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SUBJECT:: Ponderous that the same paper ran both of these together----

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BODY:

There is a dangerous pattern emerging from the Bush administration: If the facts don't suit President Bush's policies, distort them.

Public attention has already been focused on charges that Bush and his aides hyped intelligence on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction. Two congressional committees are investigating.

Now comes news that an important Environmental Protection Agency report leaves out critical scientific facts on global warming --- even facts confirmed by a special study requested by the president himself last year. That study substantiated the Earth's alarming temperature increase over the last decade and its major cause, increased carbon dioxide emissions from the burning of fossil fuels. The biggest sources are automobiles and coal-fired utilities.

The White House Council on Environmental Quality and Bush budget officials changed the global warming section of a comprehensive report on the nation's environmental challenges to be issued by the EPA next week. The report was the final contribution of EPA chief Christie Whitman, who is stepping down as agency administrator.

Whitman, who came to her post with a good record on environmental issues, continued her habit of turning the other cheek whenever the White House slaps down science in favor of its corporate oil friends. She said she is "comfortable" with the report.

Ironically, Whitman suffered her first embarrassment on the global warming issue shortly after she was sworn in, when she assured the international community that the United States was serious about its commitment to carbon dioxide reductions, only to have Bush rescind the U.S. signature to the global warming treaty. It is sad that in her last week at the agency, the departing EPA chief must suffer a similar embarrassment.

Among the deletions were conclusions about the human contribution to global warming from the 2001 National Research Council report the White

