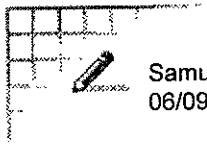


GP40P



Samuel A. Thernstrom
06/09/2002 04:00:57 PM

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To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
Subject: latests Kausfiles on USCAR report

Note reference to supposed State Dept press release -- anyone know what the story with that is?

<http://slate.msn.com/?id=2066517>
Kausfiles: A mostly political Weblog.
By Mickey Kaus
Updated Friday, June 7, 2002, at 4:36 PM PT

Kf hears that the White House called Steven Holmes of the New York Times' Washington bureau on Wednesday, demanding a correction to the paper's story of two days earlier that started the controversy over that global warming report the administration had sent to the UN. The NYT's Andrew Revkin had written:

In the report, the administration for the first time mostly blames human actions for recent global warming.

Not so, argued the White House -- Bush had blamed humans for global warming in a Rose Garden speech last summer. But Bush's Rose Garden speech is Clintonesque -- he says only that

[t]he National Academy of Sciences indicates that the increase is due in large part to human activity.

Bush doesn't say he accepts the Academy's "indication." (Anyway, "in large part" is not the same thing as "mostly"). More embarrassingly, while the White House was complaining to the Times, Bush's own State Department was apparently itself putting out a press release that said the same thing the Times had said. The State release (which I couldn't find on the department's Web site) boasts:

In its report, the administration for the first time mostly blames human actions for recent global warming.

[I'm confused. Was Bush repudiating the conclusion of the "bureaucracy" that global warming's caused by humans or was he saying he's thought it all along?--ed. "It's not true. It's not true. It's not true. It's old news!"-- that's another well-tested Clinton strategy. Except the Clintonites were clever enough to avoid saying "It's not true" and "It's old news" on the same day. ... This sort of amateurish screw-up would never happen if Karen Hughes were still alive! ...A parallel sequence, of course, is Bush's apparent global warming stance: "We don't know. We don't know. We don't know. It's too late!" But that one could actually be true.] [Do you concede this is a front-page story yet?--ed. On kausfiles.]

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