

GOP Newsletter Assails 'Bush's Party of Power'

It its lead story Sept. 6, *The Big Picture*, a prestigious newsletter that circulates widely among Republican Party movers and shakers, blasted the Cheney-Bush crowd for its scripted Republican Convention, and the Party's intolerance and dedication only to preserving the President's power.

Under the headline "Bush's Party of Power," newsletter publisher Richard Whalen wrote wrote: "The traditional Grand Old Party of Taft, Eisenhower, Goldwater, Nixon, and Reagan is gone. Vanished without a trace is the old GOP's 'Big Tent' philosophy, where the party's distinct liberal and conservative 'wings' fought out their differences on issues and ideology. . . . President George W. Bush's party is shaped like a church, and not a very big one. . . . Although the entire federal government establishment is in Republican hands, the party is insecure, narrow, doctrinaire, and intolerant. The Bush party is entirely dedicated to perpetuating the President's power."

Whalen also blasted the Bush Administration's Iraq

war, which he described as a "tragic detour" from the war on terrorism, and he zeroed in on Dick Cheney for having plotted an invasion of Iraq for years, in league with the neo-cons.

Whalen assailed both Sen. Zell Miller (Ga.) and Dick Cheney for delivering "stunningly mean-spirited speeches," which set the tone for Bush's own acceptance speech, "exploiting the memory of 9/11 and the public confusion between 'the war on terror' and the war in Iraq." Whalen's prognosis: "If the November election turns on Iraq and the war on terrorism, Bush will win. If the election turns on the disappointing economy, which remains more than a million jobs short in the third year of 'recovery,' Kerry will win."

Whalen also railed against Bush and his "brain," Karl Rove, for devising an election strategy targetted almost exclusively at the Religious Right, dividing and polarizing America.

Whalen's conclusion: "The Republican Party urgently needs a long overdue post-Cold War updating and redefinition, especially the rejection of an unwanted empire and the hopeless doctrine of permanent war. . . . America must regain domestic purpose and international respect through re-dedication to principles of freedom, nationalism and non-interference in the affairs of others."