Abedin, a survivor of the factory fire in Bangladesh that killed 112 workers on November 24, 2012 is touring the U.S. to shed light on unsafe working conditions, and to demand that workers be compensated for the loss of lives and work in the amount of \$5 million. Abedin worked as a seamstress at Tazreen Fashions.

The Bengali garment workers are also demanding that GAP sign the Bangladesh Fire and Building Safety Agreement to ensure worker safety.

She reports that when fire broke out the supervisors told the female employees to return to work but smoke soon filled the factory.

Recounting her experience Abedin said when the fire broke out the workers began to run but the stairs were locked. With the smoke and flames too fierce to escape, she jumped from a third story window. Abedin stated that she did not jump to save her life but to insure her burned remains would not be recognized by her parents.

During her tour, Sumi Abedin, will join labor activists on the steps of executives' homes and in front of the corporate headquarters of companies like Walmart. The effort is part of a growing campaign by labor rights activists and union groups to publicize poor working conditions at overseas factories producing clothing for U.S. consumers.

Venezuela recibirá a 16 jefes de estado

Por teleSUR

Hasta 16 líderes caribeños acuden al llamado hecho el pasado viernes 26 de abril por el canciller venezolano, Elías Jaua, quien hizo pública la invitación a los miembros de Petrocaribe a una nueva Cumbre de Jefes de Estados que se realizará en la isla de Margarita.

El presidente de Venezuela, Nicolás Maduro, ratificó que el próximo sábado cuatro de mayo se realizará en la isla de Margarita, estado Nueva Esparta (noreste del país), una cumbre del organismo de integración energética Petrocaribe, a la cual ya han confirmado su asistencia un total de 16 jefes de Estado y de Gobierno.

“Este fin de semana vamos a tener la cumbre de Petrocaribe. Vienen al menos 16 jefes de Estado y de Gobierno a Venezuela”, expresó Maduro desde el estado Zulia (oeste), durante la transmisión de su programa dominical, Diálogo Bolivariano.

El Presidente recordó que se trata de mandatarios de “16 países hermanos de la región, en los que nosotros, por los acuerdos que tenemos, podemos colocar la producción (petrolera) venezolana”.

hDe esta manera, los líderes caribeños acuden al llamado hecho el pasado viernes 26 de abril por el canciller venezolano, Elías Jaua, quien hizo pública la invitación a los miembros de Petrocaribe a una nueva Cumbre de Jefes de Estados.

El último encuentro de los países

miembros de Petrocaribe se realizó en diciembre de 2011 antes de la cumbre fundacional de la Comunidad de Estados de América Latina y el Caribe (Celac), en Caracas. En esa oportunidad, los países miembros ratificaron su compromiso a seguir trabajando por el desarrollo en conjunto de la región.

Uno de los temas a analizar durante la venidera reunión, será la propuesta de creación de una zona económica propia que, basada en la igualdad de oportunidades, pueda extenderse a la Alianza Bolivariana para los Pueblos de Nuestra América (ALBA).

Petrocaribe nació el 29 de junio de 2005, tras el Acuerdo de Cooperación Energética suscrito por 14 naciones del Caribe durante el Primer Encuentro Energético de Jefes de Estado y/ o de Gobierno del Caribe sobre Petrocaribe.

Esta iniciativa suma hoy 18 países comprometidos con la transformación de la región: Antigua y Barbuda, Bahamas, Belice, Cuba, Dominica, Granada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haití, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, República Dominicana, San Cristóbal y Nieves, Santa Lucía, San Vicente y Las Granadinas, Surinam y Venezuela.

El mecanismo de Petrocaribe, promovido por el líder de la Revolución Bolivariana, Hugo Chávez en 2005, ofrece combustibles a los países centroamericanos y del Caribe en condiciones favorables.

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