From: William Buchanan
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 12:25pm
Subject: Comment on Microsoft-DOJ settlement

I am outraged at the proposed 'settlement' of this conflict. It makes as much sense to me as the first court conclusion in the OJ Simpson case. Gates has simply conned his way out of being found clearly guilty by the very expensive but well executed investigation of Microsoft's actions by the Clinton DOJ. Gates' entire career is based on lying, cheating, stealing and bullying his way around in the consumer community. He has no scruples, other than continually doing anything he can to get the public's money in exchange for their purchases of Microsoft's so-called 'innovative' products. These sub par products only appear to be innovative because he has used his wealth and maligned cunning to squash any legitimate competitors. Jackson's characterization of him as a 'little Napoleon' is right on. And now for the corrupt tie between G.W. Bush and W. Gates (following White House meetings between the two) to surface as a 'just settlement' thrown quickly before a war-distracted US public and its Congress, is really rubbing salt into a big wound.

Hooray for the valor of the states who are holding out and continuing to gun for a real 'just settlement', in this case. The only reason the other states that originally were involved had to drop out is that the Gates machine is so well endowed, financially and legally, it is able to intimidate even a relatively large collective of public/legal representatives in its obsessive path of destruction. I'm glad to be a citizen of California, and able to watch my attorney general, Bill Locklyer, lead the charge against prematurely settling with Microsoft. I would hope that the Federal DOJ could follow the same path in this case, but think that the eagerness of the current administration to satisfy Gates' dreams of walking away unscathed from this situation are so far handing him his wishes, just as though it was a 'pardon'.

If there is still such a value as 'justice' in our US, then let it reign supreme. Require Microsoft to be held accountable for what it has already been found guilty of, and make it pay the full and responsible cost of having deliberately committed its heinous actions. And see to it that the Bush administration be held just as responsible and accountable for exercising its Constitutional requirement to uphold justice in this case. Anything less only brings to light that the Bush administration and Microsoft are colluding to dupe the taxpayer into believing that both are worthy of honor, a conclusion that is just not acceptable and well should not be.

CC: abraham fred,Jacobsen Dianne,Lips Rolf,Marasco Joe