

# Science and Politics: Washington Style

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“In God we trust; humans  
must bring data.”

(Original source unknown)

# The Problem

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- Special Interest Approach
  - Ideological—Public Health Science
  - Industrial—Environmental Science

# Key Events

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- “Toomey Amendment”
- Removal of condom fact sheet and “Programs That Work” from CDC website
- Appointment of David Hager to FDA advisory committee
- NIH grant “hit list”
- White House changes to EPA Report on the Environment
- OMB rulemaking on peer review
- Union of Concerned Scientists report
- Statement of eminent scientists
- Zerhouni’s defense of NIH grants
- Removal of Bioethics Advisory Committee members

# The Strategy

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- Ignore or Misuse Science
- Privilege Particular Interests
- Assault the Reputation of Critics

WHICH ONE  
IS ~~NOT~~ THE  
BUSH APPOINTEE TO A  
GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC PANEL?

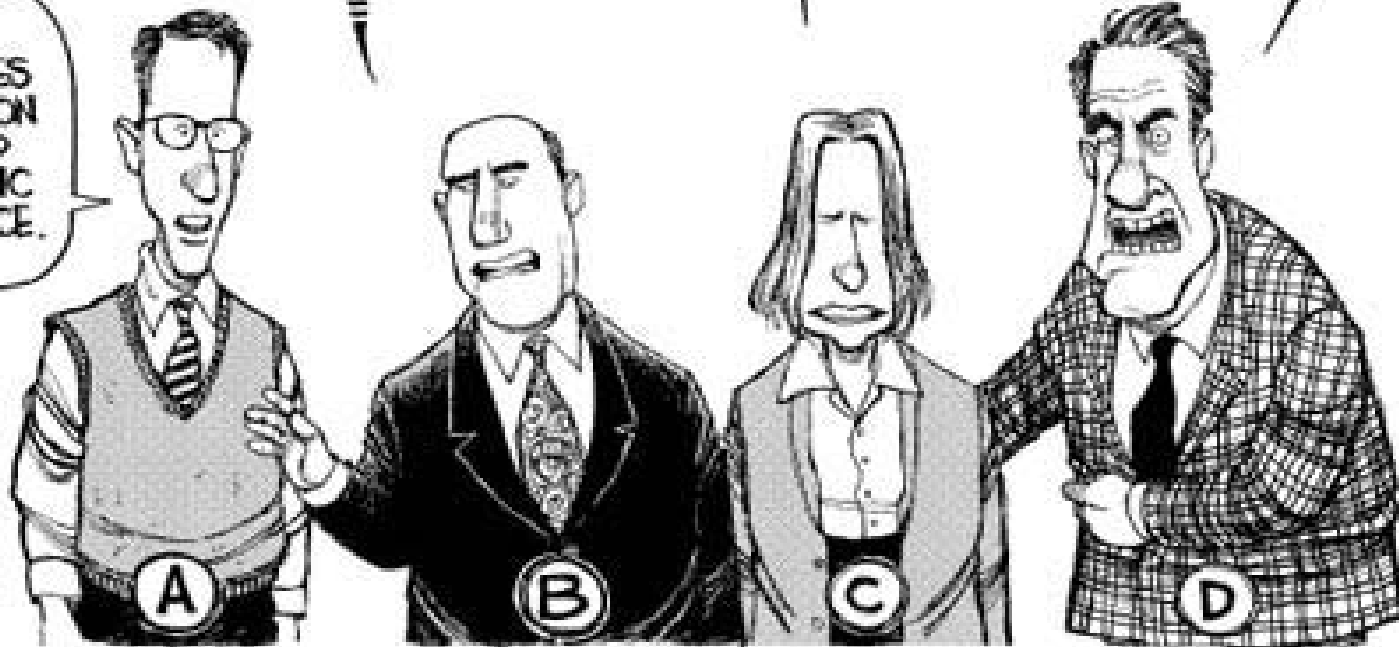
SET  
POLICIES  
BASED ON  
SOUND  
SCIENTIFIC  
EVIDENCE.

BUT  
MAKE SURE  
THOSE POLICIES  
DON'T INFRINGE  
ON CORPORATE  
EARNINGS.

"AND, IF THEY  
DO,  
ADJUST THE  
SCIENCE."

"SCIENCE?  
THESE ARE THE END  
TIMES! WE'LL BE  
SWEEP UP IN THE  
CLOUDS AT ANY MOMENT,  
SO WHO NEEDS  
SCIENCE?!"

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# The Players: Offense

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- Congress
- Administration
- Industry, Think Tanks & NGOs
- Media

# The Players: Defense

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- Congress
- Administration
- Scientific Societies & NGOs
- Media

# The Attack on NIH Grants

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- Content
- Process
- Accountability

# The Response

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- Coalitions & Organizations
- Press/Media
- Congress
- NIH

# The Response to the Response

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- Administration
  - Marburger--OSTP Director (Response to UCS)
- Congress
  - House Committee (Response to Zerhouni's response to Committee)
  - Waxman (Response to Marburger's response to UCS)
- Scientists
  - UCS (Response to Marburger's response to UCS)
- Media
  - "He said, he said"

# Context

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- Bush Administration
- Congress
- Media
- Budget Constraints
- War in Iraq
- Presidential Election



THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR Bennett