

# TABOO OPINIONS #13

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6-30-04      Voltaire wrote that *if* God didn't exist, He would be invented.

Voltaire wrote that during an era of religious tyranny. The reality is that God doesn't exist and had to be invented. Such is the nature of Man.

7-1-04      The world had an image of the captured Saddam Hussein as a homeless, disheveled, befuddled bum, hair uncut for a year, shaggy beard needing to be trimmed, being examined by a U.S. Army medic for lice, fleas, and dental cavities.

He had been caught hiding in a hole in the ground, and he had been found because somebody betrayed him to the U.S. An informant knew where he was and knew about the hidey hole.

He could have been sold out for the reward, or given up by Baathist rivals to get him out of the way, or by Shiites for religious revenge.

But NOW--- Now we see him trimmed, clean, in a suit, very coherent and alert, being given a forum, a showcase, a 'theater' for his views and counter-attacks to war crimes charges in a secret Iraqi court in a U.S. military base. All recorded by a pool TV crew and a few text reporters, broadcast to all the Middle East...and to the world!

And revealed on Fox News is that Saddam's lawyers have been kept from seeing him! And that he was kept from having a lawyer present during this preliminary legal hearing during which he was expected to sign documents acknowledging the war crimes charges brought against him.

Saddam refused to sign and protested not having a lawyer.

This wonderful, heavy-handed kangaroo court tactic will of course play well to the world.

Saddam made a powerful impression, voiced cogent and problematic arguments, and called President Bush the real war criminal. Saddam was so unexpectedly effective and the White House felt so vulnerable (and guilty?) that Bush's spokesman felt it necessary to respond (ineptly) to Saddam's counter-charge!

Amazing! Our White House manipulators have contrived to turn what was supposed to be an on-going Bush re-election propaganda bonanza into an initial defeat. They have re-created Saddam as a deadly enemy who will now bedevil them for a year or more, and have added yet another level of complication and danger to our situation in Iraq and in the Middle East.

Proving war crimes charges against Saddam may be very uncomfortable, embarrassing and difficult for the prosecutors if we give Saddam access to lawyers and allow them to mount a defense which unveils U.S. government help to him in his 'war crimes' and invasions and 'security operations'. Saddam may know and be able to expose and prove a lot of stuff a lot of people in power do not want exposed.

Of course our government may eventually hang Saddam (since we currently own the new U.S.-appointed Iraqi government and control the judges), but it may be a pyrrhic victory, especially if Bush is defeated this November.

Boy, we live in very interesting times!

END TABOO OPINIONS #13