In March of 2001, when the Bush administration began to

have secret meetings with the oil company executives from Exxon, Shell,

and BP, spreading maps of Iraqi oil fields on the desk, the price of

oil was $23.96 per barrel, and then there were 63 companies in 30

countries, the U.S. not included, competing for oil contracts with

Iraq. Today, the price of oil is $135.59 per barrel; the U.S. Army is

occupying Iraq, and the first Iraq oil contracts will go without

competitive bidding--surprise--to Exxon, Shell, and BP.

Iraq has between 200 billion and 300 billion barrels of oil with a

market value in the tens of trillions, and our government is trying to

force Iraq not only to privatize its oil but to accept a long-term U.S.

military presence to guard the oil and to protect the profits of the

oil companies while they charge Americans $4 and $5 a gallon and while

our troops continue dying.

We found the weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. We found the

weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and it is oil. As long as oil

companies control our government, Americans will continue to pay, and

they will pay with our lives, our fortune, our sacred honor.