

Satire piece about Enron
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Only last year, Enron, a corporation that traded energy, was ranked as the seventh richest of the Fortune 500. The cunning (1) corporation paid no taxes for four of the past five years because it was able to move assets to several of its 881 subsidiaries that were in other countries and free from taxes. From 1995 to 1999, Congress spent much time on and eventually passed “financial modernization” legislation, which would deregulate the financial industry, despite several past lessons from history, which demonstrated how deregulation could lead to trouble. After disingenuous accounting and misrepresentation of the company’s income, the Enron Corporation filed bankruptcy in December 2001. It must have been a shock to the Bush Administration that such a collapse could result from the “modernization” of the financial industry. While the top executives sold their stocks and other benefits for a billion dollars, and the chairman of Enron, Kenneth Lay, got \$30 million himself, the Enron employees were forced to hold on to their stock. The employees lost 70 to 90 percent of their retirement money from October 16 to November 13 when the stock’s value was reduced to a few cents per share. It’s comforting to know the executives of our corporations are so benevolent (2).

Fortunately, we can count on our government to perform a thorough and complete investigation into this ignominious (3) scandal. About 250 current members of Congress took donations from Enron, and many of those members are on committees investigating the Enron scandal: Senator Jeff Bingaman, chairman of the Energy and Natural Resource Committee (who received \$14,124 from Enron), Senator Kay Bailey on the Commerce Committee (who received \$99,500 from Enron), and several others (Pattern 3). Surely these tractable (4) members, ensconced (5) with corporate contributions, will have no trouble remaining unbiased throughout

the investigation. Enron, a corporation that helped to design the Bush energy policy, donated \$623,000 to George W. Bush throughout his career; it was also the single largest contributor to his presidential campaign (Pattern 1). It was very generous of Enron to do this without expecting any favoritism in return for these contributions. From 1989 to 2002, through individual, political action committee, and soft money donations, Enron gave \$5.95 million in contributions to federal candidates. Also, some government employees, after working to benefit Enron, coincidentally, joined the staff of the corporation. In 1993, Wendy Gramm, the wife of Senator Phil Gramm, helped to keep Enron from being required to meet regulations. Five weeks afterwards, she (unexpectedly) became a part of Enron's board. However, investigations into these matters must wait until our war on terrorism is finished because only after bombing countries, killing thousands of innocent civilians, and creating more hatred towards the United States, as we have done in Afghanistan, will America be safe from terrorists.