



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 09, 2005

That AP Story Is Even Worse Than John Implied

by Michael in New York on [9/09/2005 03:00:00 AM](#)

NOTE: This is in reference to an AP story written before Cheney visited the region and made what I believe were his first public statements of sympathy for the people affected by this disaster.

John posted approvingly below that **the Dems were finally showing some cajones** -- gee, all it took was an outrageously incompetent scandal unfolding in front of the entire country in a manner so shockingly inept that even Fox News was infuriated. At the end, he mentioned the **AP AP story gave a technically accurate but unfairly positive spin to the facts** by saying Bush had "cut short his vacation by two days." Reading the entire paragraph, it's much worse than misleading. Howard Dean is quoted saying "Americans deserve better from their leaders" and that's immediately followed by this blast of "facts":

Bush cut short his vacation by two days last week to return to Washington. He has presided over daily meetings, visited stricken Gulf Coast areas twice and was expected to return soon. He has sent Cabinet members to the region; Vice President Dick Cheney planned to be there on Thursday.

Why is AP carrying water for Bush? This sounds like a press release from the White House press office, not a sober retelling of the facts by the MSM. If you hadn't been watching TV for the last ten days while disaster unfolded in front of us, you'd read that paragraph and think, "Wow, Bush is really on the ball."

The truth of course is far removed from that. Bush "cut short his vacation by two days." Well, what the hell is the president SUPPOSED to do during a national emergency? And the more telling point is the shocking fact (which Scotty says is just rude to bring up) that **BUSH STAYED ON VACATION DURING THE WORST NATURAL DISASTER IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY.** (Are you tired of me writing that yet? I'm tired of typing it, but until Bush apologizes for abandoning this country during its need, I won't stop.) Instead of praising the President for actually getting back to work, a real journalist would ask why after the hurricane struck on Monday, or after the waters were rising on Tuesday and the situation grew ever dire, why would the President stay on vacation?

Then AP trumpets the fact that Bush has presided over daily meetings. That's right up there with Bush's own remarkable assertion that he thinks about Iraq every day. Every day. OF COURSE he presides over daily meetings -- thousands of Americans died, hundreds of thousands are homeless and an entire city has been virtually wiped off the face of the earth. Why is it noteworthy or commendable that Bush is paying attention to this disaster?

Further, AP points out that Bush has visited the region twice and plans to do so again. We point out the obvious -- that it would be utterly BIZARRE if the President didn't visit a region hit by so calamitous disaster. A real reporter would have talked about the photo-op nature of the visits, how Bush didn't schedule them to avoid disruptions in rescue and humanitarian work but in fact DELAYED a shipment of food so it would arrive when he did. A real reporter

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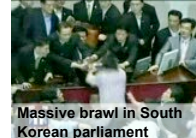
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