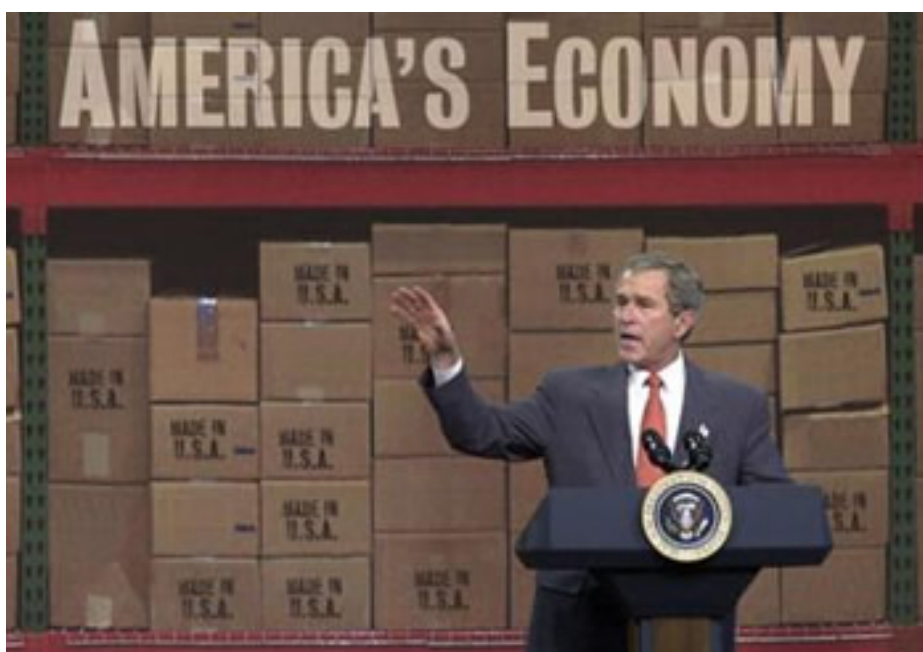


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Bush's 'Made in the USA' Backdrop Hides 'Made in China' Labels

ST. LOUIS — Someone went to great lengths to ensure the backdrop for President Bush's sales pitch Wednesday on his economic stimulus plan sent all the right messages – and none of the wrong.

Bush delivered his remarks from a warehouse floor at JS Logistics, a trucking, courier and warehouse business that provided a visual image for his argument that his proposal carries economy-boosting benefits for small businesses. The audience was flanked on all sides by piles of cardboard boxes – with additional piles in front of and behind his podium.



President Bush stands in front of boxes that are stamped Made in America as he addresses a group of local officials and small business owners at the JB Logistics shipping company in St. Louis, Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2003. The boxes were actually 'Made in China' and the Bush PR team had covered over the China stamp with 'Made in U.S.A.'. (AP Photo/Charles Rex Arbogast)

Each one of the hundreds of boxes had a piece of paper obscuring its "Made in China" label.

White House spokeswoman Claire Buchan laughingly attributed the clearly gargantuan paper-affixing effort to an "overzealous volunteer" on the president's advance team.

A backdrop made-to-order for the White House filled the space directly behind Bush, which

is most likely to show up on TV news clips of the event. Blaring a logo of "Strengthening America's Economy," it exactly mimicked the real-life box piles, down to perfectly aligned shelves.

Except the boxes on the backdrop were labeled, "Made in the USA."

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