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Bush To Finish Out Term Passive-Aggressively Pursuing Bold Agenda

WASHINGTON, D.C.- Saddled with a deteriorating situation in Iraq and the lowest approval rating of any President since the days of bell bottoms, George W. Bush looks like a man man set adrift, powerless and completely alone. As events late last week spelled out, however, there is still fight left in the wily Texan, just not the sort of fight most people would have expected. Just a day after the controversial Dubai Ports World deal collapsed before his eyes, the President told reporters about his concerns over what message the UAE snub will have on America's economic and diplomatic partners throughout the world. Stripped of his veto threat and utterly defeated on the issue, Bush still managed to make his point in a subtle yet powerful way.

"Go ahead, Congress, do whatever you want," sulked Bush. "There's not much of a point in establishing policy since you're going to do whatever you want, anyway. You never listened to me before- why start now? I'm only the President of the United States. What do I know?"

The man once known for his "my way or the highway" style of governance seems to be taking a very different approach these days, a change some insiders are calling "a little less Karl and a lot more Barbara." After long-time aide Karl Rove had to sideline himself from day-to-day operations due to lingering ethics allegations, the President began the search for a new political strategist, someone with enough power on the Hill to push through the Bush agenda even as the sun begins to set on his second and final term. According to aides, he pored over thousands of resumes, interviewed scores of qualified candidates and, as is nearly always the case in these circumstances, selected the person sitting closest to him at the time he had to make a choice, which in this case happened to be his own mother.

"When I was growing up, my mom had ways of getting things done without actually doing anything," said Bush. "For years I thought she was a witch or something. The point is, I need to get things done and I can't really do anything at this point- so I called in the one person I knew with experience in this sort of thing."

With the Ports World kibosh, Republicans in Congress didn't just thumb their rosy noses at one of the few friends we have left in the Middle East. They wagged their pimply buttocks at their President as well- the very same man whose coattails many of them rode all the way to Washington just a few years ago. And yet Bush is far too classy to call them on their bratty, ungrateful attitudes directly.

"All I want to say is this- how soon we forget... oh, crap," said Bush, waving the mist from his eyes. "I promised myself I wasn't going to get emotional about this."

"Look what you did!" shouted First Lady Laura Bush as she rushed in to put an arm around her husband. "You made the Commander In Chief cry! Are you happy now? Are you proud of yourselves?"

By the time the President delivered his weekly radio address on Saturday, his new leadership style was in top form.

"This isn't about me or my feelings," said Bush. "Social Security reform was a stupid idea, anyway. Stupid! STUPID! Seriously, forget I even brought it up. I don't want to talk about it anymore. In fact, I would veto it right now if you brought it to me on a silver platter. I don't want anybody wasting their time on it just because it was important to me. Just drop it."

Unfortunately, the President's carefully crafted jibes may have gone unheard since most of Capitol Hill emptied out early Friday afternoon for this weekend's Limping Waterfowl Hunt in rural Maryland, the only bipartisan sport-shooting

event on the Congressional calendar.

More than 200 legislators, lobbyists, and emergency medical technicians were on hand to stand around a small pond taking shots at a single one-legged duck. Other than the Vice President's "let Dick squeeze off a shot in your face" fundraising booth, there wasn't a great deal of action over the two day event.

The lull gave reporters a chance to ask a few questions about a curious phenomenon related to the current situation. In recent years the GOP has spent a great deal of energy building up the power of the executive branch. So, it might seem ironic that they appear to ignore the current President who also happens to be the de facto leader of their party, but according to Senator Sam Brownback (R. Kansas) it all makes perfect political sense.

"At the core of it, we've just been warming up the Oval Office chair for the next person to sit there- who everybody knows will be me," said Brownback grinning. "I think it's all very sweet how my colleagues have been gracious enough to grant me more authority for when I'm President. I'll be sure to thank them one day."

Oddly enough, at least nine other legislators gave exactly the same response.

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