

A Big Dose of Hypocrisy

by **Janet Jagan**

I frequently find it amazing when I read or hear of various reports, most emanating from the USA, that label our small nation as being guilty of various things. For example, we are rated high as a corrupt country, our crime rate is stated to be unreasonably high according to international levels, our performance at different levels is always poor, and so on.

Then I read or otherwise learn about what is happening in the world's most powerful nation, the USA, supposedly the "promised land" of the free and the home of democracy. Reality is often hard to believe and absorb.

President Bush has claimed the authority to disobey more than 750 laws enacted since he took office, asserting that he has the power to set aside any statute passed by Congress when it conflicts with his interpretation of the US Constitution (The New York Review: October 19, 2006).

Yet, such laws were passed by the elected representatives of the American people who serve in the Senate and House of Representatives. So much

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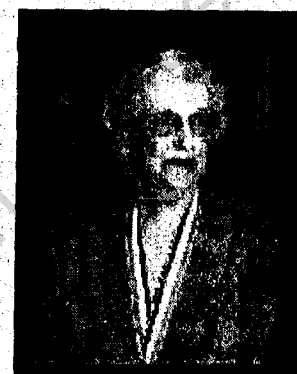
And this is very important to note: Only a

minority of the political bribes paid each year go to public officials in the developing world. A report by this UN body says that "the vast majority of bribes are paid to people in richer countries." It is not difficult to conclude that there is gross hypocrisy by the groups, mainly in the USA, which condemn the smaller undeveloped countries of corruption, while they are the

major culprits. The very system of lobbying, which is legalized in the USA, is the source of extensive bribery by very rich US corporations who buy the votes of Congressmen and other Washington officials to promote their own corporate goals.

It is sad to say, but it is a fact so notorious as to freeze the blood of any US patriot, that the President of the USA has surrounded himself by a group of persons who have brought nothing but shame to America.

His former Assistant Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz who Mr Bush chose to head the World Monetary Fund was forced to resign because of a nasty scandal in which he used his position to enhance the income of his girlfriend. John Bolton, former Undersecretary of State, was nominated by Mr Bush to be the UN Ambassador, but this was rejected by the US Senate. Despite the rejection, Mr Bush placed Bolton at the UN post, where he proved to be a disaster, and had to be removed after the mid-term



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Congressional elections which gave the Democratic Party a majority.

Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was forced to resign due to the widespread disgust for his wrong doings regarding the Iraq war. And if that was not enough, his Attorney General was forced out of office due to prejudiced treatment of eight Federal prosecutors and Lewis Libby, found guilty in the courts and sentenced to prison for his part in the exposure of a CIA agent whose husband opposed the Iraq war. Mr Bush later relieved him of his jail sentence.

Even the President's closest associate Karl Rove,

his friend for 34 years, had to resign over a CIA scandal and the row over the sacking of the eight lawyers.

The Vice President, Dick Cheney whose name has been so closely associated with the firm Halliburton, which he once headed and which received billions in US war contracts, is considered the architect of the decision to invade Iraq and one of the most dangerous of the President's men. He is named as the person behind the Israeli missile attack on Syria and the concept of Israeli strikes on Iran, a war the White House seems to be contemplating. Former President Jimmy Carter recently labeled Dick Cheney as a "disaster" for his country.

President Bharrat Jagdeo has correctly identified these negative reports against Guyana and other developing countries as hypocritical. At the time President Jagdeo was referring to two reports released by the US State Department – the International Narcotics Control Strategy report and one on human rights.