

# TABOO OPINIONS #86

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## 3-1-06 BITS & PIECES

Much was made of how many hundreds of millions of dollars worth of gift (credit) cards were bought in the December “Holiday” season. The gift card sales pumped up retail sales for December.

But then, in late December and January (and onward until those cards expire) the money in them, when spent on goods and services, is counted as sales.

Thus the merchant counts selling the cards as a retail increase...and later he or other merchants count the spending of the cards as a retail increase!

And thus the same money spent is counted twice. And economists and lesser economic ilk count the enhanced total as proof that the economy is doing well and ‘expanding.’

This is a minor observation of on-going doublethink and deception. I’ve never seen nor heard anyone else make this point: Hey, the emperor isn’t wearing a jock strap!

So now our ignorant, God-driven cowardly leader is in Afghanistan spouting his optimistic bullshit in a sound bite destined for our hopefully worshipful consumption on TV News. Of course, he had to make a surprise, unannounced visit to Afghanistan, lest the Taliban (again organized, stronger, attacking us more often) mount some kind of outrageous attack on his plane on the ground. I’ll have to read the news accounts to see if Bush actually got off the plane and how long he stayed. The bite I saw showed him speaking from the top of the rolling stairway at the door of Air Force One, with the hastily summoned leader of Afghanistan standing meekly beside him.

President Bush is on his way to visit India. We’ll see if he actually gets off the plane in New Delhi, considering that there are reportedly 100,000 anti-American demonstrators waiting for him in the streets.

The cover story is reportedly a deal to be made about our

proposed sale of nuclear fuel to India. Like it takes our president to fly thousands of miles to make that deal? Suuure. Probably Bush is there to get India's 'cooperation' to oppose Iran's nuclear weapons program. They never tell us the real reasons for these meetings, nor the real deals. But Iran is a good guess.

Bush, of course, ignores or is ignorant of history---that India went ahead decades ago (against American wishes and pressure) to build atomic weapons. And that India never signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Don't forget: always read between the lines.

END TABOO OPINIONS #86