Former President Declared Missing

Texas State Police have now confirmed that former President George W. Bush has been officially declared a "missing person."

Rumors of his disappearance have surfaced repeatedly ever since his ominously named "Farewell Tour" in 2008. But official confirmation came hours after it was announced that the mother of all Republican meetings—the influential Conservative Political Action Conference--would proceed with nearly 35 prominent Republicans from all branches of government, business, and media and yet without the former president.

"That's when it became obvious," said a police spokeman. "After all a president doesn't just disappear!"

Police admit that they have been suspicious ever since the start of the presidential primaries. "Don't you think it's strange," they noted, "that Republicans have held almost 20 debates without even mentioning his name?"

Further suspicions were aroused at the time when five men who "looked an awful lot like Republican presidential candidates" were overheard by a waitress working the graveyard shift at a Texas diner talking about "burying Bush so deep that no one could find him." "When I asked them what they meant by that," she said, "they just smiled and left a really big tip. But as they were leaving I overheard them bragging about being experts at shoveling."

When questioned about Bush's disappearance, most of the Republicans at CPAC seemed either confused or dismissive. "Bush who??" was a common response.

Conservative darling, Rick Santorum, accused the questioner of "gotcha journalism" and said he wasn't going to be provoked to use what every Republican recognized as a "four-letter word."

Newt Gingrich went even further. "The notion that there was a Republican president after Reagan is a complete fabrication of the left wing media. You might as well believe in global warming."

Candidate Mitt Romney concurred, and offered this incontrovertible proof. "Just look at the economy. If we had had a Republican president who lowered tax rates, removed regulations from business, and pursued an aggressive foreign policy worthy of America, we wouldn't be in the fix we're in today. It's impossible."

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