

The Right To Lie

Congress shall make no law ...abridging the freedom of speech
First Amendment US Constitution

The Right to Lie under the Bush doctrine is in actuality a right protected by the US Constitution under the right to free speech. Close and critical reading of the US Constitution's First Amendment clearly shows that the right to free speech is not restricted to just the truth.

Free speech, like all rights granted and guaranteed by the Constitution's Bill of Rights is an unabridged right, e.g. unfettered, and as such extends equally to truth and falsehood alike.

Thus the continual lying, i.e. "mispeaking", of President George W. Bush, Vice-President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and Press Secretary Tony Snow is not only a long political tradition, it is at long last, a guaranteed Constitutional right extended to all Americans including the President and all the President's men and women.

The Right To Lie, according to the Bush doctrine, is an even more fundamental right than *habeas corpus*, granted under English common law during the reign of Henry II in the 12th Century; though more recently abridged by US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales regarding those held at Guantanamo Prison in Cuba, a nation known for state oppression and being therefore without the benefit of constitutional rights and law.

In truth, the Right to Lie is part and parcel of a long overdue rebalancing of the American political landscape. American-style democracy is still in its infancy and much remains to be perfected.

One of its longest standing and most egregious imbalances has been the inability of political leaders to claim *de jure* the Right to Lie, a right traditionally claimed and practiced by the common people *de facto* with absolutely no compunction whatsoever.

This has led to a critical imbalance in the American political landscape. With Presidents unconstitutionally held to a higher standard than the people, there has developed a gap between the two, a gap that now threatens the foundation of liberty itself.

The long overdue overhaul of democracy by conservative Republican think-tanks (*sic* a place where thinking tanks) extends the Right to Lie to the Presidency itself and therefore to all those who serve it, e.g. the Vice-President, the Department of Defense, the Department of Justice, the Department of Education, the Department of Homeland Security, the FDA, the EPA, the USDA etc.

Now perhaps the American people will no longer have to be subjected to US government officials testifying under oath that they do not recall "this or that". It is clear that the

apparent inability to recall is merely a legal ruse to avoid future charges of perjury. What has been less clear is that it has been necessitated by the heretofore obstructed and fettered constitutionally protected Right to Lie.

The American people will now be far better off for the truth to be once again made plain—that Presidents and all who serve them can and do lie. Let the honest truth, the truth and nothing but, ring free and clear!

America, America
My country 'tis of thee
How did this come to pass
How did this come to be

Darryl Robert Schoon

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