

Third Saturday Seminar 2004-2005

We Dig Deeper Into The Future Challenges of Being Human

Third Session

**What do We Want the President and Congress to
accomplish in the next 4 years?
*(Are We Really as Polarized as Everyone Thinks?)***

Bob Berge & Curt Gibby

**ALL Program, Montgomery College
Conroe, Texas**

20 November 2004

Third Saturday Seminar 04-05 Session 3

Program for the Third Session

- 9:30 Introduction
- Current Events (20 Minutes +/-)
- Chose The (5) Issues We want to Work on
- Part 1 - Discussion
- 10:40 Break - 10 minutes
- 10:50 Part 2 - Discussion Continues
- 11:50 Summary - Conclusion
- Closure – Feedback – Next Time

Disclaimer

The following presentation consists of material from many sources in addition to my own work and experience. I have tried to always give appropriate attribution for this material, but may have overlooked some. In many cases an Internet link to the source material is provided in order to allow you to better put these excerpts in context.

The inclusion of materials and the facts, opinions and ideas contained within them, does not in any way mean that I personally endorse or disavow any of them in whole or in part but that it is of importance to the discussion.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Curt Gibby <gcgconsult@n-star.com>

To Any Members of Law Enforcement

If there are any members of law enforcement here in any sort of official capacity and not in a uniform recognizable as one of law enforcement we ask that you identify yourself or selves, your agency, department or organization and your official reason for being here.

Rest assured that we are engaged in no illegal activity, but we are aware of, value and have faith in our Constitutional rights.

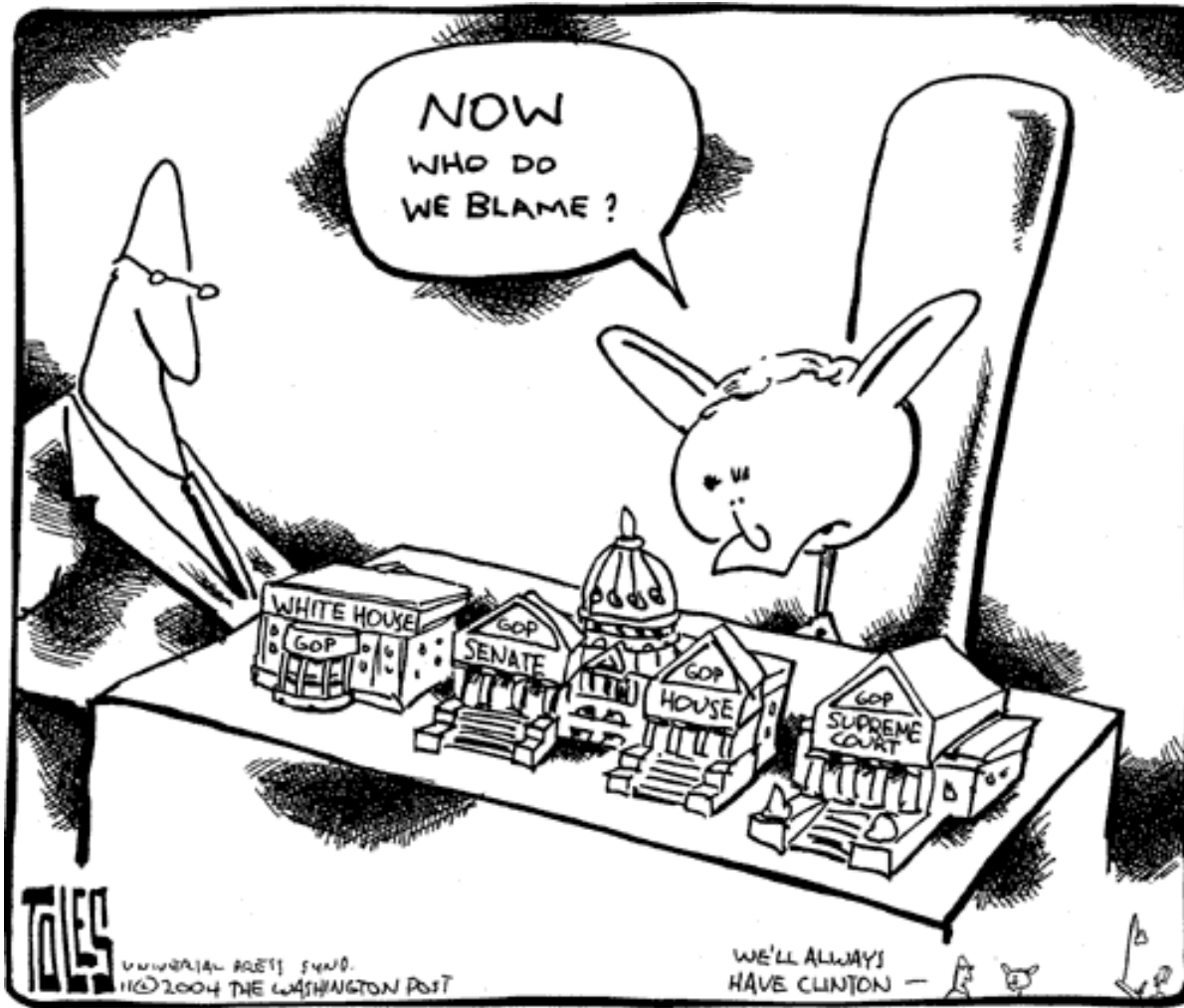
In any case you are welcome to stay and participate as a member or guest of the Third Saturday Seminar. But, if at any time you consider anything you see or hear happening or about to happen is or will be putting any one or all of us in jeopardy of breaking the law as you understand it, we request that you advise us of that situation .

This is consistent with your obligation as a peace officer or agent to protect and serve the people. Anything else will be a betrayal and you will be derelict in your duty. It will result in harm to those you are obligated to protect.

Before We Get Started

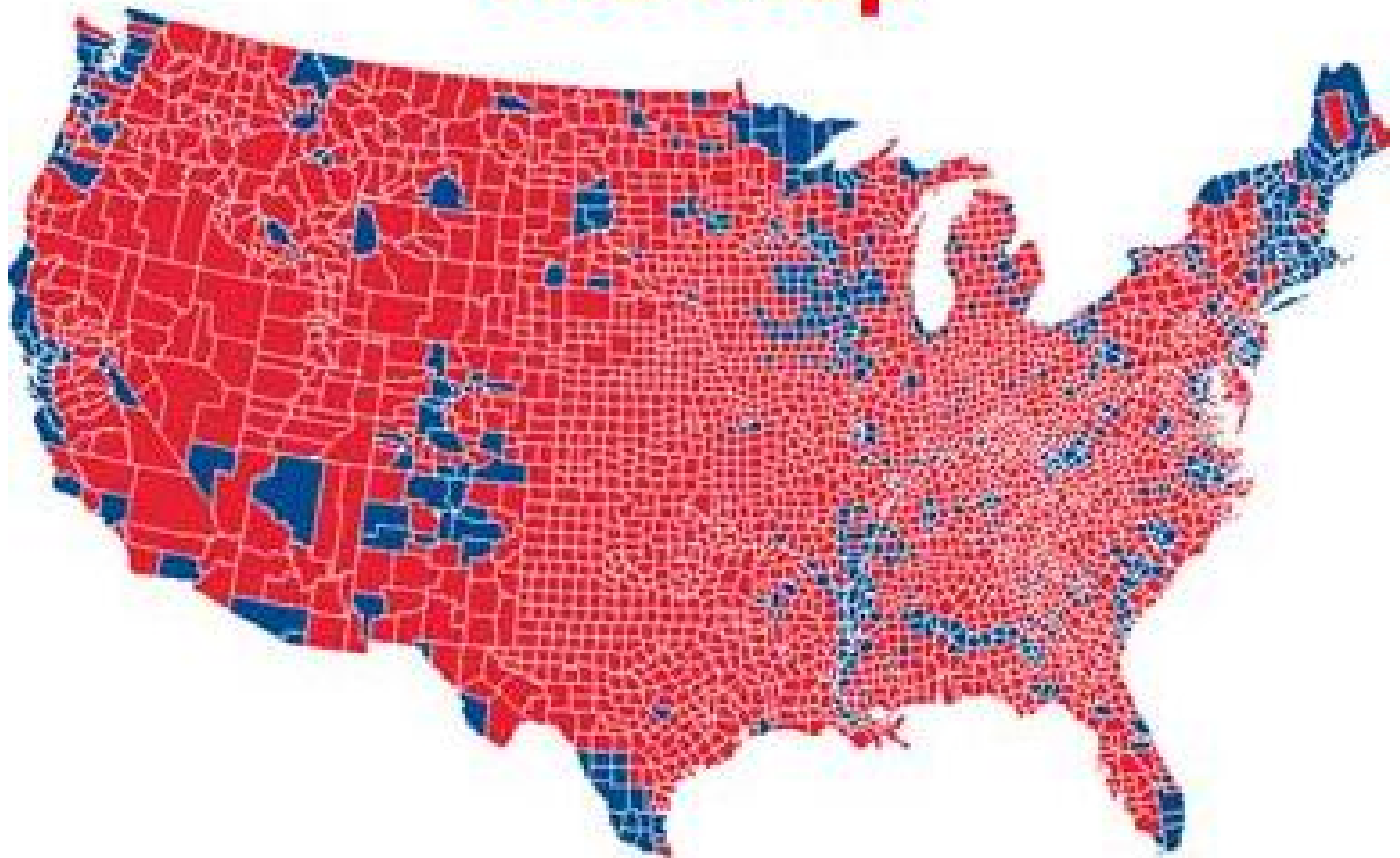
1. As tempting as it is, this is not a political rally for one side or another. It is a discussion of some very important real issues and questions which many, if not most of us share. Voting is your duty as a citizen. How you vote will be strictly up to you. But, don't let political differences if you know about them, affect your friendships. History will tell who was right (maybe). In the meantime we need good friends, especially those who can be candid and friends at the same time.
2. By participating, we will help ourselves as well as the other seminarians deal with these important issues as we approach the election. Nobody has the "right answer" except for themselves. We all owe it to each other to respect and support each other. We are all Americans or guests. We will all benefit from or have to live with the outcome.
3. Please keep your remarks brief and to the point.
4. Have faith -- in each other and yourselves. **Our republic has lasted over 200 years.** We are the oldest living Constitutional democracy. Our **Constitution** limits the power of the leaders and **guarantees the rights of its citizens.** That 200 years has not all been smooth sailing. From time to time, generally in "times of war", **leaders have** usurped the authority of the Congress, **violated the Constitution and the rights of the people** who rightly or wrongly have acquiesced, being promised security. Something has always brought us back from the brink, but I don't think we ever make a full recovery. Best we keep our rights and respect for each other intact in the first place. Let's not let anything we say or do be harmful to each other.
5. Have fun - We always do.

Current Events



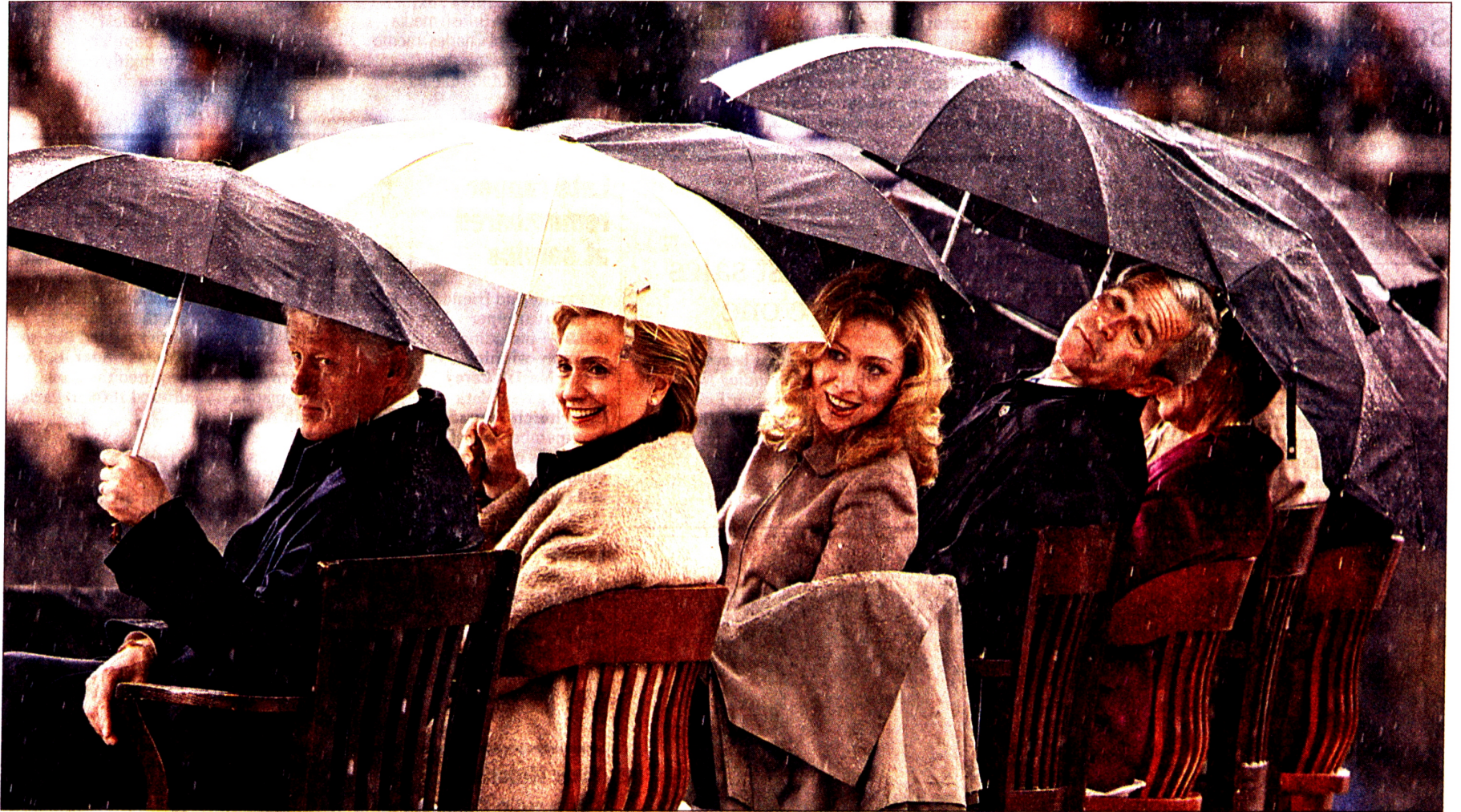
11-8-04

'The Map'



Why are These People Smiling?

THE CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY



JEFF MITCHELL : REUTERS

THE DAY EVERYONE LOOKED TO THE LEFT: President Bush leans out to watch the entertainment alongside, from left, former President Bill Clinton, his wife, New York Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, and the Clintons' daughter, Chelsea, during dedication ceremonies.

Red, white and blue carpet rolls out

Cabinet Choices Seen as Move for More Harmony and Control

By **DAVID E. SANGER** and **STEVEN R. WEISMAN**

Published: November 17, 2004

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 - [President Bush](#) has instructed his new national security team to end the running battles between the State and Defense departments and the Central Intelligence Agency, and intends to extend his personal control over agencies he has suspected of impeding his foreign policy aims, according to current and former administration officials.

One senior official said Mr. Bush decided months ago to make no effort to retain Secretary of State Colin L. Powell, who had long indicated he planned to leave.

[Enlarge This Image](#)



Doug Mills/The New York Times
Condoleezza Rice with President Bush at the White House on Tuesday when he announced that she was his choice to succeed Colin L. Powell as secretary of state. Questions abound as to her policy orientation.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/11/17/politics/17recon.html?oref=login&th>

November 17, 2004

New C.I.A. Chief Tells Workers to Back Administration Policies

By DOUGLAS JEHL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16 - Porter J. Goss, the new intelligence chief, has told Central Intelligence Agency employees that their job is to "support the administration and its policies in our work," a copy of an internal memorandum shows.

"As agency employees we do not identify with, support or champion opposition to the administration or its policies," Mr. Goss said in the memorandum, which was circulated late on Monday. He said in the document that he was seeking "to clarify beyond doubt the rules of the road."

While his words could be construed as urging analysts to conform with administration policies, Mr. Goss also wrote, "We provide the intelligence as we see it - and let the facts alone speak to the policymaker."

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/11/17/politics/17intel.html?th=&pagewanted=print&position=>

Nov. 16, 2004, 11:12PM

Guatemalan workers seeking refuge

As lawsuits over wages languish in court, peasants look for a better life in Mexico

By CATHERINE ELTON
Chronicle Foreign Service

EL TUMBADOR, GUATEMALA - While tens of thousands of peasants fled to Mexico to escape the crossfire of Guatemala's civil war, Roberto Morales stayed, picking coffee on the farm where he had lived and worked his whole life.

But now, eight years after leftist rebels and the army signed a peace accord, Morales and nearly 200 other workers from six coffee farms in Guatemala's western province of San Marcos are seeking refuge and a better life in Mexico.

These farm workers, who shocked the nation late last month with their announcement, say plantation owners owe them nearly \$1 million in unpaid wages and severance pay. The lawsuits they have filed against their former employers have languished in the courts, some for nearly four years. The peasants say they have had enough with a country that does not treat them like citizens.

"The people are getting desperate. There is law here, but there is no justice," Morales said.

Says DeLay, suddenly putting much stock in the opinion of the ethics committee:

I understand the Democrat Party's adjustment to their national minority status is frustrating, but their crushing defeat in the elections earlier this month, after two more years of Democrat obstruction and vicious personal attacks, should show them that the American people are tired of the politics of personal destruction.

Says Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi in response:

Tom DeLay proved this morning that he is not only unethical, but delusional.

<http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/newssentinel/news/editorial/10214646.htm>

Posted on Thu, Nov. 18, 2004

Protecting Tom DeLay

Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service

(KRT) - The following editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune on Thursday, Nov. 18:

In the last few months, the Republican-led House Ethics Committee has rebuked House Majority Leader Tom DeLay three times for his unethical conduct. Three of DeLay's political associates have been indicted in a Texas grand jury investigation of corruption, and there's speculation he could be indicted. DeLay's own constituents seem to be growing suspicious about the controversial remap of Texas House districts he engineered; they re-elected him on Nov. 2, but with the narrowest margin he has enjoyed in years.

You'd think all that would be making Republicans nervous about whether the man known as "The Hammer" was fixing to turn his own party into the nail. Ethics scandals have a bad habit of sticking around, as the Illinois Republican Party can attest.

So what did Republicans do? On Wednesday, the House GOP moved to protect the man who seems to be leading them into a major embarrassment. The Republicans voted to change party rules so DeLay can keep his leadership job if he is indicted by the Texas grand jury.

Columnar Edit							
Symbol	Time	Trade	Change	% Chg	Volume	Intraday	Related Info
^DJI	4:04PM ET	10,456.91	↓ 115.64	-1.09%	272,842,912		Components , Chart , More
^IXIC	4:17PM ET	2,070.63	↓ 33.65	-1.60%	0		Chart , More
^SPX	3:57PM ET	1,170.53	↓ 13.02	-1.10%	0		Components , Chart , More
^TV.N	4:15PM ET	1,526,166.00	0.00	+0.00%	0		Chart , More
^TV.O	4:17PM ET	2,026,580.00	0.00	+0.00%	0		Chart , More
^FTSE	11:36AM ET	4,760.80	↓ 44.50	-0.93%	1,708,689,408		Components , Chart , More
^N225	2:01AM ET	11,082.84	↑ 0.42	+0.00%	61,325		Chart , More

[Download to Spreadsheet](#) [Add to Portfolio](#) - [View Comparison Chart](#) - [View All Charts](#)

Quotes delayed for [^IXIC](#), [^TV.N](#) and [^TV.O](#). Get [streaming real-time quotes](#) - FREE trial.

[Yahoo! Finance Real-Time MarketTracker](#): Get up to speed with the market.

Headlines Edit

Today, Fri, Nov 19, 2004

- [^DJI](#) [Stocks Fall, Jolted by Oil and Greenspan](#)
[^IXIC](#) Fri 4:08pm - Reuters
[^SPX](#)
- [^DJI](#) [\[external\] StocksView: Some doubt stocks' value as prices reach highs](#)
[^IXIC](#) Fri 2:34pm - at Reuters
[^SPX](#)
- [^DJI](#) [\[external\] Canadian stocks highlights - November 19 \(Midday\)](#)
[^IXIC](#) Fri 12:29pm - at Reuters
- [^DJI](#) [\[external\] Greenspan cements market view US wants weaker dir](#)
[^IXIC](#) Fri 12:21pm - at Reuters
[^SPX](#)
- [^FTSE](#) [\[external\] Weak AstraZeneca, dollar rattle FTSE, down on week](#)
Fri 12:15pm - at Reuters
- [^DJI](#) [\[external\] European shares close lower as drugmakers fall](#)
[^FTSE](#) Fri 11:52am - at Reuters
[^IXIC](#)
- [^N225](#) [Global Markets: Dollar Drops on Greenspan](#)
Fri 9:18am - Reuters
- [^FTSE](#) [\[external\] Weak drugs stocks hold FTSE 100 in red](#)
Fri 7:34am - at Reuters
- [^FTSE](#) [\[external\] Wall St set to ease, weighed down by Abbott, Pfizer](#)
[^SPX](#) Fri 6:00am - at Reuters

Reuters Stocks Fall, Jolted by Oil and Greenspan

Friday November 19, 5:35 pm ET
By Megan Davies

NEW YORK (Reuters) - U.S. stocks tumbled on Friday as investors were jolted by a surge in oil prices and comments by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, who gave a stark reminder that interest rates were bound to go higher and warned that appetite for the dollar would dwindle. Crude oil reversed some its recent slide and leapt on jitters over fuel supplies, with NYMEX December crude (CLZ4) ending up \$2.22 at \$48.44 a barrel.

High oil prices hurt stocks because of their impact on profits and consumer spending. Shares of industrial stocks fell with Caterpillar Inc. (NYSE:[CAT](#) - [News](#)) down \$1.26 at \$90.18. But oil companies gained, with Dow component Exxon Mobil Corp. (NYSE:[XOM](#) - [News](#)) up 33 cents at \$50.38.

Online NewsHour

LEAD STORY:



Iran's Nuclear Program Generates Worldwide Debate

Inside Iran and around the world questions swirled again this week about Iran's uranium enrichment program -- a key activity on the path to making nuclear warheads.

IRAQ IN TRANSITION



BAGHDAD

Analysis, news updates, & more on Iraq.

ALSO INSIDE:

National Debt Limit Upped \$800 Billion

President Bush signed a bill into law Friday increasing the ceiling on the U.S. national debt by \$800 billion, meaning the total federal debt could climb as high as \$8.18 trillion.

Sudan, Rebel Leaders Commit to Peace

The government of Sudan and rebel leaders pledged again Friday to end a 21-year civil war, this time making the commitment before the U.N. Security Council holding a special meeting in Africa.

Democrats Consider Party's Future

When former President Clinton took office 12 years ago Democrats controlled the House and Senate. Republicans now control the White House and have larger margins in the House and Senate.

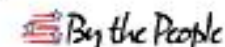
OTHER NEWS:

Clinton Presidential Library Opens

Nearly 30,000 people turned out in Little Rock, Ark. Thursday to celebrate the unveiling of the Clinton Presidential Library -- the largest and most expensive of the 12 presidential libraries.

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USS Curts Offloads Largest Drug Seizure in History

Navy News Service

November 12, 2004

KEY WEST, Fla. - USS Curts (FFG 38) offloaded and turned over to authorities 75,000 pounds of cocaine Nov. 5 in Key West, Fla.

The multi-ton shipment, valued at more than \$2.3 billion, is the result of five drug interdiction operations conducted in the Eastern Pacific between Aug. 31 and Sept. 26.

Bob Jones Sees Bush Win As 'Reprieve'

Fri Nov 12, 8:48 AM ET

GREENVILLE, S.C. - Bob Jones III in a letter to Bush he read to the student body.

"In your re-election, God has graciously granted America — though she doesn't deserve it — a reprieve from the agenda of paganism," Jones wrote Bush in a congratulatory letter posted on the university's Web site.

"You have been given a mandate. ... Put your agenda on the front burner and let it boil. You owe the liberals nothing. They despise you because they despise your Christ," said the letter, dated Nov. 3.

Four More Years By James Mann, November 2004

President Bush's neoconservative "Vulcans" are back for a second term in office. But this time, they will discover they have limited resources and diminished credibility

The **Doomsayers** suggest that Bush's second term is likely to **produce further military interventions overseas**, along the lines of Iraq in 2003. Perhaps Syria may be the next target of U.S. military power, they suggest, or Iran. They believe that the neoconservatives (that is, officials such as Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz), who were the driving force behind the Bush administration's preventive war against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, will have even greater power and influence, now that the president has won reelection. "Secretary of State Colin Powell is not staying for a second term," warned one Foreign Service officer, writing under the byline "Anonymous" on [Salon.com](http://www.salon.com) last month. "When he goes the last bulwark against complete neoconservative control of U.S. foreign policy goes with him."

The **Skeptics** contend that Bush's foreign policy in his **second term will turn out to be more cautious and less belligerent** than his first, if not by choice, then by compulsion. Whatever some hawks might like to do, the reality is that the Bush **administration will face a series of constraints—military, diplomatic, political, and economic**—that will curb its ability to launch new preventive wars. Moreover, say adherents of the Skeptic school, the power of the neoconservatives inside the administration will probably be diminished, not augmented, during Bush's second term.

Spending our way to disaster

The consumer debt bubble in the United States could make the stock bubble seem like nothing.

October 3, 2003: 10:32 AM EDT By Justin Lahart, CNN/Money Senior Writer

<http://money.cnn.com/2003/10/02/markets/consumerbubble/>

How did this come to pass? We live in an economy that has become deeply dependent on the American consumer for growth. U.S. consumer spending accounts for around 70 percent of U.S. gross domestic product. So nobody wants to see the consumer falter, and they have been doing their darndest to make sure that doesn't happen.

The Federal Reserve has cut rates like never before, allowing mortgage rates to come down this year to their lowest recorded levels. Car companies have offered zero percent financing for two years now, and they've recently begun offering it on 2004 vehicles.

But rather than using such rate reductions as an opportunity to save money, consumers have, as a whole, used them as an opportunity to spend more.

"We're a what's-my-monthly-payment nation," said Northern Trust chief U.S. economist Paul Kasriel. "The idea is to have my monthly payments as high as I can take. If you cut interest rates, I'll get a bigger car."

EATING THE HOUSE

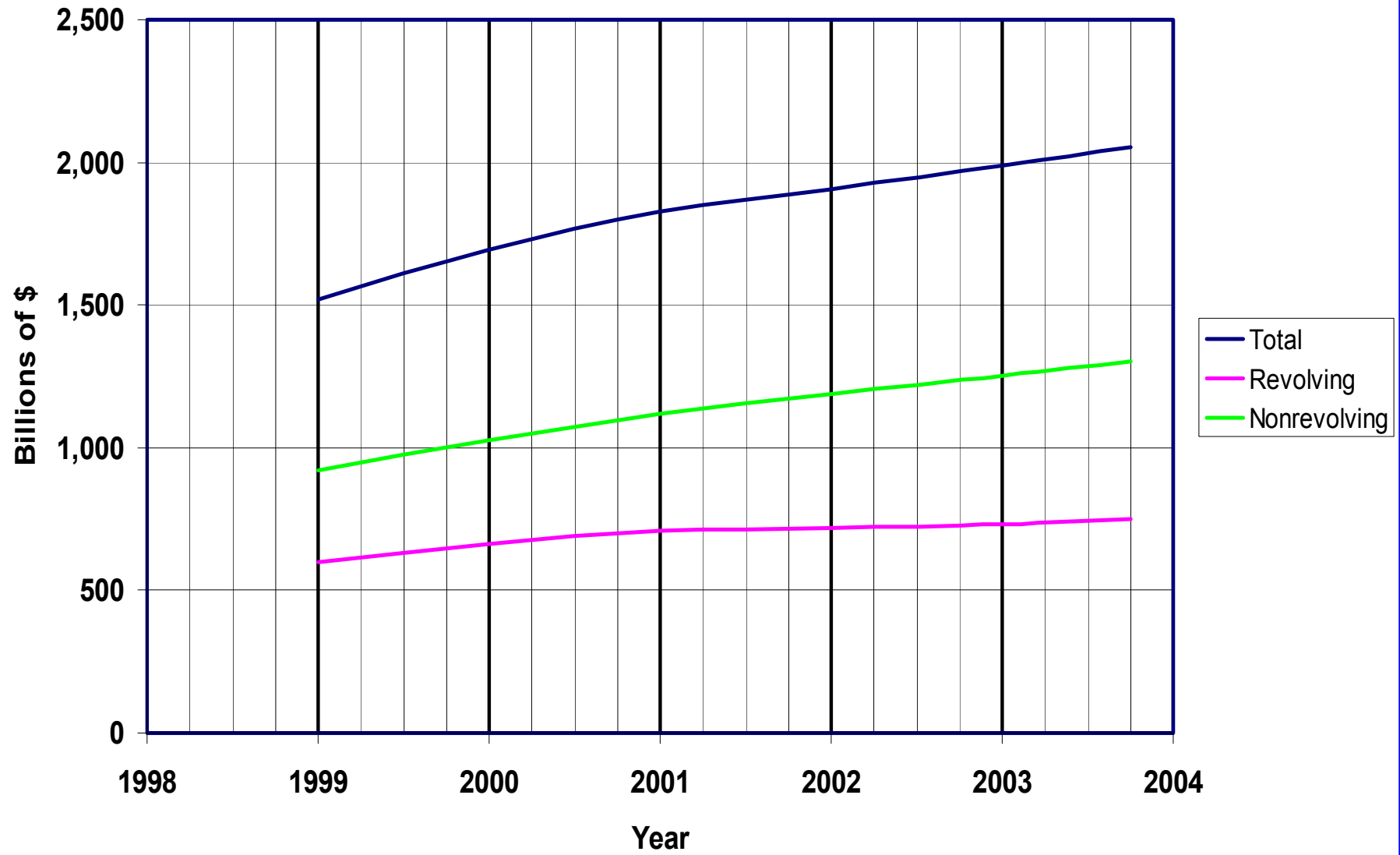
Household debt as a percentage of household assets is at a record



Source: Federal Reserve

Consumer Credit September 2004

Source: Federal Reserve Rel. Nov 5, 04



FRONTLINE

C O M I N G S O O N

secret history of the credit card

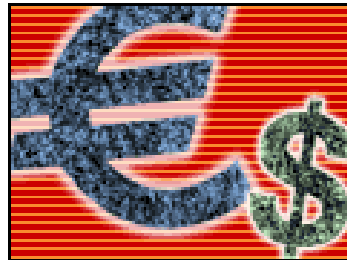
on FRONTLINE *november 23, 2004 at 9pm*



The average American family today carries eight credit cards. Credit card debt and personal bankruptcies are now at an all time high. With no legal limit on the amount of interest or fees that can be charged, credit cards have become the most profitable sector of the American banking industry: more than \$30 billion in profits last year alone. FRONTLINE and *The New York Times* examine how the credit card industry became so pervasive, so lucrative, and so politically powerful.

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/shows/credit/>

Weak dollar 101



10:52a

Low dollar worries Fed, affects everything from mortgage rates to retail prices to jobs. Here's how. ([more](#))

◆ [HaysWire: Trading on the Fed](#)

[NEWS](#) > [Jobs & Economy](#)

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Weak dollar 101

Low dollar worries Fed, affects everything from mortgage rates to retail prices to jobs. Here's how.

November 19, 2004: 10:51 AM EST

By [Chris Isidore](#), CNN/Money senior writer

NEW YORK (CNN/Money) - For most Americans, a record low for the dollar doesn't have the same urgency as soaring oil prices or a big tumble in the stock market.

But the dollar is important to economists and policy-makers.

Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan, for example, [warned](#) in a speech in Europe Friday that two of the things weakening the dollar -- the trade deficit and the budget deficit -- should not be allowed to fester too long. But even the Fed has relatively few tools at its disposal to address either deficit directly.



<http://www.bigtrends.com/images/111604oilprices.gif>

Brave New World Department

By email

Subject: CBS Report (Warning)

Keep a watch out for people standing near you in the checkout line at retail stores, restaurants, grocery stores, etc who have a **camera cell phone** in hand. With the camera cell phones, they **can take a picture** of your credit card, which gives them your name, number, and expiration date. CBS reported this type of identification theft is one of the fastest growing scams today.

Be aware of your surroundings, forward to all your friends and family.

Mango, bottom, her 2-month-old clone, Peaches, and the company that made the duo possible, Genetic Savings & Clone, will be in attendance at the CFA International Cat Show at the George R. Brown Convention Center this weekend.

Copy cat to debut



E. Joe Deering / Chronicle

Friday, November 19, 2004 Updated 8:46 a.m. CST

20 Nov 04

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Nov. 18, 2004, 10:33PM

Possible mad cow case shocks cattle industry

The animal is not in the food supply, and the test results may take a week

By NELSON ANTOSH

Copyright 2004 Houston Chronicle

Federal officials Thursday announced the possible discovery of a case of mad cow disease, which sent a shock through the cattle business even before a final result was in.

U.S. Agriculture Department officials offered no details about where or how this animal was singled out, but it did say it was spotted before slaughter so it won't get into the food supply. The carcasses of animals that are tested are held until the final results come in.

"Inconclusive results are a normal component of screening tests, which are designed to be extremely sensitive so they will detect any sample that could possibly be positive," said Andrea Morgan, an associate deputy administrator for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, in a written statement.

The sample was sent to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, where it could take four to seven days to analyze. But the manufacturer of the screening test, Bio-Rad, told Reuters that the sample was screened twice, which makes it far more likely to be positive.

Is 'Fair Use' in Peril?

The far-reaching Intellectual Property Protection Act would deny consumers many of the freedoms they take for granted.

By Eric Hellweg, Houston Chronicle
November 19, 2004

Do you like fast-forwarding through commercials on a television program you've recorded? How much do you like it? Enough to go to jail if you're caught doing it? If a new copyright and intellectual property omnibus bill sitting on Congress's desk passes, that may be the choice you'll face.

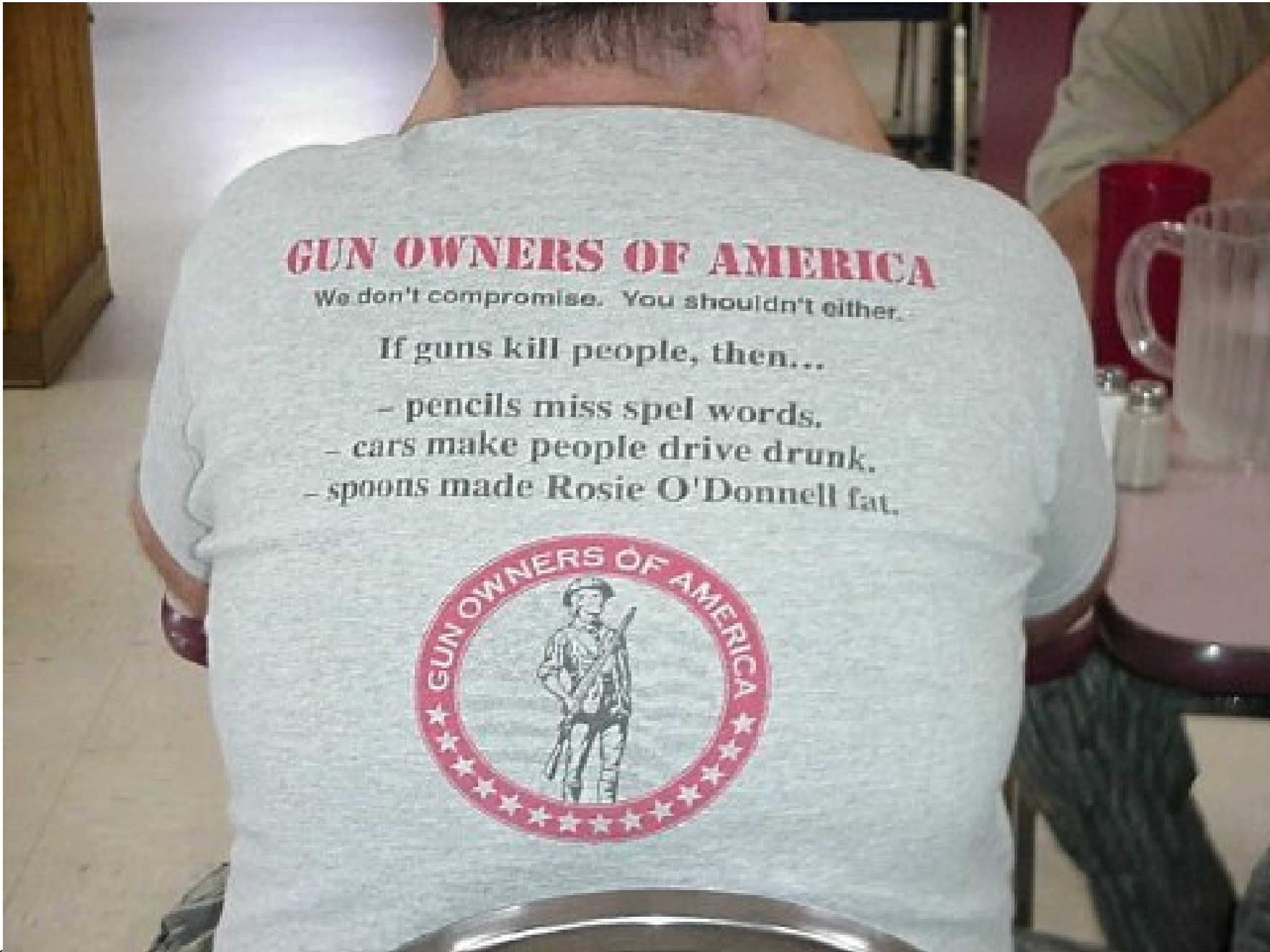
How can this be possible? Because language that makes fast-forwarding through commercials illegal—no doubt inserted at the behest of lobbyists for the advertising industry—was inserted into a bill that would allow people to fast forward past objectionable sections of a recorded movie (and I bet you already thought that was OK). And that's but one, albeit scary, scenario that may come to pass if the Intellectual Property Protection Act is enacted into law. Deliberations on this legislation will be one of the tasks for the lame-duck Congress that

commenced this week.

26 Nov 04

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Our "conservative" leaders at work...the Euro has risen 30% over the dollar. Well, at least they can spend those Euros on our cheaper goods. Too bad we don't make "goods" anymore.

The New York Times
nytimes.com

November 18, 2004

Senate Backs Higher Debt

By EDMUND L. ANDREWS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17 - Faced with the prospect of a government unable to pay its bills, the Senate voted on Wednesday to raise the federal debt limit by \$800 billion.

Though an increase in the debt ceiling was never in doubt, Republican leaders in both houses of Congress postponed action on it last month, until after the elections, to deprive Democrats of a chance to accuse them of fiscal irresponsibility.

The bill, if approved by the House in a vote expected on Thursday, would authorize the third big increase in the federal borrowing since [President Bush](#) took office in 2001. Federal debt has ballooned by \$1.4 trillion over the past four years, to \$7.4 trillion, and the new ceiling would allow borrowing to reach \$8.2 trillion.

With no end in sight to the huge annual budget deficits, which hit a record of \$412 billion this year, lawmakers predicted on Wednesday that the new ceiling would probably have to be raised again in about a year.

Democrats, still stinging from their election defeats, voted against the measure and argued that it should be accompanied by rules that would force Congress to pay for new tax cuts with spending cuts or tax increases elsewhere.

"I don't remember anyone during the elections making a promise to raise the federal debt to \$8.1 trillion," Senator Kent Conrad, Democrat of North Dakota, said. "What we're doing here is just writing another blank check and saying to this administration, 'Go ahead, continue to run record budget deficits.' "

Main Program

**What do We Want the President and Congress to
accomplish in the next 4 years?
*(Are We Really as Polarized as Everyone Thinks?)***

Bob Berge & Curt Gibby

Prospects for Bush's Second Term

http://www.foxnews.com/printer_friendly_story/0,3566,137492,00.htm

Wednesday, November 03, 2004

WASHINGTON — President Bush heads into his second term with the stabilization of Iraq under a democratic government as his top policy goal. But he also has unfinished domestic business ...

1A IRAQ

1B TERRORISM

2 TAXES

3 JOBS

4 SOCIAL SECURITY

5 OIL-ENERGY

6 ENVIRONMENT

7 EDUCATION

8 HEALTH

9A HOMELAND SECURITY

9B INTELLIGENCE

10 JUSTICE

11 SUPREME COURT

12 TRANSPORTATION

13 HOUSING

14 FARM

15 FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The Parable of the 100th Monkey

Wild Japanese monkeys on the island of Koshima had always eaten sweet potatoes covered with sand. Eventually, one young monkey washed hers off in a stream. She showed her playmates how to do this, and gradually the young monkeys and some of their parents began washing their sweet potatoes. Most, however, though they saw what the others were doing, continued eating dirty potatoes.

Then one day the 100th monkey learned the new trick and provided enough added momentum that the rest of the monkeys began washing their potatoes before eating them. Soon colonies of monkeys on other islands began washing their sweet potatoes.

Use your awareness and your presence to build the critical mass necessary to build momentum about issues that you feel are

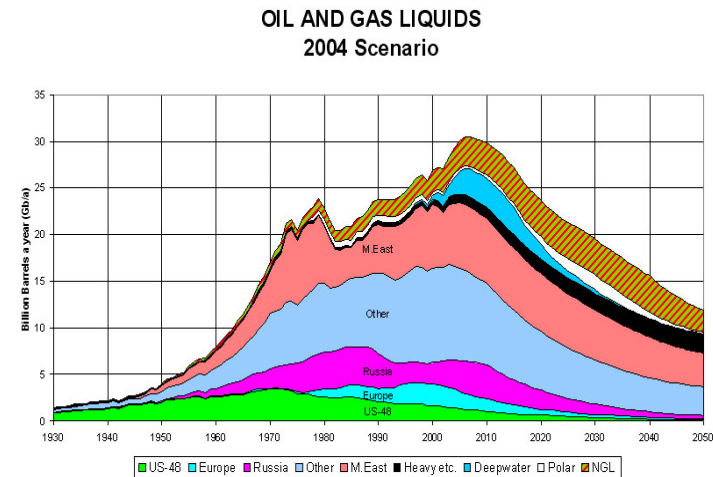
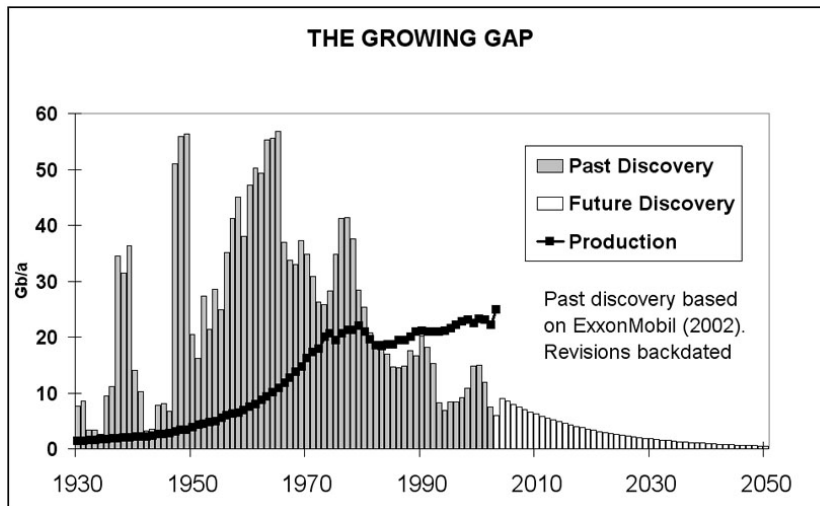
important.

Next Time

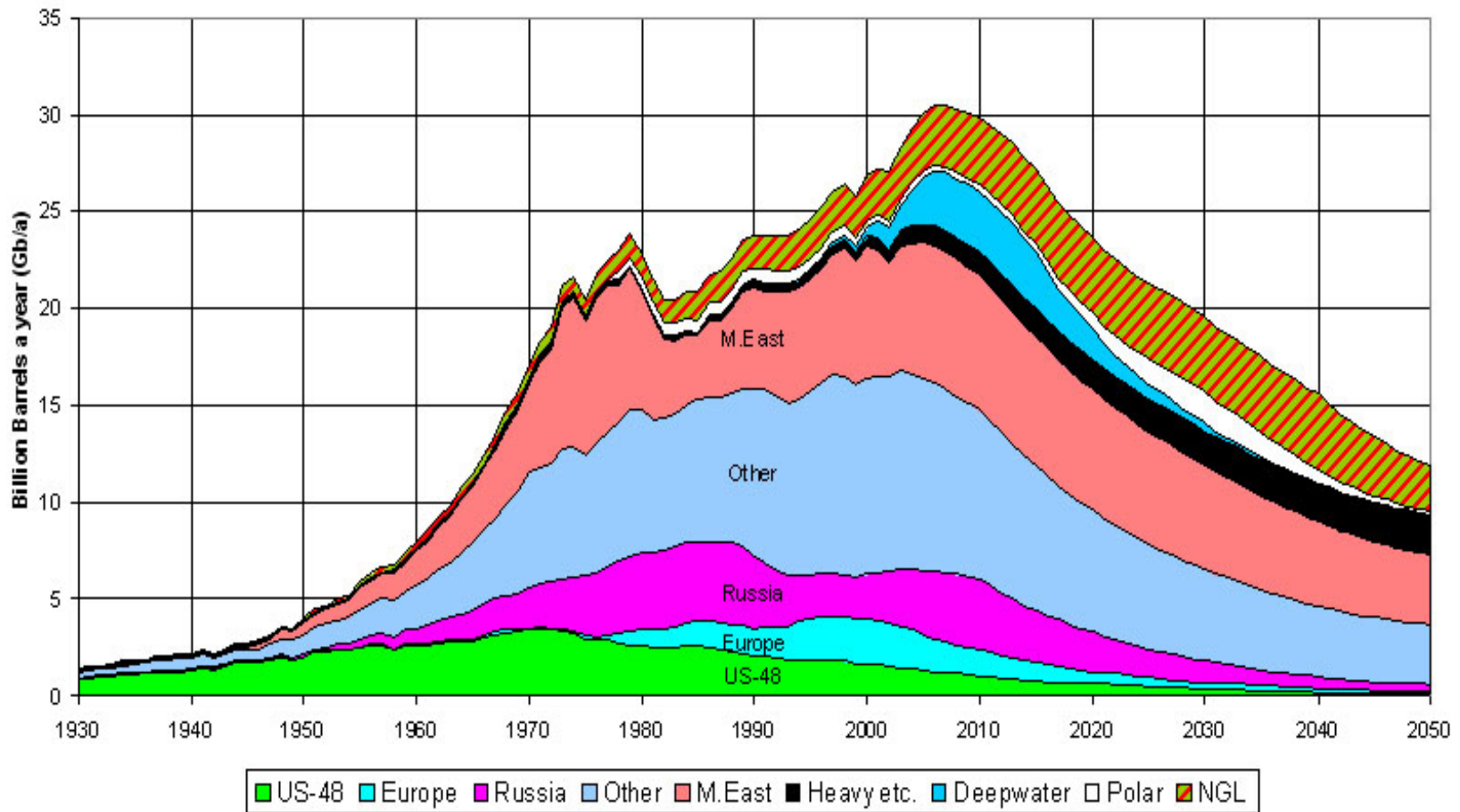
December 11th (2nd Saturday because of Christmas)

Session 4

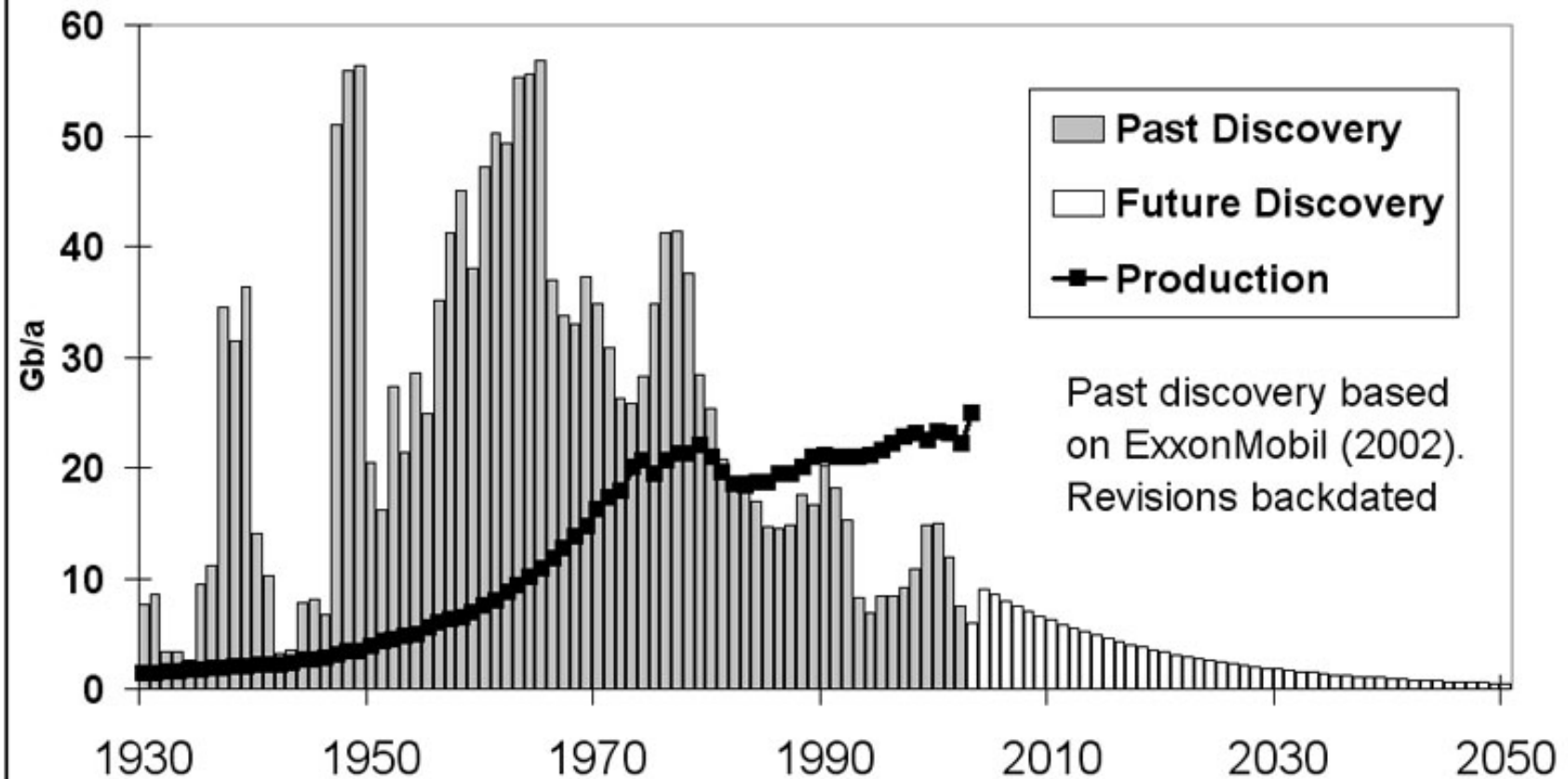
“Peak Oil” and Our Future



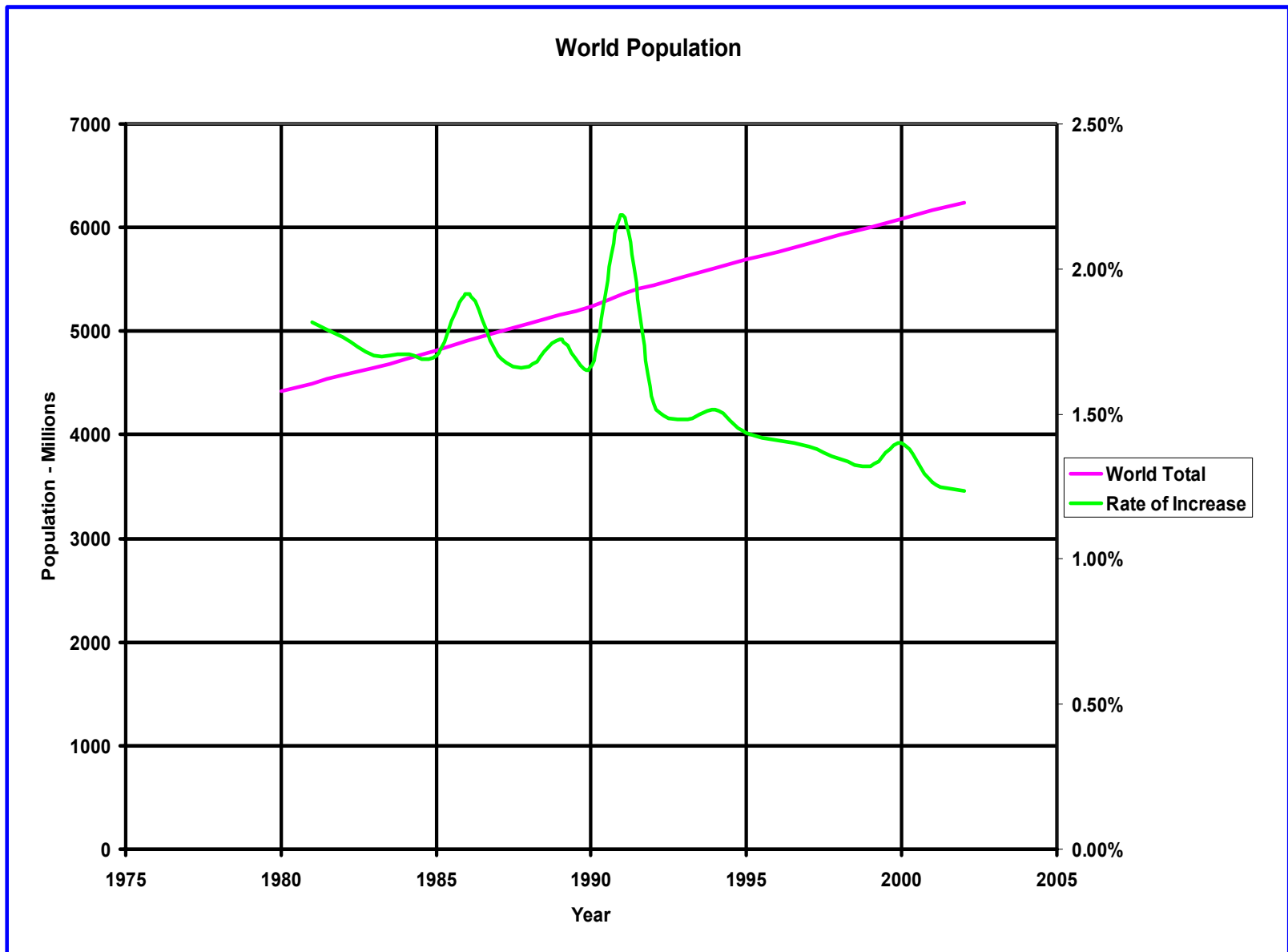
OIL AND GAS LIQUIDS 2004 Scenario



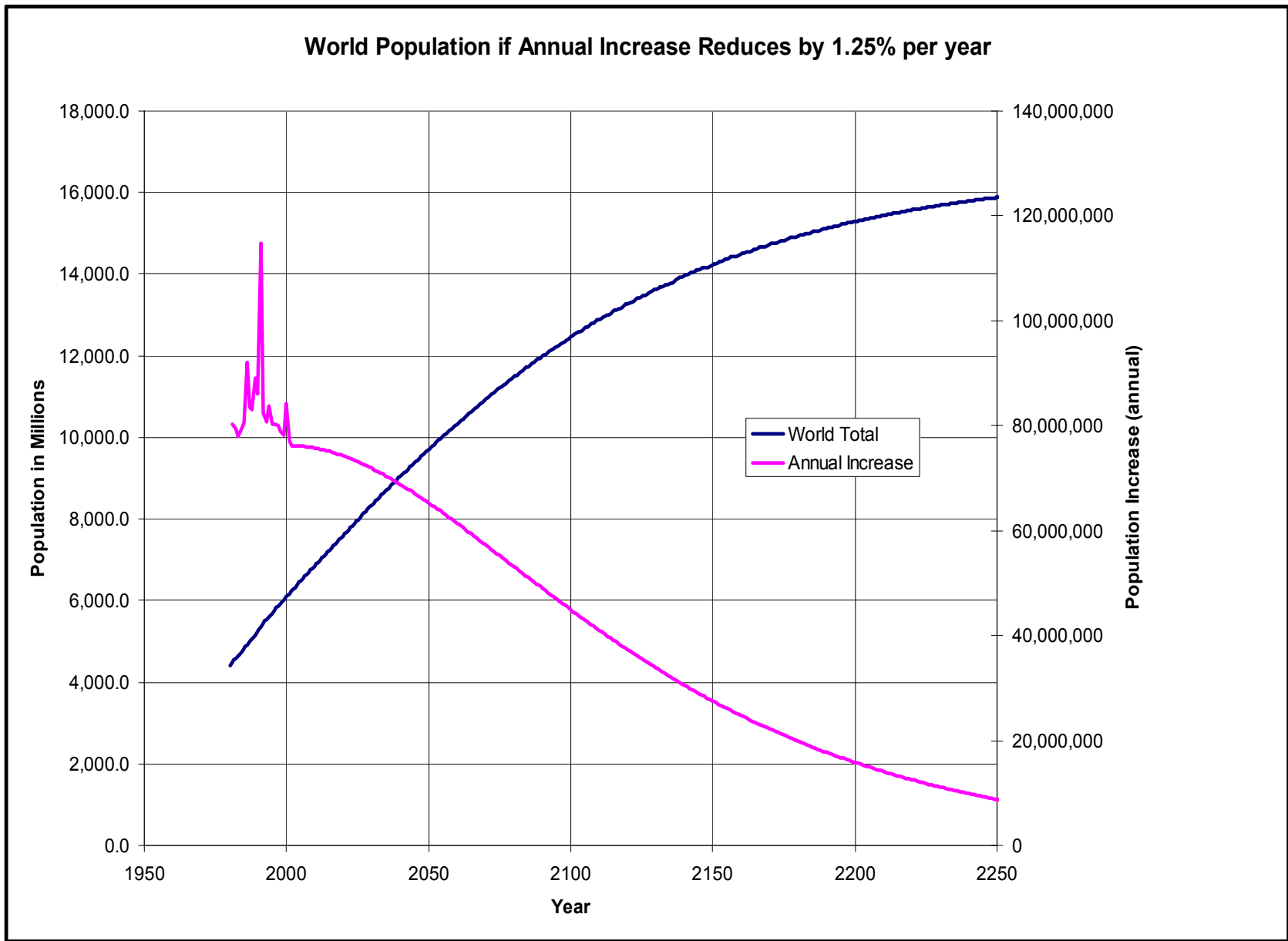
THE GROWING GAP



<http://www.peakoil.net/>



Even though growth rate is declining on average year over year by 1.25% it will take over 250 Year to achieve ZPG (Data Source EIA)



Projected World Population assume annual increases decreases by 1.24% - At ZPG

20 Nov 04

World Population from Sunday, September 14, 2004