

10-11-2004

Dear Editor,

The two most profound statements a scientist, scholar, or for that matter, any honest adult person can utter are, "I do not know" and "I was wrong". It is only by making sincere and open statements such as these, that our knowledge can improve and understanding grow. When new evidence or information is discovered, your doctor might change their diagnosis of the cause of your ailment. Does this mean your family physician is a flip-flopper?

Since when are we so afraid of truth and open discussion that our politicians hide their mistakes and poor judgments behind slogans such as "resolute", "unwavering" and "consistent"? It's ok to change your mind when the data changes. When we had "irrefutable" (though apparently, not unanimous) evidence for weapons of mass destruction being hidden by Saddam Hussein, there was good reason to increase U.N. weapons inspections and other diplomatic efforts.

But when it is later revealed that Saddam Hussein did not have weapons of mass destruction for over 10 years, nor a connection to Al Qai'da terrorists, maybe it's time for us to collectively say "I was wrong" and accept the consequences for the loss of human life and hard earned dollars that could have been spent going after the real threats to our way of life. Yet last week, a poll showed that 43% of Americans still believe that Saddam Hussein had a connection to 9/11 and 31% still believe that Saddam Hussein personally directed the 9/11 attacks! One third of us are living in complete denial of the actual facts, as reported unequivocally by the bipartisan 9/11 congressional commission!

Please try to remember, it is only because of our precious ability, by honest and intelligent people to change their minds based on the evidence, that today we have the germ theory of disease and no longer perform exorcisms or blood letting to cure medical illness. Shouldn't our politicians (and ourselves, if we have any integrity) be held to the same standards of honesty as our scientists and doctors?

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