

ALABAMA BRIEFING

STATE ISSUES

ECONOMY

In December, Alabama's unemployment rate was 3.6 percent, down from its peak of 5.7 percent in November 2003. In January, the national unemployment rate was 4.6 percent.

TORNADO DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES

On March 1, powerful storms ripped through Alabama causing 10 fatalities. The storm killed 9 people in the town of Enterprise, a city of 23,000, approximately 75 miles southeast of Montgomery. Eight of these deaths occurred at Enterprise High School as students were preparing to leave for the day. The students ran for shelter when the tornado hit the school, blowing out walls and collapsing part of the roof. At least one other person was killed at another location in Enterprise and one nearby in Wilcox County.

The burst of tornadoes were part of a large line of thunderstorms and snowstorms stretching from Minnesota to the Gulf Coast. The storms claimed the life of a seven-year-old girl in Missouri and nine others in Georgia.

Governor Bob Riley (R) has requested approximately 100 National Guardsmen to go into Enterprise to assist in the tornado recovery efforts. Riley also instructed the Alabama Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance. You will announce that you have declared a major disaster in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts. Your action makes Federal funding available to affected individuals in Coffee County.

SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

On February 28, the Alabama House and Senate unanimously passed versions of Governor Riley's \$400 million incentive package aimed at luring German steel manufacturer ThyssenKrupp AG to the state. Riley called the Legislature into special session on February 26 to seek approval for a constitutional amendment that would increase the Governor's borrowing limit from the state's Capital Improvement Trust Fund from \$350 million to \$750 million. Legislators passed the bill on March 2, and it will go to a statewide referendum set for June 5.

ThyssenKrupp AG is planning a \$2.9 billion steel-making plant that will employ 2,700 people. The company has narrowed its search to a location between New Orleans and Baton Rouge and the Alabama site about 25 miles north of Mobile. Both Governor

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Riley and Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco (D) have traveled to Germany to meet with officials of the Duesseldorf based company.

POLITICAL CLIMATE AND KEY 2008 RACES

U.S. SENATE

Senator Jeff Sessions (R) is up for reelection in 2008. First elected in 1996, Sessions defeated Susan Parker (D) 59 percent to 40 percent in 2002. There is no clear Democrat opponent yet. Congressman Artur Davis (D, AL-07) has announced he will either be a candidate for Senator Richard Shelby's (R, AL) seat or Governor in 2010, but will not challenge Sessions. State Agriculture Commissioner Ron Sparks (D) and State Senator Vivian Davis Figures (D) are both also considering possible runs for the 2008 Senate race.

2006 ELECTION RESULTS

GOVERNOR 2006

Governor Bob Riley (R) easily won re-election in 2006. Riley defeated Lieutenant Governor Lucy Baxley (D) by a margin of 57 percent to 42 percent. Riley was first elected Governor in 2002, defeating incumbent Governor Don Siegelman (D) by only 3,120 votes. He is only the second Republican governor in Alabama since Reconstruction. You won the state with 63 percent in 2004.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

All seven Congressmen (5R, 2D) won re-election in 2006.

STATISTICS

2004 General Election Results

Statewide:

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	1,716,394	63%
Kerry	693,933	37%
Nader	6,701	0%

2000 General Election Results

Statewide:

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	941,173	57%
Gore	692,611	42%
Nader	18,323	1%

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2004 General Election Results

Coffee County:

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	13,019	74%
Kerry	1,391	24%
Other	37	1%

2000 General Election Results

Coffee County:

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	9,938	64%
Gore	5,220	34%
Other	276	2%

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

U.S. SENATE

- Richard C. Shelby (R), 4th term, re-elected in 2004 with 68%
- Jeff Sessions (R), 2nd term, re-elected in 2002 with 59%

U.S. HOUSE 7 Total (5R, 2D)

- Jo Bonner (R-01), 3rd term, re-elected with 68%
- Terry Everett (R-02), 8th term, re-elected with 70%
- Mike Rogers (R-03), 3rd term, re-elected with 60%
- Robert Aderholt (R-04), 6th term, re-elected with 70%
- Robert “Bud” Cramer, Jr. (D-05), 9th term, unopposed
- Spencer Bachus (R-06), 8th term, unopposed
- Artur Davis (D-07), 3rd term, unopposed

STATE GOVERNMENT

- Governor Bob Riley (R), 2nd term, re-elected with 58%
- Lieutenant Governor Jim Folsom, Jr. (D), 3rd term overall
Note: Folsom was elected as Lt. Governor in 1986 and 1990. In April 1993, he was sworn in as Governor to replace Governor Jim Hunt who resigned from office.
- Attorney General Troy King (R), 1st full term, elected with 53%, appointed by Riley in 2005
- Secretary of State Beth Chapman (R), 1st term, elected with 58%
- State Auditor Samantha Shaw (R), 1st term, elected with 54%
- Treasurer Kay Ivey (R), 2nd term, elected with 61%

State House:

105 (62D, 43R)

Speaker:

Seth Hammett (D)

Speaker Pro Tempore:

Demetrius Newton (D)

ALABAMA BRIEFING

Majority Leader: Ken Guin (D)
Minority Leader: Mike Hubbard (R)

State Senate: 35 (23D, 12R)
President: Lieutenant Governor Jim Folsom, Jr. (D)
President Pro Tempore: Hinton Mitchem (D)
Majority Leader: Zeb Little (D)
Minority Leader: J.T. “Jabo” Waggoner (R)

STATE PARTY

State Chairman: Mike Hubbard
Note: Mike Hubbard took this position on February 10, 2007.
National Committeeman: Edgar Welden
National Committeewoman: Bettye Fine Collins

STATE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Estimated Population 2000:

Alabama: 4,447,100, an increase of 10.1% since 1990
National: 281,421,906, an increase of 13.1% since 1990

Race/Ethnicity:

Alabama: 70.3% White; 26.0% African-American; 1.7% Hispanic; 0.7% Asian;
0.5% American Indian
National: 69.1% White; 12.5% Hispanic; 12.3% African-American; 3.6% Asian;
0.9% American Indian

Median Age:

Alabama: 35.8 years (13.0% are 65 years and older)
National: 35.3 years (12.4% are 65 years and older)

College Educated:

Alabama: 19.0%
National: 24.4%

Median Household Income:

Alabama: \$34,135
National: \$41,994

Households:

Alabama: 70% family households; 52.2% married couple families
National: 68.1% family households; 51.7% married couple families

(Source: U.S. Census 2000)

ALABAMA BRIEFING

YOUR PREVIOUS TRAVEL

Event	Date	Location
Visits with Military Personnel and Families	January 11, 2007	Fort Benning
Photo Op and Remarks at Bob Riley for Governor Luncheon	September 28, 2006	Birmingham
Briefing on Energy and Press Statement	September 28, 2006	Hoover
Demonstration of Nanotechnology Research; Remarks on the American Competitiveness Initiative; Meeting with Families of Fallen Soldiers and the Family of a Fallen Marine	April 19, 2006	Tuskegee
Briefing on Hurricane Damage and Aerial Tour of Hurricane Damage	September 2, 2005	Mobile
Conversation on Strengthening Social Security	March 10, 2005	Montgomery
Aerial Tour of Hurricane Damage; Walking Tour of Hurricane Damage; and Statement to Responders at Fire and Rescue Station 1	September 19, 2004	Orange Beach
Meeting with Small Business Owners and Remarks on the Economy	November 3, 2003	Birmingham
Victory 2002 Rally	October 24, 2002	Auburn
Roundtable and Remarks on the Economy and Fundraiser for Congressman Bob Riley	July 15, 2002	Birmingham
Land and Water Conservation Event; Meeting with Local Religious Leaders; and Fundraiser with Senator Sessions	June 21, 2001	Birmingham

From: Korinne Kubena
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2007 12:10 PM
To: 'kschwedintern@who.eop.gov'
Subject: FW: GA and AL Political BP
Attach: AL.FortBenning.011107.PoliticalBP.doc;GA.FortBenning.011107.PoliticalBriefing.doc

From: Graves, Caleb [mailto:Caleb_Graves@who.eop.gov]
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2007 11:46 AM
To: Korinne Kubena
Cc: Willeford, Emily A.; Emily Willeford
Subject: GA and AL Political BP

Korinne – Raul Yanes the Staff Secretary has asked for political BPs for the President's travel tomorrow to Alabama and Georgia. Attached are the last Political BPs from the two states. The good news is they are both from January this year and hopefully we can turn these around a little bit easier. Let me know what I can do to help track down information you need to include. Thank you.

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STATE ISSUES

ECONOMY

In November, Alabama's unemployment rate was 3.2 percent, down from its peak of 5.7 percent in November 2003. In December, the national unemployment rate was 4.5 percent.

HURRICANE KATRINA

As of December 8, \$1.128 billion in Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster assistance has been obligated for recovery efforts in Alabama. Over 115,000 Alabama households have registered with FEMA for some type of assistance.

On December 22, FEMA announced projects selected under the Alternative Housing Pilot Program (AHPP) to pursue alternative forms of housing, including semi-permanent or permanent alternatives, such as the units colloquially known as "Katrina Cottages." As a part of that program Alabama was allocated approximately \$16 million for an alternative housing pilot program in the city of Bayou La Batre. The pilot program aims to expand the types of housing FEMA provides to disaster-affected communities by identifying, developing, and evaluating alternatives to FEMA travel trailers and mobile homes. The funding was authorized in the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Defense, the Global War on Terror, and Hurricane Recovery you signed into law on June 15, 2006.

\$72.8 million is anticipated for hazard mitigation projects to help Alabamians rebuild to standards that help prevent damage in future storms.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

On January 4, the University of Alabama announced Nick Saban as their head football coach following the firing of Mike Shula on November 27, 2006. Previously, Saban was the head coach of the Miami Dolphins and at Louisiana State University.

2006 ELECTION RESULTS, POLITICAL CLIMATE AND KEY 2008 RACES

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

All seven Congressmen (5R, 2D) won re-election in 2006.

GOVERNOR 2006

Governor Bob Riley (R) easily won re-election in 2006. Riley defeated Lieutenant Governor Lucy Baxley (D) by a margin of 57 percent to 42 percent. Riley was first

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elected Governor in 2002, defeating incumbent Governor Don Siegelman (D) by only 3,120 votes. He is only the second Republican governor in Alabama since Reconstruction. You won the state with 62 percent in 2004.

U.S. SENATE 2008

Senator Jeff Sessions (R) is up for re-election in 2008. Sessions defeated Susan Parker (D) 59 percent to 40 percent in 2002. Sessions was first elected in 1996. There is no clear Democrat opponent yet. Congressman Artur Davis (D, AL-07) has announced he will either be a candidate for Senator Richard Shelby's (R, AL) seat or Governor in 2010, but will not challenge Sessions. State Agriculture Commissioner Ron Sparks (D) and State Senator Vivian Davis Figures (D) are both also considering possible runs for the 2008 senate race.

STATISTICS

2004 General Election Results (Statewide):

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	1,716,394	62%
Kerry	693,933	37%
Nader	6,701	0.5%
Other	6,421	0.5%

2000 General Election Results (Statewide):

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	944,409	56%
Gore	695,602	42%
Nader	18,349	1%
Other	14,191	1%

2004 General Election Results (Russell County):

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	8,337	49.6%
Kerry	8,375	49.8%
Other	97	0.6%

2000 General Election Results (Russell County):

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	6,198	45%
Gore	8,396	54%
Nader	109	1%

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

U.S. SENATE

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U.S. HOUSE 7 Total (5R, 2D)

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Terry Everett (R-02), 8th term, re-elected with 70%

*Jonathan Felts, Office of Political Affairs
202-456-6173 (O), 202-577-4778 (M)
Updated January 8, 2007*

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Mike Rogers (R-03), 3rd term, re-elected with 60%
Robert Aderholt (R-04), 6th term, re-elected with 70%
Robert “Bud” Cramer, Jr. (D-05), unopposed
Spencer Bachus (R-06), 8th term, unopposed
Artur Davis (D-07), 3rd term, unopposed

STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor Bob Riley (R), 2nd term, re-elected with 57%
Lieutenant Governor-Elect Jim Folsom, Jr. (D), 3rd term overall
Note: Folsom was elected as Lt. Governor in 1986 and 1990. In April 1993, he was sworn in as Governor to replace Governor Jim Hunt who resigned from office.
Attorney General Troy King (R), 1st full term, elected with 53%, appointed by Riley in 2005
Secretary of State-Elect Beth Chapman (R), 1st term, elected with 58%
State Auditor-Elect Samantha Shaw (R), 1st term, elected with 54%
Treasurer Kay Ivey (R), 2nd term, elected with 61%
Note: State officials will be officially sworn-in on January 15.

State House: **105 (61D, 43R, 1 vacancy)**
Speaker: Seth Hammett (D)
Speaker Pro Tempore: Demetrius Newton (D)
Majority Leader: Ken Guin (D)
Minority Leader: Mike Hubbard (R)

State Senate: **35 (23D, 12R)**
President: Lieutenant Governor-Elect Jim Folsom, Jr. (D),
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Median Household Income:

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College Educated:

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Source: U.S. Census 2000

YOUR PREVIOUS TRAVEL

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Demonstration of Nanotechnology Research; Remarks on the American Competitiveness Initiative; Meeting with Families of Fallen Soldiers and the Family of a Fallen Marine	April 19, 2006	Tuskegee
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GEORGIA BRIEFING

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ECONOMY

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BRAC AND MILITARY CONSTRUCTION FUNDING

As a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) actions, Fort Benning will grow substantially. One of the largest moves is the relocation of the Armor Center and School from Fort Knox, Kentucky, to Fort Benning. This alone is expected to bring approximately 30,000 new people to the Fort Benning region by 2011. However, some of the base infrastructure improvements are now endangered because the *Military Construction, Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Act* was approved by the House on May 19, 2006, and by the Senate on November 14. However, the two bills were never reconciled and the funding measure has not been passed for your signature.

Outgoing Army Chief of Staff General Pete Schoomaker and Secretary of the Army Dr. Francis Harvey have contacted the 110th Congress requesting quick action to revive the appropriations to fund new housing and other upgrades of military installations that will be required by the BRAC decisions. The current funding resolution expires February 15. U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss (R, GA) has introduced legislation to ensure the original \$14 billion military construction legislation is funded. Fort Benning stands to lose approximately \$300 million in funding if the Military Construction appropriations bill is not approved.

The Fort Benning-area community is very concerned about the potential impact on local school districts and their ability to accommodate a large influx of new students as a result of BRAC. Senator Chambliss, along with eight other Senators, sent a letter to OMB on December 23 requesting your Administration include funding in the Fiscal Year 2007 budget proposal to support local school districts impacted by BRAC.

STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (SCHIP)

Governor Sonny Perdue (R, GA) will not be attending the event at Fort Benning in part because he has privately expressed frustration with the Administration regarding a SCHIP funding issue. The state of Georgia will have a significant federal funds SCHIP shortfall of \$128.5 million in FY 2007. This is based on its estimated federal share FY 2007 expenditures of \$312.1 million and its currently available FY 2007 allotments of \$183.6

GEORGIA BRIEFING

million. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) estimates the state will have sufficient funds to run its SCHIP program through the end of April 2007. However, because of programmatic and operational concerns, such as providing sufficient time to inform providers and recipients about the potential termination of the program, the State of Georgia intends to terminate its program at the end of March 2007. The state will begin notifying providers and beneficiaries in February and reports that up to 270,000 children will no longer be covered under the Peachcare program.

Under the provisions of H.R. 6164, approximately \$146.9 million in unexpended FY 2004 allotments will be made available nationally for redistribution to states through March 2007, the first half of FY 2007. These funds would only be available for redistribution to those states experiencing shortfalls in the first half of the fiscal year. Georgia would not be a recipient of such redistribution amounts since they have sufficient funds through about April 2007. H.R. 6164 also provides for a relatively small portion of the states' unexpended FY 2005 allotments available as of March 31, 2007, to be redistributed to states with shortfalls in the second half of FY 2007. Georgia's projected potential redistribution would only be approximately \$4.9 million, far short of the Georgia's projected shortfall of \$128.4 million.

GEORGIA HOUSE SPEAKER GLENN RICHARDSON

Speaker Glenn Richardson (R) was reelected as the Georgia House Speaker on January 8, the first day of the new legislative session. On the same day, the Georgia Democratic Party filed an ethics complaint against Richardson, alleging he had an "inappropriate personal relationship" with a female lobbyist for Atlanta Gas Light in 2006, at the same time he was the co-sponsor for legislation to finance a \$300 million pipeline for the utility. The pipeline legislation was not passed out of the State Senate. State Democratic Party Chairman Bobby Kahn offered no evidence of the alleged relationship in the complaints that he said he mailed to the State Ethics Commission and Joint Committee on Ethics on January 5. Richardson has so far declined to respond directly to Kahn's allegations, saying he does not want to "give them merit."

HOME DEPOT CEO RESIGNS

Bob Nardelli, the CEO of Home Depot, resigned on January 3. Home Depot is based in Atlanta. Nardelli has been criticized for his severance package which, including deferred compensation, totaled \$210 million. Nardelli was replaced by Vice Chairman Frank Blake.

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ATLANTA FALCONS HIRE NEW COACH

The Atlanta Falcons fired Coach Jim Mora on January 1. The Falcons announced that Bobby Petrino will be the new Falcons coach on January 8. Petrino was the University of Louisville head coach for four years culminating in a win at the Orange Bowl over Wake Forest University this year.

2006 ELECTION RESULTS, POLITICAL CLIMATE AND KEY 2008 RACES

GOVERNOR 2006

Governor Sonny Perdue (R) defeated Lieutenant Governor Mark Taylor (D), 58 percent to 38 percent and was sworn into office on January 8. Taylor never recovered from a costly primary battle against Secretary of State Cathy Cox (D). Governor Perdue ran a superior campaign, leading Taylor by double-digits throughout the last two months of the campaign. You won Georgia with 58 percent in 2004, leading successful Republican efforts to take control of both houses in the State Assembly for the first time since Reconstruction.

U.S. SENATE

Senator Saxby Chambliss (R) defeated incumbent Senator Max Cleland (D) in 2002 by a margin of 53 percent to 47 percent. You campaigned for Chambliss at three events, including two events the Saturday before the general election. The 2002 campaign is probably best remembered for a television ad from the Chambliss campaign that showed pictures of Osama Bin Laden, Saddam Hussein, and Max Cleland with a voice-over noting that Cleland had “voted against the President's vital homeland security efforts 11 times.”

No one has formally declared to seek the Democrat nomination for 2008, but several potential candidates have been mentioned. This list includes Congressman Jim Marshall (D, GA-08), Columbus Trial Lawyer Jim Butler, DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer Vernon Jordan, and the daughter of former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn (D, GA), Michelle Nunn. On January 7, Senator Nunn said that the Iraq War “was the worst strategic error I've seen in modern times by the United States.”

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Georgia's Congressional Delegation maintained the same partisan composition (7R, 4D) after the 2006 elections.

GEORGIA BRIEFING

GA-08 (formerly GA-03)

Congressman Jim Marshall (D) narrowly defeated former Congressman Mac Collins (R) by a margin of 51 percent to 49 percent, in the new Eighth Congressional District. The Georgia Legislature redrew district lines in 2005, and you would have won this district with 61 percent in 2004 if it had existed.

Collins waged a competitive campaign, but Marshall was ultimately more successful in casting himself as conservative in a district full of conservative Democrats. Marshall voted for your tax-cuts and the ban on partial-birth abortion. He has also been a strong supporter of the Global War on Terror. Additionally, Marshall is viewed as being a champion for the Warner-Robins Air Force Base, a major presence in this district.

This will be viewed as a competitive race in 2008 if Republicans can recruit a strong candidate. Marshall has also been mentioned as a potential opponent for U.S. Senator Saxby Chambliss (R, GA).

GA-12

In a re-match of their 2004 race, Congressman John Barrow (D) narrowly defeated former Congressman Max Burns (R) by 889 votes. Barrow defeated Burns by a margin of 52 percent to 48 percent in 2004. You would have increased your numbers from 46 percent to 50 percent of the vote in this district had it existed in 2004. While this district gained Republicans in redistricting, it also gained a significant number of traditionally Democrat voters.

The polling in this race had been statistically tied since February 2006, and both candidates raised similar amounts of money. In the end, Barrow successfully crafted his image of an independent thinker who was not afraid to buck the national Democrat Party leadership. In public debates, Barrow joined Burns in supporting your strategy in the Global War on Terror, tougher border security, and opposing amnesty for illegal immigrants.

GEORGIA BRIEFING

STATISTICS

2004 General Election Results (Statewide):

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	1,914,254	58%
Kerry	1,366,149	41%
Other	21,472	1%

2000 General Election Results (Statewide):

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	1,419,720	55%
Gore	1,116,230	43%
Nader	13,432	0.5%
Other	47,422	1.5%

2004 General Election Results (Chattahoochee County):

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	905	54%
Kerry	773	46%
Other	11	1%

2000 General Election Results (Chattahoochee County):

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	590	49%
Gore	600	50%
Nader	4	0%
Other	13	1%

2004 General Election Results (Muscogee County):

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	30,850	48%
Kerry	32,867	51%
Other	289	1%

2000 General Election Results (Muscogee County):

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	23,479	45%
Gore	28,193	54%
Nader	243	1%
Other	248	1%

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

U.S. SENATE:

- Johnny Isakson (R), 1st term, elected in 2004 with 58%
- Saxby Chambliss (R), 1st term, elected in 2002 with 53%

U.S. HOUSE: 13 Total (7R, 6D)

- Jack Kingston (R-01), 8th term, re-elected with 69%

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- Sanford Bishop, Jr. (D-02), 8th term, re-elected with 68%
- Lynn Westmoreland (R-03), 2nd term, re-elected with 68%
- Hank Johnson (D-04), 1st term, elected with 75%
- John Lewis (D-05), 11th term, re-elected without opposition
- Tom Price (R-06), 2nd term, re-elected with 72%
- John Linder (R-07), 8th term, 3rd term in GA-07, re-elected with 71%
- Jim Marshall (D-08), 3rd term, 1st term in GA-08, re-elected with 50.5%
- Nathan Deal (R-09), 8th term, 1st term in GA-09, re-elected with 77%
- Charles Norwood (R-10), 7th term, 1st term in GA-10, re-elected with 67%
- Phil Gingrey (R-11), 3rd term, re-elected with 71%
- John Barrow (D-12), 2nd term, re-elected with 50.3%
- David Scott (D-13), 3rd term, re-elected with 69%

STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor Sonny Perdue (R), 2nd term, re-elected in 2006 with 58%
Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle (R), 1st term, elected in 2006 with 54%
Attorney General Thurbert Baker (D), 3rd full term, re-elected in 2006 with 57%
Secretary of State Karen Handel (R), 1st term, elected with 54%
Commissioner of Insurance John Oxendine (R), 4th term, re-elected with 66%
State School Superintendent Kathy Cox (R), 2nd term, elected with 60%
Commissioner of Agriculture Tommy Irvin (D), served since 1969, re-elected with 57%
Commissioner of Labor Mike Thurmond (D), 3rd term, re-elected with 55%

State House: **180 (106R, 74D)**
Speaker: Glenn Richardson (R)
Majority Leader: Jerry Keen (R)
Minority Leader: DuBose Porter (D)

State Senate: **56 (35R, 21D)**
President: Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle (R)
Majority Leader: Tommie Williams (R)
Minority Leader: Robert Brown (D)

GEORGIA BRIEFING

STATE PARTY

Chairman: Alec Poitevint
National Committeeman: Alec Poitevint
National Committeewoman: Linda D. Herren

Note: Alec Poitevint was elected party Chairman in 2003 and retained his position as National Committeeman.

STATE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Estimated Population 2000:

Georgia: 8,186,453, an increase of 26.4% since 1990

National: 281,421,906, an increase of 13.1% since 1990

Race/Ethnicity:

Georgia: 62.6% White; 28.7% African-American; 5.3% Hispanic;
2.1% Asian; 0.3% American Indian

National: 69.1% White; 12.3% African-American; 12.5% Hispanic;
3.6% Asian; 0.9% American Indian

Median Age:

Georgia: 33.4 years (9.6% over the age of 65)

National: 35.3 years (12.4% are 65 years and older)

College Educated:

Georgia: 24.3%

National: 24.4%

Median Income:

Georgia: \$42,433

National: \$41,994

Households:

Georgia: 70.2% family households; 51.5% married couple families

National: 68.1% family households; 51.7% married couple families

Source: 2000 U.S. Census

THE PRESIDENT'S PREVIOUS TRAVEL

Event	Date	Location
Georgia Victory 2006 Rally	October 31, 2006	Perry
Georgia Victory 2006 Rally	October 30, 2006	Statesboro
Photo-Op and Remarks at Mac Collins for Congress Reception	October 10, 2006	Macon
Remarks on the Global War on Terror and	September 7, 2006	Atlanta

GEORGIA BRIEFING

Event	Date	Location
Photo-Op and Remarks at Max Burns for Congress Reception		Pooler
Remarks at Georgia Republican Party's President's Day Dinner	March 9, 2006	College Park
Homegoing Celebration for Mrs. Coretta Scott King	February 7, 2006	Lithonia
Conversation on Senior Security	July 22, 2005	Atlanta
Victory '04 Fundraiser	May 17, 2004	Atlanta
Bush-Cheney '04 Fundraiser	April 2, 2004	Greensboro
Wreath Laying at the Grave of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.	January 15, 2004	Atlanta
Bush-Cheney '04 Fundraiser	January 15, 2004	Atlanta
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GEORGIA BRIEFING

Event	Date	Location
Fern Bank Museum of Natural History, Leadership Forum on Health Care, And Children's Healthcare Organization of Atlanta	March 1, 2001	Atlanta
Tour of Fort Stewart	February 12, 2001	Savannah

From: Korinne Kubena
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2007 4:37 PM
To: Graves, Caleb <Caleb_Graves@who.eop.gov>
Subject: AL PB
Attach: AL_PB_2-2.doc

Here is the AL brief. Thanks.

ALABAMA BRIEFING

STATE ISSUES

ECONOMY

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Governor Bob Riley (R) has requested approximately 100 National Guardsmen to go into Enterprise to assist in the tornado recovery efforts. Riley also instructed the Alabama Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance. On March 2, you declared a major disaster in Alabama and ordered Federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts. Your action makes Federal funding available to affected individuals in _____, _____, and _____ counties.

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ALABAMA BRIEFING

Louisiana Governor Kathleen Blanco (D) have traveled to Germany to meet with officials of the Duesseldorf based company.

POLITICAL CLIMATE AND KEY 2008 RACES

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Governor Bob Riley (R) easily won re-election in 2006. Riley defeated Lieutenant Governor Lucy Baxley (D) by a margin of 57 percent to 42 percent. Riley was first elected Governor in 2002, defeating incumbent Governor Don Siegelman (D) by only 3,120 votes. He is only the second Republican governor in Alabama since Reconstruction. You won the state with 63 percent in 2004.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

All seven Congressmen (5R, 2D) won re-election in 2006.

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Statewide:

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	1,716,394	63%
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Nader	6,701	0%

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ALABAMA BRIEFING

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U.S. HOUSE 7 Total (5R, 2D)

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STATE GOVERNMENT

- Governor Bob Riley (R), 2nd term, re-elected with 58%
- Lieutenant Governor Jim Folsom, Jr. (D), 3rd term overall
Note: Folsom was elected as Lt. Governor in 1986 and 1990. In April 1993, he was sworn in as Governor to replace Governor Jim Hunt who resigned from office.
- Attorney General Troy King (R), 1st full term, elected with 53%, appointed by Riley in 2005
- Secretary of State-Elect Beth Chapman (R), 1st term, elected with 58%
- State Auditor-Elect Samantha Shaw (R), 1st term, elected with 54%
- Treasurer Kay Ivey (R), 2nd term, elected with 61%

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105 (62D, 43R)

Speaker:

Seth Hammett (D)

Speaker Pro Tempore:

Demetrius Newton (D)

Majority Leader:

Ken Guin (D)

Minority Leader:

Mike Hubbard (R)

State Senate:

35 (23D, 12R)

President:

Lieutenant Governor Jim Folsom, Jr. (D)

ALABAMA BRIEFING

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Note: Mike Hubbard took this position on February 10, 2007.
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National Committeewoman: Bettye Fine Collins

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(Source: U.S. Census 2000)

YOUR PREVIOUS TRAVEL

Event	Date	Location
TBD	January 11, 2007	TBD
Photo Op and Remarks at Bob Riley for	September 28, 2006	Birmingham

*Korinne Kubena, Office of Political Affairs
202-456-2952 (O), 202-309-1529 (M)
Updated March 2, 2007*

Page 4 of 5

ALABAMA BRIEFING

Governor Luncheon		
Briefing on Energy and Press Statement	September 28, 2006	Hoover
Demonstration of Nanotechnology Research; Remarks on the American Competitiveness Initiative; Meeting with Families of Fallen Soldiers and the Family of a Fallen Marine	April 19, 2006	Tuskegee
Briefing on Hurricane Damage and Aerial Tour of Hurricane Damage	September 2, 2005	Mobile
Conversation on Strengthening Social Security	March 10, 2005	Montgomery
Aerial Tour of Hurricane Damage; Walking Tour of Hurricane Damage; and Statement to Responders at Fire and Rescue Station 1	September 19, 2004	Orange Beach
Meeting with Small Business Owners and Remarks on the Economy	November 3, 2003	Birmingham
Victory 2002 Rally	October 24, 2002	Auburn
Roundtable and Remarks on the Economy and Fundraiser for Congressman Bob Riley	July 15, 2002	Birmingham
Land and Water Conservation Event; Meeting with Local Religious Leaders; and Fundraiser with Senator Sessions	June 21, 2001	Birmingham

From: Korinne Kubena
Sent: Friday, March 2, 2007 5:40 PM
To: Brad Smith <BSmith@gwb43.com>
Subject: GA and AL
Attach: PB_GA_2-2.doc;AL_PB_2-2.doc

This has some new info on the Norwood race in case you're monitoring.

Also in case Sara needs to make tons of edits!

GEORGIA BRIEFING

STATE ISSUES

ECONOMY

In January 2007, Georgia's unemployment rate was 4.7 percent, down from 5.5 percent in September 2005. In January 2007, the national unemployment rate was 4.6 percent.

TORNADO DAMAGE AND CASUALTIES

On March 1, a powerful storm system packing tornadoes ripped through Georgia causing nine deaths. The storm killed six people in Baker County near the town of Newton and touched down near Sumter Regional Hospital in Americus, 117 miles south of Atlanta, killing at least two people at or near the hospital. One other storm-related death was reported in Taylor County as well. Injuries and storm damage from other parts of Georgia, including Muscogee, Clay and McDuffie counties were reported. The burst of tornadoes were part of a large line of thunderstorms and snowstorms stretching from Minnesota to the Gulf Coast. The storms claimed the life of a seven-year-old girl in Missouri and seven others in Alabama.

On March 2, you declared a major disaster in Georgia and ordered Federal aid to supplement state and local recovery efforts. Your action makes Federal funding available to affected individuals in _____, _____, and _____ counties.

CHARTER BUS ACCIDENT

On March 2, a charter bus carrying the Bluffton University baseball team from Ohio plunged off a highway ramp and slammed into the southbound lanes of I-75 near Atlanta. At least six were killed and 29 others on the bus were injured. Nine of the injuries are considered critical. Bluffton University is located 50 miles south of Toledo and has 1,150 students.

PEACHCARE PROGRAM

On March 1, the Georgia State Legislature adjourned leaving unresolved the issue of funding for the state's insurance program for children, PeachCare. PeachCare, part of the federal State Children's Health Insurance program set to expire this year, needs \$131 million to continue coverage for 273,000 children in Georgia through October 1, 2007. PeachCare provides healthcare coverage for working poor serving families that have income of no more than 235 percent of the Federal poverty level or \$20,650 for a family of four. Families pay premiums of up to \$70 per month.

The State Legislature has only 14 days left in its 40 day session to act on bills and decide on spending plans for this fiscal year and next. On February 28, they announced they

GEORGIA BRIEFING

would not meet March 2 through March 18 in hopes that Congress will act in time to cover PeachCare's major funding shortfall. If Congress fails to act, the Legislature could be forced to cover the shortfall with state money or scale back the program.

The U.S. House of Representatives intends to attach PeachCare funding to the emergency spending bill for Iraq that you will send to Congress in mid-March. However, it is unlikely that Congress will approve the bill before summer or early fall delaying funding for months. Legislation is also pending in the U.S. Senate that would cover the shortfall in Georgia and 16 other states.

ROME, GEORGIA IMAM SENTENCED

On February 27, a Federal judge sentenced Mohamed Shorbagi, the imam of a small mosque in Rome, Georgia, to seven years and eight months in prison for aiding the Islamic militant group Hamas. Shorbagi confessed to providing donations to the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development knowing the money was going to Hamas. He received a lighter sentence because he helped Federal authorities in other prosecutions.

PRIMARY ELECTION DATE CHANGE

Georgia is working to move the state's Presidential Primary from March 4 to February 5. The bill, introduced by House Republican leaders, must pass through both houses of the State Legislature. It will likely pass before the Legislative Session ends in mid-April.

POLITICAL CLIMATE AND KEY 2008 RACES

SPECIAL ELECTION

Following Congressman Charles Norwood's (R-10) death on February 10, Governor Sonny Perdue (R) set a special election for June 19 with a possible runoff to follow on July 17 if no candidate receives the majority vote. Fifty percent of the vote is required to declare the winner; however, the bill to change the Presidential Primary to February 5 would also change election rules so that a candidate would only have to receive 45 percent of the vote to be declared the winner. The bill will likely pass by mid-April.

State Senator Jim Whitehead (R) has the support of Norwood's camp, has cleared the field of other candidates from the Augusta region and seems to lead in campaign organization and fundraising. His main opponent, State Senator Ralph Hudgens (R) is working to clear the field of other Athens area candidates and is banking on votes from his region to trump those in Augusta. Former Athens Mayor Doc Eldridge is said to be considering a run as a Republican.

GEORGIA BRIEFING

Democrats aim to unite around one candidate in hopes that he or she can make the runoff, through the exercise appears futile in the strongly Republican district. Terry Holley lost to Norwood in 2006, 67 percent to 33 percent, and has said he will run in the special election.

Due to Georgia's resign to run rule, the election period is longer than usual so Hudgens and Whitehead can finish the current session in the State Senate. The qualifying deadline for candidates is likely to be set after the Legislative Session concludes in mid-April.

U.S. SENATE

Senator Saxby Chambliss (R) is up for reelection in 2008. Currently Chambliss faces no strong opposition. Columbus Trial Lawyer Jim Butler and DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer Vernon Jones are mentioned as possible challengers although neither have announced. As of December 31, 2006, Chambliss had just over \$2 million cash-on-hand.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GA-08

This will be competitive race in 2008 as Congressman Jim Marshall (D) narrowly defeated former Congressman Mac Collins (R) by a margin of 51 percent to 49 percent in 2006. Marshall has been successful at casting himself as conservative in a district full of conservative Democrats. Marshall voted for your tax-cuts and the ban on partial-birth abortion. He has also been a strong supporter of the Global War on Terror and voted against the House resolution on the Iraq war on February 16. State Senator Cecil Staton (R) and State Senator Ross Tolleson have been mentioned as potential challengers although no one has announced.

GA-12

This race will be competitive in 2008 as Congressman John Barrow (D) narrowly defeated former Congressman Max Burns (R) by 889 votes in 2006. State Senate President Pro Tem Eric Johnson has been mentioned as a potential candidate although no one has announced.

2006 ELECTION RESULTS

GOVERNOR 2006

Governor Sonny Perdue (R) defeated Lieutenant Governor Mark Taylor (D), 58 percent to 38 percent. Taylor never recovered from a costly primary battle against Secretary of

GEORGIA BRIEFING

State Cathy Cox (D). Governor Perdue ran a superior campaign, leading Taylor by double-digits throughout the last two months of the campaign.

STATISTICS

2004 General Election Results

Statewide:

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	1,914,256	58%
Kerry	1,366,155	41%
Other	18,387	1%

2000 General Election Results

Statewide:

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	1,419,720	55%
Gore	1,116,230	43%
Other	47,258	2.08

2004 General Election Results

Sumter County:

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	5,688	50%
Kerry	5,562	49%
Other	41	0%

2000 General Election Results

Sumter County:

	Total Votes	% Won
Bush	4,847	50%
Gore	4,748	49%
Other	102	1%

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

U.S. SENATE:

- Johnny Isakson (R), 1st term, elected in 2004 with 58%
- Saxby Chambliss (R), 1st term, elected in 2002 with 53%

U.S. HOUSE: 13 Total (7R, 6D)

- Jack Kingston (R-01), 8th term, re-elected with 69%
- Sanford Bishop, Jr. (D-02), 8th term, re-elected with 68%
- Lynn Westmoreland (R-03), 2nd term, re-elected with 68%
- Hank Johnson (D-04), 1st term, elected with 75%
- John Lewis (D-05), 11th term, re-elected without opposition
- Tom Price (R-06), 2nd term, re-elected with 72%
- John Linder (R-07), 8th term, 3rd term in GA-07, re-elected with 71%
- Jim Marshall (D-08), 3rd term, 1st term in GA-08, re-elected with 50.5%
- Nathan Deal (R-09), 8th term, 1st term in GA-09, re-elected with 77%
- Charlie Norwood (R-10), 7th term, 1st term in GA-10, re-elected with 67%

Note: Noorwood passed away on February 13, 2007. Gov. Perdue has scheduled a special election for June 19 to fill the vacancy.

GEORGIA BRIEFING

- Phil Gingrey (R-11), 3rd term, re-elected with 71%
- John Barrow (D-12), 2nd term, re-elected with 50.3%
- David Scott (D-13), 3rd term, re-elected with 69%

STATE GOVERNMENT

Governor Sonny Perdue (R), 2nd term, re-elected in 2006 with 58%
Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle (R), 1st term, elected in 2006 with 54%
Attorney General Thurbert Baker (D), 3rd full term, re-elected in 2006 with 57%
Secretary of State Karen Handel (R), 1st term, elected with 54%
Commissioner of Insurance John Oxendine (R), 4th term, re-elected with 66%
State School Superintendent Kathy Cox (R), 2nd term, elected with 60%
Commissioner of Agriculture Tommy Irvin (D), served since 1969, re-elected with 56%
Commissioner of Labor Mike Thurmond (D), 3rd term, re-elected with 55%

State House: 180 (106R, 74D)
Speaker: Glenn Richardson (R)
Majority Leader: Jerry Keen (R)
Minority Leader: DuBose Porter (D)

State Senate: 56 (34R, 22D)
President: Lieutenant Governor Casey Cagle (R)
Majority Leader: Tommie Williams (R)
Minority Leader: Robert Brown (D)

STATE PARTY

Chairman: Alec Poitevint
National Committeeman: Alec Poitevint
National Committeewoman: Linda D. Herren

Note: Alec Poitevint was elected party Chairman in 2003 and retained his position as National Committeeman.

STATE DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Estimated Population 2000:

Georgia: 8,186,453, an increase of 26.4% since 1990

National: 281,421,906, an increase of 13.1% since 1990

GEORGIA BRIEFING

Race/Ethnicity:

Georgia: 62.6% White; 28.7% African-American; 5.3% Hispanic;
2.1% Asian; 0.3% American Indian

National: 69.1% White; 12.5% Hispanic; 12.3% African-American;
3.6% Asian; 0.9% American Indian

Median Age:

Georgia: 33.4 years (9.6% over the age of 65)

National: 35.3 years (12.4% are 65 years and older)

College Educated:

Georgia: 24.3%

National: 24.4%

Median Income:

Georgia: \$42,433

National: \$41,994

Households:

Georgia: 70.2% family households; 51.5% married couple families

National: 68.1% family households; 51.7% married couple families

(Source: 2000 U.S. Census)

YOUR PREVIOUS TRAVEL

Event	Date	Location
Visits with Military Personnel and Families	January 11, 2007	Fort Benning
Georgia Victory 2006 Rally	October 31, 2006	Perry
Georgia Victory 2006 Rally	October 30, 2006	Statesboro
Photo-Op and Remarks at Mac Collins for Congress Reception	October 10, 2006	Macon
Remarks on the Global War on Terror and Photo-Op and Remarks at Max Burns for Congress Reception	September 7, 2006	Atlanta Pooler
Remarks at Georgia Republican Party's President's Day Dinner	March 9, 2006	College Park
Homegoing Celebration for Mrs. Coretta Scott King	February 7, 2006	Lithonia
Conversation on Senior Security	July 22, 2005	Atlanta
Victory '04 Fundraiser	May 17, 2004	Atlanta
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ALABAMA BRIEFING

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Photo Op and Remarks at Bob Riley for Governor Luncheon	September 28, 2006	Birmingham
Briefing on Energy and Press Statement	September 28, 2006	Hoover
Demonstration of Nanotechnology Research; Remarks on the American Competitiveness Initiative; Meeting with Families of Fallen Soldiers and the Family of a Fallen Marine	April 19, 2006	Tuskegee
Briefing on Hurricane Damage and Aerial Tour of Hurricane Damage	September 2, 2005	Mobile
Conversation on Strengthening Social Security	March 10, 2005	Montgomery
Aerial Tour of Hurricane Damage; Walking Tour of Hurricane Damage; and Statement to Responders at Fire and Rescue Station 1	September 19, 2004	Orange Beach
Meeting with Small Business Owners and Remarks on the Economy	November 3, 2003	Birmingham
Victory 2002 Rally	October 24, 2002	Auburn
Roundtable and Remarks on the Economy and Fundraiser for Congressman Bob Riley	July 15, 2002	Birmingham
Land and Water Conservation Event; Meeting with Local Religious Leaders; and Fundraiser with Senator Sessions	June 21, 2001	Birmingham

From: Karl Rove <kr@georgewbush.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 6, 2004 2:27 PM
To: MSchlapp@gwb43.com; Susan Ralston <sralston@georgewbush.com>
Subject: Fw: (no subject)
Attach: SPR626.doc

-----Original Message-----

From: Hwymanspr@aol.com <Hwymanspr@aol.com>

To: Hwymanspr@aol.com <Hwymanspr@aol.com>

Sent: Tue Apr 06 13:13:19 2004

Subject: (no subject)

D <<SPR626.doc>> ear Subscriber:

Attached please find SPR #626, which looks at current speculation about 2006 races, as well as recent developments in Alabama and Georgia.

Hastings Wyman

Note: This issue is several days early to accommodate personal travel.

SOUTHERN POLITICAL REPORT

Covering the Politics and Politicians of Alabama,
Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana,
Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma,
South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia



Number 626, April 12, 2004

Looking to 2006

Not all the political focus is on this fall. In two years, Southern voters will be choosing seven governors and five US Senators and a lot of politicians plan ahead. Here is what we're hearing about the outlook for 2006.

Alabama: Democrats Line Up

With Gov. **Bob Riley** (R) having low approval ratings following his major defeat last year on a tax restructuring proposal, lots of Democrats are sending signals they might run for governor in two years. Ex-Gov. **Don Siegelman** (D), who barely lost to Riley in 2002 (48.9% to 49.1%) has made no secret of his ambition to serve as governor again. Lt. Gov. **Lucy Baxley** (D) is also a strong possibility for the race. House Speaker **Seth Hammett** has stated publicly that he's considering the race. And ex-Gov. **Jim Folsom, Jr.**, 54, who served two years following the impeachment of Gov. **Guy Hunt** (R) then lost to **Fob James** (R), is also hinting that he might run.

There are even rumblings on the GOP side. "I would fully expect him to have a primary opponent," says one knowledgeable insider (R). The big name getting attention is ex-state Supreme Court Justice **Roy Moore**. Other names bandied about include state Sen. **Bill**

Armistead, who lost (47%-51%) a bid for lieutenant governor in 2002, and **Tim James**, son of ex-Gov. **Fob James** (R) and an unsuccessful (9% in the primary) 2002 gubernatorial contender. Another key player says the governor is "doing all the right things" to bring his party and the public back to his side and adds, "2006 is still an eternity away."

Arkansas: Open Governor's Race

After serving 10½ years as the Razorback State's CEO, Gov. **Mike Huckabee** (R) is term-limited. So in 2006, for the first time since 1978 Arkansas will not have an incumbent governor seeking re-election.

This rare opportunity has not gone unnoticed by the state's politicians. On the GOP side, Lt. Gov. **Win Rockefeller**, who doubles as chairman of the state GOP, has made clear he intends to try to step up to the top spot. Given his name, his money and his record of public service, he's probably the favorite on the Republican side, but that doesn't mean he might not have a primary opponent. Former Congressman **Asa Hutchinson**, currently number two to **Tom Ridge** in the Homeland Security department, might come home to run for governor, especially if he doesn't get his



wish to succeed **John Ashcroft** as US Attorney General in a second Bush term.

There is also no lack of potential gubernatorial candidates among Democrats. The biggest name could be that of **Wesley Clark**, who still resides in Little Rock following his failed presidential bid. More locally wired is state Attorney General **Mike Beebe**, a long-time state senator, who has made clear he intends to run for governor. US Rep. **Mike Ross** – who has no opponent this year – “has put out feelers,” says a Little Rock insider. And so has US Rep. **Marion Berry**. In any case, look for lively 2006 contests in both party primaries and in November.

Florida: Two Major Races

First Brother Gov. **Jeb Bush** (R) will be term-limited in 2006 so there’s already talk about candidates to succeed him. On the Republican side, **Tom Gallagher** (R), the state’s chief financial officer, is the name most often mentioned. Gallagher and the governor have been appearing together around the state in a campaign to block the high-cost bullet train. This has led some to speculate that Gov. Bush might end up supporting Gallagher.

Another GOP name, however, is also close to Gov. Bush, that of Lt. Gov. **Toni Jennings**, who was personally tapped for the job by the governor. Indeed, there was speculation that Bush picked Jennings in 2000 to head off Gallagher. A third GOPer who might run is Attorney General **Charlie Crist**, who defeated a strong Democratic foe by 53%-47% in 2002.

On the Democratic side, freshman US Sen. **Bill Nelson** is frequently mentioned. In addition, US Reps. **Jim Davis** and **Alan Boyd** are the subjects of gubernatorial speculation. Miami-Dade Mayor **Alex Penelas** – if he runs well but loses his current US Senate race –

might run. Nelson’s US Senate seat will also be up in 2006. Even if Nelson seeks re-election, US Reps. **Kathryn Harris** and **Mark Foley** could end up competing in a primary for the Republican nomination. (They also get mentioned for governor, but not as often.)

Georgia: Two Major Democrats

Gov. **Sonny Perdue** (R) has a mixed record as governor. He didn’t get all he wanted in the state flag brouhaha, but the issue did get settled. He got his way on a child endangerment law, but not what he wanted on the state HOPE scholarship program. He got only a portion of his revenue proposals passed last year. But 51% of voters still approve of Perdue’s performance in office to 33% who disapprove, according to a late February poll taken by InsiderAdvantage/Marketing Workshop for a group of media clients.

While Democrats have had a tough time finding a first-team candidate for this year’s US Senate race, the opposite is true for the 2006 gubernatorial contest. Two major vote-getters, wealthy Lt. Gov. **Mark Taylor** (D) and popular Secretary of State **Cathy Cox** (D), are expected to fight it out in the primary for the nomination to challenge Perdue.

Taylor comes from a wealthy family and has a history of big campaign spending. In 1987, for example, he spent \$236,000 in a successful bid for the state senate – an unheard of amount for that office at that time. He also benefits from 11 years in the state senate, including a stint as floor leader for Gov. **Zell Miller**. And he has a strong anti-crime record.

Cox may have less money, but should gain from her strong support from women, who made up 57% of Democratic primary voters in 2002. Moreover, since incumbent Perdue isn’t likely to have opposition for the GOP



nomination, there may be few important contests on the Republican primary ballot, which might encourage Republican and independent women to vote in the Democratic primary for Cox. Now in her second term as Secretary of State, she has made a name for herself in consumer protection.

How strong Perdue will be next year may depend in part on the legislature elected this fall. If the GOP holds the Senate as expected and gets control of the House, or comes close, then Perdue might have a better record to take to Georgia voters. In any case, look for a hard-fought contest.

Mississippi: Will Lott Stay Put?

US Sen. **Trent Lott** (R), whose fall from power as Senate Majority Leader left him with considerably less clout, hasn't decided whether he wants to run for re-election. "Every few weeks I change my mind" about whether he'll run again, says a Capitol Hill insider. "My personal opinion is that he won't run again," says a journalist. If he does run, he's a shoo-in. If he doesn't, look for a battle royal to succeed him. Attorney General **Mike Moore** (D) is a likely Democratic candidate; he chairs the tobacco-settlement-funded "Partnership for a Healthy Mississippi" that has an office in each county. There's also talk that ex-Gov. **Ronnie Musgrove** (D), who is still popular among African-Americans, might run. For the GOP, four-term US Rep. **Chip Pickering** (R) has achieved extra prominence as a result of **President Bush**'s recess appointment of Pickering Senior to the federal appellate court, much to the chagrin of US Sen. **Ted Kennedy** (D-MA) and **Charles Schumer** (D-NY).

Oklahoma: GOP vs. Henry

In 2002 Sooner State governor's race, **Brad Henry** (D) benefited from a well-financed

independent candidacy that took votes away from the GOP. Moreover, Henry touted a state lottery, which the GOP's **Steve Largent**, the early favorite, opposed. It also didn't help that during the campaign conservative Christian Largent publicly uttered an expletive in anger at a reporter. In any case, Henry won with 43% of the vote. In office, he's had a good run, working with legislative leaders in both parties. His lottery proposal is on the ballot this fall and faces some religious-based opposition. For now, however, Henry is enjoying a good approval rating – 68%.

Nevertheless, Henry's lack of a majority in 2002 is spurring GOP opposition. The most likely challenger is Lt. Gov. **Mary Fallin**, a good vote-getter in her third term in the number two spot. Fallin pushes her economic development record and the interests of working women. Ex-US Rep. **J. C. Watts** also gets mentioned – he would be very strong.

South Carolina: Sanford in Primary?

Gov. **Mark Sanford** (R), the first Republican governor since Reconstruction to preside over a GOP-controlled legislature, has a schizophrenic record so far. On the one hand, he's very popular, with approval ratings of 70%. On the other, lawmakers, including those in his own party, are seriously disaffected by what they regard as his grand-standing tactics. He recently vetoed a major economic development bill over "bobtailing," i.e., the attachment of local spending projects. His veto was promptly over-ridden by 41 to 5 in the Senate and 98 to 24 in the House. Then he threatened to sue the legislature. In a recent radio interview, he urged voters to defeat incumbent legislators – including Republicans – who voted to override his veto. As a result, "there's a lot of speculation that he might be challenged" in the 2006 Republican primary, says **Lee Bandy**, *The State* newspaper's long-



time political columnist. Those mentioned include state Rep. **Bobby Harrell** (R) of Charleston, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee, and House Speaker **David Wilkins** (R) of Greenville. Wilkins recently met with the governor and the two agreed to cooperate on Sanford's agenda. Whether that truce will hold remains to be seen. In the meantime, Sanford is "raising a lot of money and will have a big war chest" in 2006, says Bandy. (Note: One lawmaker [R] says that there's talk that Sanford won't run again, so he can prepare for a 2008 presidential bid.)

On the Democratic side, state Rep. **Doug Jennings**, a former House Minority Leader, has publicly indicated that he's considering the race. Also getting mentioned is state Sen. **Tommy Moore**. And should state Superintendent of Education **Inez Tenenbaum** run a good but losing race for the US Senate, she could seek the governorship.

Tennessee: Open Senate Seat?

With not a lot of hot contests on the ballot this fall, Volunteer State politicians are starting to focus on the election two years hence. Not, however, on the governor's race. Gov. **Phil Bredesen** (D) is so popular – "in the 70s," says a journalist – that there's not much talk about who will oppose him. But there is a widespread assumption that US Senate Majority Leader **Bill Frist** (R) will step down in 2006 – to run for president in 2008 – leaving a much-fought over vacancy.

On the Democratic side, the focus is on US Rep. **Harold Ford, Jr.**, the 33-year-old son of ex-US Rep. **Harold Ford, Sr.** Young Ford is a black politician who is also popular with many white voters. "He's a good campaigner," notes a journalist, who believes that Ford's race "will be a wash," helping him with black turnout, but hurting with some whites. Other

Democrats getting mentioned include US Rep. **Bob Clement**, ex-National Transportation Safety Board chair **Jim Hall** and Nashville Mayor **Bill Purcell**.

For the GOP, prospective US Senate candidates include ex-US Rep. **Ed Bryant**, who lost the 2002 primary to **Lamar Alexander** (43% to 54%); five-term US Rep. **Zach Wamp**, who's been talking about the race; ex-US Rep. **Van Hilleary**, who lost (48% to 51%) to Bredesen in 2002; Chattanooga Mayor **Bob Corker**, who lost the primary to Frist (32% to 44%) in '94; state Rep. **Beth Harwell**, chair of the Tennessee GOP; and freshman US Rep. **Marsha Blackburn**, one of the *National Journal's* ten most conservative members of the House.

Texas: Hot GOP Primary Likely

Gov. **Rick Perry** (R) is up for re-election next year and he'll get opposition, but it's likely to be more formidable in the primary than in the General Election. Two Republicans, Comptroller **Carol Strayhorn** and US Sen. **Kay Bailey Hutchison**, are both potential challengers to Perry.

Strayhorn, a longtime rival of the governor, "has been marking territory on a daily basis," in anticipation of a gubernatorial bid, says Quorum Report publisher **Harvey Kronberg**. Just last week, Strayhorn told the Texas Association of Counties that Perry had failed the state by – among other sins – taking health insurance from children. When the governor led a successful effort to strip Strayhorn's office of some of its key powers, "it only made her fiercer," says Kronberg. She's already put together a substantial campaign kitty.

Hutchison is also a strong bet to run for governor. She has been focusing on federal, not state issues, in her current job, which may



help her by leaving her unscathed from recent state political wars, or may hurt her, because she'll be unprepared for local concerns. Whether both Strayhorn and Hutchison would run for Perry's job, making it a three-way primary, is unclear. Some think that if Hutchison runs, Strayhorn won't.

On the Democratic side, ex-US Rep. **Jim Turner** (D), who lost his congressional seat in the recent redistricting, may run. While the GOP looks strong today, a bloody Republican primary could enhance Democratic chances.

If Sen. Hutchison decides to seek re-election, she'll be a strong favorite. However, a number of politicians in both parties are getting mentioned for the US Senate if Hutchison steps down to run for governor. On the GOP side, the names of Lt. Gov. **David Dewhurst** and Attorney General **Greg Abbot** are getting attention. Among Democrats, ex-mayor of Dallas **Ron Kirk**, who ran a respectable (43%) senatorial race in 2002, might run again. Another possibility is wealthy Houston attorney **Barbara Radnofsky**, a partner in the prominent Vinson and Elkins law firm.

Alabama: Moore Allies Run

When the filing deadline passed on April 2, a number of candidates filed who are closely associated with former state Supreme Court Chief Justice **Roy Moore**. In the 6th **District** (Birmingham, etc.), **Phillip Jauregui**, the attorney who represented Moore, filed in the Republican primary against six-term US Rep. **Spencer Bachus** (R). Moore promptly endorsed Jauregui, who has tied himself to Moore and his advocacy of religion in public life. Bachus, however, has supported legislation in Congress that would prevent federal courts from hearing cases involving government acknowledgement of God. With about \$1 million on hand after the 1st quarter,

he won't be a push-over in the June 1 primary, but the challenge will be serious.

In addition, **Tom Parker**, a spokesman for Moore, has filed in the Republican primary to challenge state Supreme Court Justice **Jean Brown**, one of the justices who voted to remove Moore's two-and-a-half ton Ten Commandments monument from the state Supreme Court lobby. And **Win Johnson**, another Moore attorney, has filed as a Republican to challenge Civil Appeals Judge **Sharon Yates** (D). If Jauregui, et al., are able to co-opt Moore's popularity among Christian conservatives and win their races, Moore's influence in Alabama politics – and perhaps nationally as well – is sure to grow.

Bachus is not the only Alabama congressman to get a major foe. In the 3rd **District** (Auburn, etc.), freshman US Rep. **Mike Rogers** (R) drew opposition on the last day of filing from ex-state Rep. **Bill Fuller** (D). Fuller served five terms in the legislature, where he chaired the influential state House Ways and Means Committee, and later was the state's Department of Human Resources Commissioner. Fuller's entry into the race against a freshman GOPer in a marginal district fills a gaping hole in the Democrats' efforts to gain seats this fall. Rogers, however, has been preparing: As of the 1st Quarter, he had some \$910,000 cash on hand.

7th District (Birmingham, etc.) Freshman US Rep. **Artur Davis** (D), who defeated controversial US Rep. **Earl Hilliard** (D) in the primary in 2002, will have a primary battle of his own. **Albert Turner Jr.**, a county commissioner and son of a prominent civil rights figure, filed against Davis. A survey taken for Davis last December, by Anzalone-Liszt, showed Davis would defeat Turner by 70% to 9%. At the end of 2003, Davis had \$241,000 in his war chest. Davis, whose



manner – if not his politics – is moderate, could lose votes for not having the “in your face” style that many black voters liked in Hilliard. Both candidates are African-Americans, as is a majority of the district.

Grits

Court to Settle Texas 28 Race. The Texas Democratic Executive Committee declined to order a second recount, meaning that challenger **Henry Cuellar**, a former Texas secretary of state, defeated three-term US Rep. **Ciro Rodriguez** (D) for the party’s congressional nomination. The recount changed Rodriguez’s 145 victory in the March 9 primary to a 203 vote victory for Cuellar, mainly as a result of additional ballots found in two Cuellar strongholds. Rodriguez will challenge the recount findings in court. A GOPer will run in November, but the district is heavily Democratic.In the 10th District (Austin to Houston), a Public Opinion Strategies poll taken Mar. 14-15 for **Ben Streusand** gives him 47% to **Mike McCaul**’s 29% in the April 13 GOP runoff. No Democrat is running in this solid Republican district.

Peach Basket Turnover. A number of political careers are changing in the wake of US Rep. **Denise Majette**’s (D) surprise decision to run for the US Senate (which SPR cued you to ahead of time in our last issue). While Majette, a liberal African American, isn’t likely to be strong in November, her support among black voters should help her in the primary, where she may face stiff competition from millionaire **Cliff Oxford**. In the 4th District (DeKalb, etc.), local politicians are not ceding the seat to ex-US Rep. **Cynthia McKinney**, who lost to Majette in 2002 and is running again. The first to announce was Atlanta City Council President **Cathy Woolard** (SPR forecast this one, too). State Sen. **Nadine Thomas**, a former ally of McKinney who had been running for the US Senate, has entered the congressional race instead. State Sen. **Liane Levetan** and state Labor Commissioner **Michael Thurmond** have not yet decided whether they will run. Potential contenders who announced they will not run include **Vernon Jones**, chief executive officer of the DeKalb County Council, and state Rep. **Teresa Greene-**

Johnson. The filing deadline is April 30. The district is heavily Democratic.Since legislative redistricting, one state representative has switched from D to R; two more Democrats are expected to follow suit when the current session ends.

Isakson Ahead in Georgia. According to a poll taken Mar. 8-10 by American Viewpoint for **Johnny Isakson**, he leads among likely primary voters, with 50% to 13% for **Mac Collins** and 10% for **Herman Cain**. Collins, a more socially conservative congressman than Isakson, has tried to use the abortion issue against Isakson. However, Isakson’s strong stand against partial-birth abortions has stood him in good stead with the state’s large number of Christian conservatives. Moreover, Cain, an African-American conservative with Club for Growth backing, has been on TV and begun to cut into Collins’ support among the GOP right. Isakson also had high name ID – 87% to Collins’ 62% and Cain’s 46%.

Tenenbaum Leads in South Carolina. Democrat **Inez Tenenbaum**, the state superintendent of education, leads the top three GOP contenders in the race to succeed US Sen. **Fritz Hollings** (D), according to a survey taken for her March 14-18 by Harrison Hickman. Tenenbaum led ex-Gov. **David Beasley** 46% to 41%, ex-state Attorney General **Charlie Condon** 47% to 40% and US Rep. **Jim DeMint** 48% to 33%. The poll also found that Tenenbaum was better known than any of the Republicans except Beasley. Tenenbaum got more good news when **Marcus Belk**, an openly gay retailer, decided not to file in the Democratic primary, removing a nuisance for the frontrunner.

Bunning Hit for Joke. US Sen. **Jim Bunning** (R), frontrunner in his bid for a second term this fall, got in hot water last week for quipping that his opponent, state Sen. **Daniel Mongiardo** (D), looks like one of **Saddam Hussein**’s sons. The Mongiardo campaign slammed back that Bunning was guilty of making an ethnic slur. In his 2002 state senate campaign, Mongiardo accused his Republican opponent of running an ad that compared Mongiardo’s looks to those of **Mohammed Atta**, one of the 9-11 hijackers.

Susan Ralston

From: Susan Ralston
Sent: 12/21/2005 3:52:01 PM
To: Mina Nguyen - Government Affairs
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: White House Bulletin: 12/21/05

See this item from the Bulletin below. Does it make sense to forward to Sam Mok to get to Asian Week and others?

Despite Rumors, Key Rove Aide Susan Ralston Not Leaving White House. Susan Ralston, a top aide to Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove, has not quit and has no plans of leaving the White House despite a wave of rumors in the foreign press about her departure. Reached at her West Wing desk today, she assured U.S. News and the Bulletin that after five years in the job she remains "very much committed" to Rove and President Bush and that the reports about her departure were surprising. Described as the most influential Filipino-American in the administration, she is watched very carefully by the island nation's press. The First Philippine News reported earlier this month that she had quit, citing the work burden in the West Wing. She also recently testified in the CIA-Valerie Plame spy case. But, she says, nobody from the news agency ever called to confirm that she remains in place. In fact, associates said that Rove has fought to keep her on the job where she manages much of his day. What was more surprising about the reports, said insiders, was that Ralston's portfolio has actually expanded and she is now also in charge of developing and producing all presidential message events, an office that has been kept very busy as the President has sought to build public support for the war and as he enters the hectic budget and State of the Union period. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*

-----Original Message-----

THE WHITE HOUSE ***BULLETIN***

BULLETIN NEWS NETWORK, INC. • 7915 JONES BRANCH DRIVE, SUITE 6200 • MCLEAN, VA 22102 • FAX (703)749-0060 • TEL (703)749-0040

SUBJECT: TODAY'S BRIEFING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005

OFF THE WIRES:

- **Saddam Claims To Have Been Beaten In Prison.** After listening quietly to several hours of testimony from witnesses who claim to have been tortured under his regime, Saddam Hussein engaged in a long outburst in which he said he has been beaten while in detention. Saddam told the court, "Yes, I have been beaten, everywhere on my body. The marks are still there."
Several witnesses were testifying against Saddam today. Ali Hassan al-Haidari said he and other residents from Dujail, where there was an assassination attempt on Saddam in the early 1980s, were taken to Baghdad and thrown into a prison where people aged nine to 90 were held. He said guards applied electric shocks to detainees, and that they also heated up plastic tubing and allowed the hot plastic to drip onto the bodies of victims. "I cannot express all that suffering and pain we faced in the 70 days inside," he said. Haidari also testified that former intelligence chief Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, who is also standing trial, kicked him once as he was lying in the hallway. Haidari told the court that Barzan "said to the guards, 'Do not treat him; this family does not deserve to live.'"

RNC-HJC-003510

was in pain for weeks because of that kick.” He also said that while Saddam was not directly involved, “at that time no one acted on his own unless orders were given by Saddam. I hold Saddam responsible for detaining me and my family and ruining my future.”

- **Pakistan Moves Against Insurgents.** Pakistani helicopters attacked two suspected training camps for insurgents in the southwestern province of Baluchistan today and ground troops later seized heavy weapons and ammunition, a military spokesman said today. Lt. Col. Hassan Jamil said there were no casualties and no arrests, however. Jamil also said that in separate attacks, suspected rebels fired eight rockets at three military bases in the area, but nobody was hurt. Tribal leaders say many people have been killed in military operations since Sunday, but Jamil said he could not confirm any deaths.
- **New Round Of Negotiations On Iranian Nuclear Program Begins.** European and Iranian negotiators reopened talks over Iran’s nuclear program today in Vienna. Iranian delegate Mohammad Mehdi Akhonzadeh said the first session was a good one, adding, “We expressed our views and came to know each other. It’s too early to talk about results. We’ll know more after the second session this afternoon.” Going into the talks, European diplomats were pessimistic, saying the meetings were unlikely to deter Iran from enriching uranium.
- **3rd Quarter GDP Revised Slightly Downward.** The Department of Commerce this morning revised 3rd quarter GDP downward to 4.1 percent in its third and final report on economic growth during that period. Commerce had originally reported at 4.3 percent rate of growth. Despite the revision, the 3rd quarter growth rate was the strongest gain since the 1st quarter of 2004. The price index for personal consumption was also revised up to a 3.7 percent gain, up from a 3.6 percent estimate earlier. The core index, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, rose 1.4 percent, up from the previous estimate of 1.2 percent.

Snow Credits Fed, Bush Policies For High Growth. Treasury Secretary John Snow said, “We owe the resilience of the US economy to the American entrepreneurs and workers whose creativity and adaptability have kept our economy growing. Sound monetary policy from the Federal Reserve and the pro-growth economic strategy pursued by President Bush have laid the groundwork for the sustained economic growth that has created 4.5 million new jobs over the past two and a half years and has helped the economy continue its solid performance despite the difficulties presented in the third quarter.”

IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND AROUND TOWN:

- **Cheney Provides Vote That Puts Budget Bill Over The Top In Senate.** Vice President Dick Cheney cut short a Mideast diplomatic mission to be in Washington just in case his vote was needed for key end of the year legislation in the Senate. On the first big vote of the day, a bill to cut spending by nearly \$40 billion over five years, Cheney’s vote was needed. He broke a 50-50 tie. However, because of a small change to the bill, the House will need to act on the bill once more, probably tomorrow. The budget vote might also be a bad portent for Senate GOP leaders, who believed they would probably prevail on the budget vote today, but thought the vote on the defense appropriations bill would be even tighter.
- **Bush Lobbies For Patriot Act, Defense Spending.** President Bush today gave very brief remarks this morning that kept him on the political offense on defense issues, urging the Senate to pass a defense appropriations bill – which is facing difficulty over added measures like ANWR drilling – and the Patriot Act, which some senators are balking at, particularly in light of the revelations of NSA spying on Americans. In his remarks today, President Bush said, “The Senate is debating two very important measures, and I urge the United States Senate to pass the defense appropriations bill. It is an important piece of legislation that provides necessary funding for our troops who are fighting in Afghanistan and in Iraq and who are serving our country around the world. It’s an obligation of every member of the United States Senate to provide necessary funding for our troops on the front lines so that we can fight and win the war on terror.”

Regarding the Patriot Act, Bush said, “In order to protect America, the United States Senate must reauthorize the Patriot Act. The terrorists still want to hit us again. There’s an enemy that lurks, a dangerous group of people that want to do harm to the American people, and we must have the tools necessary to protect the American people. The Patriot Act passed overwhelmingly shortly after the September the 11th attack. It has been an effective tool. It has worked.

“At the same time as we protected the American people using the Patriot Act, we’ve also protected their civil liberties. There is extensive oversight on this very important program. The Patriot Act tore down the wall between law enforcement and intelligence communities, which makes it easier to connect the dots before an attack. The Patriot Act also gave law enforcement tools to investigate terrorism that they have already got to investigate other types of crimes. The Patriot Act is scheduled to expire at the end of the year. The terrorist threat is not going to expire at the end of this year. The House has voted to reauthorize the Patriot Act, and they left town because they thought -- because their business is finished. The Senate is still debating this issue.

“A majority of the United States Senate supports reauthorization. A minority of senators is filibustering and preventing the Senate from voting to renew the Patriot Act. The Senate Democratic leader recently boasted about killing the Patriot Act. This obstruction is inexcusable. The senators obstructing the Patriot Act need to understand that the expiration of this vital law will endanger America and will leave us in a weaker position in the fight against brutal killers. It’s important that the Senate act quickly on these two bills.”

Leahy Pushes Extension, Calls Bush Argument “Irresponsible.” Sen. Pat Leahy also held a press conference this

morning, along with Republican colleague Sen. John Sununu, to urge an extension of the current law. Leahy also appeared to lob an indirect volley at President Bush, calling remarks about what would happen if the Patriot Act were to expire "irresponsible." President Bush has been making that argument as backers of reauthorizing the Act are using the imminent expiration date to pressure lawmakers to vote for reauthorization.

In his remarks this morning, Leahy said, "We have suggested...a brief extension just to give everybody a bit of time, take a deep breath, let some common sense come in here, shed some light on what we're doing and get a better bill. Its clear our extension Bill would pass overwhelmingly. It would pass overwhelmingly if it's allowed to come to a vote, and as soon as it became apparent that the conference report could not pass and there wouldn't be any change on the votes if we a revote on cloture, I went to Senator Sununu, offered to join with him in a three-month extension to work out a better bill. We had bipartisan support of that."

Noting that 52 senators are on record in favor of an extension, and arguing many more than that will support it, Leahy added, "Remember, every single senator, Republican and Democrat, voted in July to amend and extend the existing Patriot Act. It passed out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously. Those of you that know that committee know it would go across the whole spectrum of political thought. This bipartisan solution was cast aside unfortunately, even though we're making progress, when some of the administration pushed those of us who wanted to amend it, pushed us out of that conference and now we are where we are. So we've come together, Republicans and Democrats, for a short-term extension. This is not a time to make irresponsible statements about what happens to this nation if the Patriot Act were to expire. All of us wanted to secure the nation. Just as we came together [after] 9/11, nobody said, wait, this happened in the Bush administration. That wasn't the thing. We said this happened to Americans, and Americans of both parties came together. We should do the same. A country would have a lot -- our country would have a lot more credibility here and abroad if we did that. So let's make the extra effort to produce a balanced Patriot Act, a consensus Patriot Act, balance our security needs with American civil liberties, a balanced consensus bill is what we need. We are founded as a country on those principals. We could protect our liberties and our securities."

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argued that by converting hostile nations to democracies, the US is "laying that foundation for peace for generations to come." Citing Japan's conversion to democracy in the post-WWII era, Bush said, "And one of my predecessors, Harry Truman, recognized the power of freedom to transform an enemy into an ally, that's what happened. And so Japan adopted a Japanese-style democracy, and in that, democracies don't fight each other; in that, democracy is the best way to encourage a peaceful world. It's working."

Bush added, "And what we're seeing today is brave troops and committed citizens who are not only determined to chase down the killers and bring them to justice before they hurt us again, but understand that by spreading freedom and democracy, we're battling an ideology of darkness with an ideology of hope, and we're laying that foundation for peace for generations to come. The task at hand is one that requires determination and discipline and great faith in the ideals of human freedom and human liberty. And so coming here today is a chance to not only thank you for being a part of this incredible team of healers, but also being a part of this historic moment. Some day, an American president will be sitting down with a duly elected leader of Iraq, working hard to keep the peace, and future generations of America will be saying, thank God this generation of America stood strong for what we believe."

- **Johanns Says Billions More Needed To Prepare For Bird Flu Outbreak.** Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said today that billions of dollars are needed to better prepare for the possibility of a bird flu outbreak. Johanns' comments came as the Senate considers appropriating \$3.8 billion for bird flu preparedness which was included in the defense bill passed by the House Monday. The Agriculture Department would get approximately \$100 million of that money. Johanns told the AP, "We'll absolutely do the best we can with the resources we have. Needless to say, that would really help our efforts here."

Mad Cow Inspections To Be Scaled Back. Johanns also said the government will scale back its testing for mad cow disease soon. After the first US case was reported two years ago, officials increased testing from about 55 per day to about 1,000. Officials have tested more than 550,000 animals and turned up one case of mad cow, in Texas in June.

- **Despite Rumors, Key Rove Aide Susan Ralston Not Leaving White House.** Susan Ralston, a top aide to Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove, has not quit and has no plans of leaving the White House despite a wave of rumors in the foreign press about her departure. Reached at her West Wing desk today, she assured U.S. News and the Bulletin that after five years in the job she remains "very much committed" to Rove and President Bush and that the reports about her departure were surprising. Described as the most influential Filipino-American in the administration, she is watched very carefully by the island nation's press. The First Philippine News reported earlier this month that she had quit, citing the work burden in the West Wing. She also recently testified in the CIA-Valerie Plame spy case. But, she says, nobody from the news agency ever called to confirm that she remains in place. In fact, associates said that Rove has fought to keep her on the job where she manages much of his day. What was more surprising about the reports, said insiders, was that Ralston's portfolio has actually expanded and she is now also in charge of developing and producing all presidential message events, an office that has been kept very busy as the President has sought to build public support for the war and as he enters the hectic budget and State of the Union period. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*

- **White House Upbeat About 2006.** President Bush and his White House strategists believe the administration is ending the year on an upbeat note and they see signs that 2006 will bring a recovery of the President's political fortunes. Vice President Cheney's breaking a tie in the Senate this morning to win passage for legislation cutting the federal deficit by \$39.7 billion is the latest positive sign. White House insiders say this shows that the White House and the Republican majority in Congress can still work their will despite increasingly determined Democratic opposition and doubts about the president's agenda from a handful of GOP moderates. Bush thinks the country will side with him on the domestic spying furor that has erupted in the past few days. Bush is still feeling upbeat about the generally smooth Iraqi election last week. He is confident the Senate will soon approve his nominee Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. And White House advisers note an uptick in his job-approval numbers and support for the war in Iraq, at least in some polls. "The President is feeling quite good about where things are headed," a senior White House official told U.S. News and the Bulletin.

- **Bush Poll Bounce Cheers GOP Congressional Leaders.** President Bush's mild bounce in public approval polls -- for the first time in a while, a major national poll has him above 45% in job approval -- has also helped GOP lawmakers, making it less likely that the Republicans will lose control of either house, according to strategists for both Democratic and Republican House and Senate campaign committees. "That's great for us," a House Republican leadership aide said of the President's new poll up tick. One poll even found that the job approval rating of Congress is about 65 percent, up from recent polling. However, on the Republican side look for House and Senate members to stick with a non-Washington theme in the 2006 midterms. "Local, local, local, that's our motto," says a Republican strategist. "It worked well in 2002 and 2004 and should do well in 2006." Democrats, who had dreamed of taking control of the House if the President's numbers continued to plummet, are now looking to pick up five to eight House seats and some two Senate seats. Unclear, add Democratic advisors, is how many others they may get if Republicans linked to the Abramoff lobbying affair abruptly quit. Another Democratic strategist added that any House and Senate pickups could be limited if the party doesn't agree on a unified message on Iraq and immigration. "Ultimately, we're going to need to do a better job," he said. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*

- **Pirro To End NY Senate Campaign, Run For State Attorney General.** Republican Jeanine Pirro has decided to end her campaign for the party's nomination to challenge Sen. Hillary Clinton and will run instead for state attorney general, two Republicans familiar with the situation told the AP today. They said an announcement could come as early as tomorrow.

- o **Political Notes. President. Sen. Hillary Clinton** said on the Senate floor yesterday that if GOP budget cuts go into effect, it will indirectly increase the number of abortions, the AP reports. ... Roll Call reports that House GOP leaders plan to push for legislation regulating 527 groups early next year after the current version of the legislation was pulled from the 2006 Defense authorization bill during conference.

Governors. Former Alabama Gov. **Don Siegelman** (D), who is running to reclaim his old job, told the AP that he is concerned that current corruption charges against him will not go to trial in sufficient time to allow him to wage an effective primary campaign if his name is cleared at trial. ... The Boston Herald reports this morning Massachusetts **Attorney General Tom Reilly** (D) is successfully rallying a number of state Democratic lawmakers to his side in his battle with **Deval Patrick** (D) for their party's gubernatorial nod. ... The Wisconsin State Journal reports today that authorities examining a state travel contract given to a major donor to **Gov. Jim Doyle's** (D) campaign has expanded its investigation to look for links between donations from utility executives and the approval of the sale of a nuclear power plant by state regulators.

Senate. Roll Call reports today that the DSCC "raised \$3.6 million in November, boosting its total to \$38.7 million collected this year, with \$16.7 million remaining in the bank. The NRSC raised \$2.3 million last month, bringing its total to \$33 million collected this year, with \$9 million on hand." ... The Bradenton Herald reports that AFL-CIO members held a press conference outside of a district office of **Rep. Katherine Harris** (R), who is running for Senate, to highlight her "voting record against working families." ... Roll Call reports today that former Majority Leader Dick Armey (R) announced earlier this week that he is backing ex-Rep. **Ed Bryant** in the three-way GOP Tennessee Senate primary.

House. Roll Call reports today that the NRCC "raised \$3.7 million in November, compared to \$2.45 million for the DCCC. The NRCC led the DCCC in cash on hand \$19.5 million to \$11.24 million, but the DCCC was also carrying a debt of \$1.9 million. The NRCC led the DCCC in total fundraising for the year, having amassed \$60.6 million to the DCCC's \$36.7 million." ... The San Diego Union Tribune reports that businessman **Ken King** (R) entered the **CA50** special election on Monday, while Escondido **Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler** (R) said she would not run. ... The Cincinnati Enquirer reports today that **OH2 Rep. Jean Schmidt** (R) is making automated recorded calls to her constituents despite the fact that her first act in Congress was to introduce a bill aimed at limiting such calls by political groups. ... Roll Call reports today that **Tyson Pratcher** (D), currently a staff member for **Sen. Hillary Clinton** (D), is leaving his job to return to Tennessee to run for the open **TN9** seat.

POLL WATCH:

54% Say Senate Should Confirm Alito Supreme Court Nomination. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1003 adults (+/- 3%), conducted over December 15-18, shows:

- 54% "think the US should confirm" Judge Samuel Alito's "nomination to the Supreme Court"; 28% think the Senate should not; 19% had no opinion.
- Informed that the Supreme Court "legalized abortion 32 years ago in a ruling known as Roe versus Wade," 61% said "if that case came before the court again," they "would want Alito to vote to uphold Roe versus Wade"; 35% said "vote to overturn it"; 4% had no opinion.
- 42% "would like to see the Supreme Court make it harder to get an abortion than it is now"; 11% said "easier to get an abortion than it is now"; 45% said "leave the ability to get an abortion the same as it is now"; 2% had no opinion.
- 17% said it is "extremely important" that "Alito agrees with your position on abortion"; 26% said "very important"; 38% said "somewhat important"; 17% said "less important"; 1% had no opinion.
- 17% "think abortion should be legal in all cases"; 40% said "most cases"; 27% said "illegal in most cases"; 13% said "illegal in all cases"; 3% had no opinion.

Consumer Confidence Continues To Rise In ABC News/WPost Poll. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1000 adults (+/- 3%) in the four weeks ending December 18 shows:

- The ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index "has gained 10 points in a month and a half, from -21 on Oct. 30 to -11 today on its scale of +100 to -100."
- 38% rate the national economy as excellent or good; 62% rate the economy as not good or poor.
- 59% rate their own finances as excellent or good; 41% rate their finances as not good or poor.
- 37% said now is an excellent time or a good time to buy the things they want and need; 63% said it is not a good time or a poor time.

LAST LAUGHS:

Late Night Political Humor.

Jay Leno: "They have got some great gadgets this year for Christmas. ... This cell phone that has caller ID, call waiting, text messaging and a flashing button to let you know when President Bush is eavesdropping on your calls."

Jay Leno: "That's the big story, you know. President Bush and this whole domestic spying thing. Remember the good old days when the only thing you had to worry about on your phone were telemarketers?"

Jay Leno: "Vice President Dick Cheney made a surprise visit to Iraq over the weekend. He met with the Iraqi prime minister who showed him his purple finger from the election. Then Cheney showed the Iraqi minister his purple fingers from bad circulation."

Jay Leno: "USC Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush announced he is available for the NFL draft. Actually, this also marks the first time in history the words 'Bush' and 'available for the draft' have ever appeared together in the same sentence."

David Letterman: "I don't know if you know about this, but New York City is in the middle of a transit strike and more bad news, they're sending in FEMA."

Conan O'Brien: "Due to the transit strike, New Yorkers are not allowed to drive into the city unless there are at least four people in every car. Yeah. The situation has become so desperate, some New Yorkers have been forced to talk to their neighbors."

Conan O'Brien: "Police are actually stopping cars to make sure they have four people. Yeah. As a result, Donald Trump had to come to work today with three chauffeurs."

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Susan Ralston

From: Susan Ralston
Sent: 12/21/2005 3:53:14 PM
To: 'rudy@shermanconsultinginc.com'; 'velligood@cox.net'; 'jlee@who.eop.gov'
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: White House Bulletin: 12/21/05

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-----Original Message-----

THE WHITE HOUSE ***BULLETIN***

BULLETIN NEWS NETWORK, INC. • 7915 JONES BRANCH DRIVE, SUITE 6200 • MCLEAN, VA 22102 • FAX (703)749-0060 • TEL (703)749-0040

SUBJECT: TODAY'S BRIEFING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005

OFF THE WIRES:

- **Saddam Claims To Have Been Beaten In Prison.** After listening quietly to several hours of testimony from witnesses who claim to have been tortured under his regime, Saddam Hussein engaged in a long outburst in which he said he has been beaten while in detention. Saddam told the court, "Yes, I have been beaten, everywhere on my body. The marks are still there."
Several witnesses were testifying against Saddam today. Ali Hassan al-Haidari said he and other residents from Dujail, where there was an assassination attempt on Saddam in the early 1980s, were taken to Baghdad and thrown into a prison where people aged nine to 90 were held. He said guards applied electric shocks to detainees, and that they also heated up plastic tubing and allowed the hot plastic to drip onto the bodies of victims. "I cannot express all that suffering and pain we faced in the 70 days inside," he said. Haidari also testified that former intelligence chief Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, who is also standing trial, kicked him once as he was lying in the hallway. Haidari told the court that Barzan "said to the guards, 'Do not treat him; this family does not deserve to live.' I was in pain for weeks because of that kick." He also said that while Saddam was not directly involved, "at that time no one acted on

RNC-HJC-003516

his own unless orders were given by Saddam. I hold Saddam responsible for detaining me and my family and ruining my future.”

- **Pakistan Moves Against Insurgents.** Pakistani helicopters attacked two suspected training camps for insurgents in the southwestern province of Baluchistan today and ground troops later seized heavy weapons and ammunition, a military spokesman said today. Lt. Col. Hassan Jamil said there were no casualties and no arrests, however. Jamil also said that in separate attacks, suspected rebels fired eight rockets at three military bases in the area, but nobody was hurt. Tribal leaders say many people have been killed in military operations since Sunday, but Jamil said he could not confirm any deaths.
- **New Round Of Negotiations On Iranian Nuclear Program Begins.** European and Iranian negotiators reopened talks over Iran's nuclear program today in Vienna. Iranian delegate Mohammad Mehdi Akhonzadeh said the first session was a good one, adding, “We expressed our views and came to know each other. It's too early to talk about results. We'll know more after the second session this afternoon.” Going into the talks, European diplomats were pessimistic, saying the meetings were unlikely to deter Iran from enriching uranium.
- **3rd Quarter GDP Revised Slightly Downward.** The Department of Commerce this morning revised 3rd quarter GDP downward to 4.1 percent in its third and final report on economic growth during that period. Commerce had originally reported at 4.3 percent rate of growth. Despite the revision, the 3rd quarter growth rate was the strongest gain since the 1st quarter of 2004. The price index for personal consumption was also revised up to a 3.7 percent gain, up from a 3.6 percent estimate earlier. The core index, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, rose 1.4 percent, up from the previous estimate of 1.2 percent.
Snow Credits Fed, Bush Policies For High Growth. Treasury Secretary John Snow said, “We owe the resilience of the US economy to the American entrepreneurs and workers whose creativity and adaptability have kept our economy growing. Sound monetary policy from the Federal Reserve and the pro-growth economic strategy pursued by President Bush have laid the groundwork for the sustained economic growth that has created 4.5 million new jobs over the past two and a half years and has helped the economy continue its solid performance despite the difficulties presented in the third quarter.”

IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND AROUND TOWN:

- **Cheney Provides Vote That Puts Budget Bill Over The Top In Senate.** Vice President Dick Cheney cut short a Mideast diplomatic mission to be in Washington just in case his vote was needed for key end of the year legislation in the Senate. On the first big vote of the day, a bill to cut spending by nearly \$40 billion over five years, Cheney's vote was needed. He broke a 50-50 tie. However, because of a small change to the bill, the House will need to act on the bill once more, probably tomorrow. The budget vote might also be a bad portent for Senate GOP leaders, who believed they would probably prevail on the budget vote today, but thought the vote on the defense appropriations bill would be even tighter.
- **Bush Lobbies For Patriot Act, Defense Spending.** President Bush today gave very brief remarks this morning that kept him on the political offense on defense issues, urging the Senate to pass a defense appropriations bill – which is facing difficulty over added measures like ANWR drilling – and the Patriot Act, which some senators are balking at, particularly in light of the revelations of NSA spying on Americans. In his remarks today, President Bush said, “The Senate is debating two very important measures, and I urge the United States Senate to pass the defense appropriations bill. It is an important piece of legislation that provides necessary funding for our troops who are fighting in Afghanistan and in Iraq and who are serving our country around the world. It's an obligation of every member of the United States Senate to provide necessary funding for our troops on the front lines so that we can fight and win the war on terror.”
Regarding the Patriot Act, Bush said, “In order to protect America, the United States Senate must reauthorize the Patriot Act. The terrorists still want to hit us again. There's an enemy that lurks, a dangerous group of people that want to do harm to the American people, and we must have the tools necessary to protect the American people. The Patriot Act passed overwhelmingly shortly after the September the 11th attack. It has been an effective tool. It has worked.”
“At the same time as we protected the American people using the Patriot Act, we've also protected their civil liberties. There is extensive oversight on this very important program. The Patriot Act tore down the wall between law enforcement and intelligence communities, which makes it easier to connect the dots before an attack. The Patriot Act also gave law enforcement tools to investigate terrorism that they have already got to investigate other types of crimes. The Patriot Act is scheduled to expire at the end of the year. The terrorist threat is not going to expire at the end of this year. The House has voted to reauthorize the Patriot Act, and they left town because they thought -- because their business is finished. The Senate is still debating this issue.”
“A majority of the United States Senate supports reauthorization. A minority of senators is filibustering and preventing the Senate from voting to renew the Patriot Act. The Senate Democratic leader recently boasted about killing the Patriot Act. This obstruction is inexcusable. The senators obstructing the Patriot Act need to understand that the expiration of this vital law will endanger America and will leave us in a weaker position in the fight against brutal killers. It's important that the Senate act quickly on these two bills.”
Leahy Pushes Extension, Calls Bush Argument “Irresponsible.” Sen. Pat Leahy also held a press conference this

morning, along with Republican colleague Sen. John Sununu, to urge an extension of the current law. Leahy also appeared to lob an indirect volley at President Bush, calling remarks about what would happen if the Patriot Act were to expire "irresponsible." President Bush has been making that argument as backers of reauthorizing the Act are using the imminent expiration date to pressure lawmakers to vote for reauthorization.

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- **Political Notes. President. Sen. Hillary Clinton** said on the Senate floor yesterday that if GOP budget cuts go into effect, it will indirectly increase the number of abortions, the AP reports. ... Roll Call reports that House GOP leaders plan to push for legislation regulating 527 groups early next year after the current version of the legislation was pulled from the 2006 Defense authorization bill during conference.

Governors. Former Alabama Gov. **Don Siegelman** (D), who is running to reclaim his old job, told the AP that he is concerned that current corruption charges against him will not go to trial in sufficient time to allow him to wage an effective primary campaign if his name is cleared at trial. ... The Boston Herald reports this morning Massachusetts **Attorney General Tom Reilly** (D) is successfully rallying a number of state Democratic lawmakers to his side in his battle with **Deval Patrick** (D) for their party's gubernatorial nod. ... The Wisconsin State Journal reports today that authorities examining a state travel contract given to a major donor to **Gov. Jim Doyle's** (D) campaign has expanded its investigation to look for links between donations from utility executives and the approval of the sale of a nuclear power plant by state regulators.

Senate. Roll Call reports today that the DSCC "raised \$3.6 million in November, boosting its total to \$38.7 million collected this year, with \$16.7 million remaining in the bank. The NRSC raised \$2.3 million last month, bringing its total to \$33 million collected this year, with \$9 million on hand." ... The Bradenton Herald reports that AFL-CIO members held a press conference outside of a district office of **Rep. Katherine Harris** (R), who is running for Senate, to highlight her "voting record against working families." ... Roll Call reports today that former Majority Leader Dick Armey (R) announced earlier this week that he is backing ex-Rep. **Ed Bryant** in the three-way GOP Tennessee Senate primary.

House. Roll Call reports today that the NRCC "raised \$3.7 million in November, compared to \$2.45 million for the DCCC. The NRCC led the DCCC in cash on hand \$19.5 million to \$11.24 million, but the DCCC was also carrying a debt of \$1.9 million. The NRCC led the DCCC in total fundraising for the year, having amassed \$60.6 million to the DCCC's \$36.7 million." ... The San Diego Union Tribune reports that businessman **Ken King** (R) entered the **CA50** special election on Monday, while Escondido **Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler** (R) said she would not run. ... The Cincinnati Enquirer reports today that **OH2 Rep. Jean Schmidt** (R) is making automated recorded calls to her constituents despite the fact that her first act in Congress was to introduce a bill aimed at limiting such calls by political groups. ... Roll Call reports today that **Tyson Pratcher** (D), currently a staff member for **Sen. Hillary Clinton** (D), is leaving his job to return to Tennessee to run for the open **TN9** seat.

POLL WATCH:

54% Say Senate Should Confirm Alito Supreme Court Nomination. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1003 adults (+/- 3%), conducted over December 15-18, shows:

- 54% "think the US should confirm" Judge Samuel Alito's "nomination to the Supreme Court"; 28% think the Senate should not; 19% had no opinion.
- Informed that the Supreme Court "legalized abortion 32 years ago in a ruling known as Roe versus Wade," 61% said "if that case came before the court again," they "would want Alito to vote to uphold Roe versus Wade"; 35% said "vote to overturn it"; 4% had no opinion.
- 42% "would like to see the Supreme Court make it harder to get an abortion than it is now"; 11% said "easier to get an abortion than it is now"; 45% said "leave the ability to get an abortion the same as it is now"; 2% had no opinion.
- 17% said it is "extremely important" that "Alito agrees with your position on abortion"; 26% said "very important"; 38% said "somewhat important"; 17% said "less important"; 1% had no opinion.
- 17% "think abortion should be legal in all cases"; 40% said "most cases"; 27% said "illegal in most cases"; 13% said "illegal in all cases"; 3% had no opinion.

Consumer Confidence Continues To Rise In ABC News/WPost Poll. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1000 adults (+/- 3%) in the four weeks ending December 18 shows:

- The ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index "has gained 10 points in a month and a half, from -21 on Oct. 30 to -11 today on its scale of +100 to -100."
- 38% rate the national economy as excellent or good; 62% rate the economy as not good or poor.
- 59% rate their own finances as excellent or good; 41% rate their finances as not good or poor.
- 37% said now is an excellent time or a good time to buy the things they want and need; 63% said it is not a good time or a poor time.

LAST LAUGHS:

Late Night Political Humor.

Jay Leno: "They have got some great gadgets this year for Christmas. ... This cell phone that has caller ID, call waiting, text messaging and a flashing button to let you know when President Bush is eavesdropping on your calls."

Jay Leno: "That's the big story, you know. President Bush and this whole domestic spying thing. Remember the good old days when the only thing you had to worry about on your phone were telemarketers?"

Jay Leno: "Vice President Dick Cheney made a surprise visit to Iraq over the weekend. He met with the Iraqi prime minister who showed him his purple finger from the election. Then Cheney showed the Iraqi minister his purple fingers from bad circulation."

Jay Leno: "USC Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush announced he is available for the NFL draft. Actually, this also marks the first time in history the words 'Bush' and 'available for the draft' have ever appeared together in the same sentence."

David Letterman: "I don't know if you know about this, but New York City is in the middle of a transit strike and more bad news, they're sending in FEMA."

Conan O'Brien: "Due to the transit strike, New Yorkers are not allowed to drive into the city unless there are at least four people in every car. Yeah. The situation has become so desperate, some New Yorkers have been forced to talk to their neighbors."

Conan O'Brien: "Police are actually stopping cars to make sure they have four people. Yeah. As a result, Donald Trump had to come to work today with three chauffeurs."

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Susan Ralston

From: Susan Ralston
Sent: 12/21/2005 3:59:17 PM
To: 'Cindy Coburn'
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: White House Bulletin: 12/21/05

See this item from the Bulletin below:

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-----Original Message-----

THE WHITE HOUSE ***BULLETIN***

BULLETIN NEWS NETWORK, INC. • 7915 JONES BRANCH DRIVE, SUITE 6200 • MCLEAN, VA 22102 • FAX (703)749-0060 • TEL (703)749-0040

SUBJECT: TODAY'S BRIEFING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005

OFF THE WIRES:

- **Saddam Claims To Have Been Beaten In Prison.** After listening quietly to several hours of testimony from witnesses who claim to have been tortured under his regime, Saddam Hussein engaged in a long outburst in which he said he has been beaten while in detention. Saddam told the court, "Yes, I have been beaten, everywhere on my body. The marks are still there."
Several witnesses were testifying against Saddam today. Ali Hassan al-Haidari said he and other residents from Dujail, where there was an assassination attempt on Saddam in the early 1980s, were taken to Baghdad and thrown into a prison where people aged nine to 90 were held. He said guards applied electric shocks to detainees, and that they also heated up plastic tubing and allowed the hot plastic to drip onto the bodies of victims. "I cannot express all that suffering and pain we faced in the 70 days inside," he said. Haidari also testified that former intelligence chief Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, who is also standing trial, kicked him once as he was lying in the hallway. Haidari told the court that Barzan "said to the guards, 'Do not treat him; this family does not deserve to live.' I was in pain for weeks because of that kick." He also said that while Saddam was not directly involved, "at that time no one acted on

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his own unless orders were given by Saddam. I hold Saddam responsible for detaining me and my family and ruining my future.”

- **Pakistan Moves Against Insurgents.** Pakistani helicopters attacked two suspected training camps for insurgents in the southwestern province of Baluchistan today and ground troops later seized heavy weapons and ammunition, a military spokesman said today. Lt. Col. Hassan Jamil said there were no casualties and no arrests, however. Jamil also said that in separate attacks, suspected rebels fired eight rockets at three military bases in the area, but nobody was hurt. Tribal leaders say many people have been killed in military operations since Sunday, but Jamil said he could not confirm any deaths.
- **New Round Of Negotiations On Iranian Nuclear Program Begins.** European and Iranian negotiators reopened talks over Iran's nuclear program today in Vienna. Iranian delegate Mohammad Mehdi Akhonzadeh said the first session was a good one, adding, “We expressed our views and came to know each other. It's too early to talk about results. We'll know more after the second session this afternoon.” Going into the talks, European diplomats were pessimistic, saying the meetings were unlikely to deter Iran from enriching uranium.
- **3rd Quarter GDP Revised Slightly Downward.** The Department of Commerce this morning revised 3rd quarter GDP downward to 4.1 percent in its third and final report on economic growth during that period. Commerce had originally reported at 4.3 percent rate of growth. Despite the revision, the 3rd quarter growth rate was the strongest gain since the 1st quarter of 2004. The price index for personal consumption was also revised up to a 3.7 percent gain, up from a 3.6 percent estimate earlier. The core index, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, rose 1.4 percent, up from the previous estimate of 1.2 percent.
Snow Credits Fed, Bush Policies For High Growth. Treasury Secretary John Snow said, “We owe the resilience of the US economy to the American entrepreneurs and workers whose creativity and adaptability have kept our economy growing. Sound monetary policy from the Federal Reserve and the pro-growth economic strategy pursued by President Bush have laid the groundwork for the sustained economic growth that has created 4.5 million new jobs over the past two and a half years and has helped the economy continue its solid performance despite the difficulties presented in the third quarter.”

IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND AROUND TOWN:

- **Cheney Provides Vote That Puts Budget Bill Over The Top In Senate.** Vice President Dick Cheney cut short a Mideast diplomatic mission to be in Washington just in case his vote was needed for key end of the year legislation in the Senate. On the first big vote of the day, a bill to cut spending by nearly \$40 billion over five years, Cheney's vote was needed. He broke a 50-50 tie. However, because of a small change to the bill, the House will need to act on the bill once more, probably tomorrow. The budget vote might also be a bad portent for Senate GOP leaders, who believed they would probably prevail on the budget vote today, but thought the vote on the defense appropriations bill would be even tighter.
- **Bush Lobbies For Patriot Act, Defense Spending.** President Bush today gave very brief remarks this morning that kept him on the political offense on defense issues, urging the Senate to pass a defense appropriations bill – which is facing difficulty over added measures like ANWR drilling – and the Patriot Act, which some senators are balking at, particularly in light of the revelations of NSA spying on Americans. In his remarks today, President Bush said, “The Senate is debating two very important measures, and I urge the United States Senate to pass the defense appropriations bill. It is an important piece of legislation that provides necessary funding for our troops who are fighting in Afghanistan and in Iraq and who are serving our country around the world. It's an obligation of every member of the United States Senate to provide necessary funding for our troops on the front lines so that we can fight and win the war on terror.”

Regarding the Patriot Act, Bush said, “In order to protect America, the United States Senate must reauthorize the Patriot Act. The terrorists still want to hit us again. There's an enemy that lurks, a dangerous group of people that want to do harm to the American people, and we must have the tools necessary to protect the American people. The Patriot Act passed overwhelmingly shortly after the September the 11th attack. It has been an effective tool. It has worked.

“At the same time as we protected the American people using the Patriot Act, we've also protected their civil liberties. There is extensive oversight on this very important program. The Patriot Act tore down the wall between law enforcement and intelligence communities, which makes it easier to connect the dots before an attack. The Patriot Act also gave law enforcement tools to investigate terrorism that they have already got to investigate other types of crimes. The Patriot Act is scheduled to expire at the end of the year. The terrorist threat is not going to expire at the end of this year. The House has voted to reauthorize the Patriot Act, and they left town because they thought -- because their business is finished. The Senate is still debating this issue.

“A majority of the United States Senate supports reauthorization. A minority of senators is filibustering and preventing the Senate from voting to renew the Patriot Act. The Senate Democratic leader recently boasted about killing the Patriot Act. This obstruction is inexcusable. The senators obstructing the Patriot Act need to understand that the expiration of this vital law will endanger America and will leave us in a weaker position in the fight against brutal killers. It's important that the Senate act quickly on these two bills.”

Leahy Pushes Extension, Calls Bush Argument “Irresponsible.” Sen. Pat Leahy also held a press conference this

morning, along with Republican colleague Sen. John Sununu, to urge an extension of the current law. Leahy also appeared to lob an indirect volley at President Bush, calling remarks about what would happen if the Patriot Act were to expire "irresponsible." President Bush has been making that argument as backers of reauthorizing the Act are using the imminent expiration date to pressure lawmakers to vote for reauthorization.

In his remarks this morning, Leahy said, "We have suggested...a brief extension just to give everybody a bit of time, take a deep breath, let some common sense come in here, shed some light on what we're doing and get a better bill. Its clear our extension Bill would pass overwhelmingly. It would pass overwhelmingly if it's allowed to come to a vote, and as soon as it became apparent that the conference report could not pass and there wouldn't be any change on the votes if we a revote on cloture, I went to Senator Sununu, offered to join with him in a three-month extension to work out a better bill. We had bipartisan support of that."

Noting that 52 senators are on record in favor of an extension, and arguing many more than that will support it, Leahy added, "Remember, every single senator, Republican and Democrat, voted in July to amend and extend the existing Patriot Act. It passed out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously. Those of you that know that committee know it would go across the whole spectrum of political thought. This bipartisan solution was cast aside unfortunately, even though we're making progress, when some of the administration pushed those of us who wanted to amend it, pushed us out of that conference and now we are where we are. So we've come together, Republicans and Democrats, for a short-term extension. This is not a time to make irresponsible statements about what happens to this nation if the Patriot Act were to expire. All of us wanted to secure the nation. Just as we came together [after] 9/11, nobody said, wait, this happened in the Bush administration. That wasn't the thing. We said this happened to Americans, and Americans of both parties came together. We should do the same. A country would have a lot -- our country would have a lot more credibility here and abroad if we did that. So let's make the extra effort to produce a balanced Patriot Act, a consensus Patriot Act, balance our security needs with American civil liberties, a balanced consensus bill is what we need. We are founded as a country on those principals. We could protect our liberties and our securities."

Symbolizing the unusual left-right coalition that wants changes to the Patriot Act, conservative Sen. John Sununu today joined Leahy in backing an extension. Sununu said this morning, "Let me emphasize a couple points. First, the kinds of modifications, the balance that Senator Leahy are talking about are in a few provisions of the Patriot Act, two or three areas of the 16 provisions that are being renewed. They are not issues...that were raised a week ago or month ago or two months ago. They were raise the in the legislation introduced over a year and a half ago. They are concerns we have consistently raised time and again.

"Second, these modifications don't in any way undermine law enforcement's ability to do their job. Among the most important are giving Americans a meaningful judicial review on the gag order, the restriction on free speech, that accompanies a 215 order or national security letter. Giving somebody an opportunity to challenge a gag order doesn't inhibit law enforcements ability to do a job. Being fair and getting rid of a punitive provision that requires you to go to the FBI, tell them if you talk to a lawyer and name that lawyer, which is nowhere else in law, doesn't undermine law enforcement's ability to do their job. These are pretty straightforward modifications we're seeking."

Sununu added, "Next, there are a number of different ways that we can work through this issue. We have a bill on the Senate calendar that has already passed the Senate unanimously that could be taken up immediately, passed unanimously again unless someone has flip flopped on it, sent to the House [where] that bill would receive an overwhelming bipartisan majority in the House. That's one path we could take.

"Second, we could address the specifics changes we have discussed here today, or third we could pass an extension, a three-month extension would give us ample time to work out the differences that remain. That's why Senator Leahy and I, Senator Craig and Senator Schumer put together a letter. We've got Republicans and Democrats, 52 on the letter now, just in the last 24 hours, we put this letter together and were able to get 52 signatures saying we are better off putting the Patriot Act in place while we work out the differences, we should pass the extension, there's no reason to leave here without keeping elements of the Patriot Act in place. We support these tools, I certainly do. This isn't a question of changing of weakening or undermining the tools. It's a question of providing a balance where your right for judicial review or civil liberties are concerned."

DOJ, DHS Contend Expiration Would Put Law Enforcement Back In Pre-9/11 Days. The Justice Department and Homeland Security Department today released a "fact sheet" listing nine specific sections of US law that would change if the Patriot Act were to expire, and contended the cumulative effect would mean "we will return to a pre-9/11 mode of information sharing where there are not clear rules governing investigators' ability to share information with each other, where terrorists and spies can use technology against us, and where it is more difficult to investigate a potential terrorist attack than it is to catch a drug dealer, a mobster, or a white collar criminal." Among the sections that would change are laws regarding wiretapping, information sharing between law enforcement and national security agents, FISA surveillance, and the ability to issue nationwide search warrants.

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Conan O'Brien: "Police are actually stopping cars to make sure they have four people. Yeah. As a result, Donald Trump had to come to work today with three chauffeurs."

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Susan Ralston

From: Susan Ralston
Sent: 12/21/2005 4:02:58 PM
To: 'Jennifer Harshbarger'
Cc: Marc Wilkow
Bcc:
Subject: White House Bulletin: 12/21/05

Along the lines of what I was telling you earlier, always be skeptical of what you read about me, especially on the web and in the ethnic media. The stuff that's reported is unbelievable. See this item from the Bulletin below:

Despite Rumors, Key Rove Aide Susan Ralston Not Leaving White House. Susan Ralston, a top aide to Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove, has not quit and has no plans of leaving the White House despite a wave of rumors in the foreign press about her departure. Reached at her West Wing desk today, she assured U.S. News and the Bulletin that after five years in the job she remains "very much committed" to Rove and President Bush and that the reports about her departure were surprising. Described as the most influential Filipino-American in the administration, she is watched very carefully by the island nation's press. The First Philippine News reported earlier this month that she had quit, citing the work burden in the West Wing. She also recently testified in the CIA-Valerie Plame spy case. But, she says, nobody from the news agency ever called to confirm that she remains in place. In fact, associates said that Rove has fought to keep her on the job where she manages much of his day. What was more surprising about the reports, said insiders, was that Ralston's portfolio has actually expanded and she is now also in charge of developing and producing all presidential message events, an office that has been kept very busy as the President has sought to build public support for the war and as he enters the hectic budget and State of the Union period. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*

-----Original Message-----

THE WHITE HOUSE ***BULLETIN***

BULLETIN NEWS NETWORK, INC. • 7915 JONES BRANCH DRIVE, SUITE 6200 • MCLEAN, VA 22102 • FAX (703)749-0060 • TEL (703)749-0040

SUBJECT: TODAY'S BRIEFING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005

OFF THE WIRES:

- **Saddam Claims To Have Been Beaten In Prison.** After listening quietly to several hours of testimony from witnesses who claim to have been tortured under his regime, Saddam Hussein engaged in a long outburst in which he said he has been beaten while in detention. Saddam told the court, "Yes, I have been beaten, everywhere on my body. The marks are still there."
Several witnesses were testifying against Saddam today. Ali Hassan al-Haidari said he and other residents from Dujail, where there was an assassination attempt on Saddam in the early 1980s, were taken to Baghdad and thrown into a prison where people aged nine to 90 were held. He said guards applied electric shocks to detainees, and that they also heated up plastic tubing and allowed the hot plastic to drip onto the bodies of victims. "I cannot express all that suffering and pain we faced in the 70 days inside," he said. Haidari also testified that former intelligence chief Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, who is also standing trial, kicked him once as he was lying in the hallway. Haidari told the court that Barzan "said to the guards, 'Do not treat him; this family does not deserve to live.'"

RNC-HJC-003528

was in pain for weeks because of that kick.” He also said that while Saddam was not directly involved, “at that time no one acted on his own unless orders were given by Saddam. I hold Saddam responsible for detaining me and my family and ruining my future.”

- **Pakistan Moves Against Insurgents.** Pakistani helicopters attacked two suspected training camps for insurgents in the southwestern province of Baluchistan today and ground troops later seized heavy weapons and ammunition, a military spokesman said today. Lt. Col. Hassan Jamil said there were no casualties and no arrests, however. Jamil also said that in separate attacks, suspected rebels fired eight rockets at three military bases in the area, but nobody was hurt. Tribal leaders say many people have been killed in military operations since Sunday, but Jamil said he could not confirm any deaths.
- **New Round Of Negotiations On Iranian Nuclear Program Begins.** European and Iranian negotiators reopened talks over Iran’s nuclear program today in Vienna. Iranian delegate Mohammad Mehdi Akhonzadeh said the first session was a good one, adding, “We expressed our views and came to know each other. It’s too early to talk about results. We’ll know more after the second session this afternoon.” Going into the talks, European diplomats were pessimistic, saying the meetings were unlikely to deter Iran from enriching uranium.
- **3rd Quarter GDP Revised Slightly Downward.** The Department of Commerce this morning revised 3rd quarter GDP downward to 4.1 percent in its third and final report on economic growth during that period. Commerce had originally reported at 4.3 percent rate of growth. Despite the revision, the 3rd quarter growth rate was the strongest gain since the 1st quarter of 2004. The price index for personal consumption was also revised up to a 3.7 percent gain, up from a 3.6 percent estimate earlier. The core index, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, rose 1.4 percent, up from the previous estimate of 1.2 percent.

Snow Credits Fed, Bush Policies For High Growth. Treasury Secretary John Snow said, “We owe the resilience of the US economy to the American entrepreneurs and workers whose creativity and adaptability have kept our economy growing. Sound monetary policy from the Federal Reserve and the pro-growth economic strategy pursued by President Bush have laid the groundwork for the sustained economic growth that has created 4.5 million new jobs over the past two and a half years and has helped the economy continue its solid performance despite the difficulties presented in the third quarter.”

IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND AROUND TOWN:

- **Cheney Provides Vote That Puts Budget Bill Over The Top In Senate.** Vice President Dick Cheney cut short a Mideast diplomatic mission to be in Washington just in case his vote was needed for key end of the year legislation in the Senate. On the first big vote of the day, a bill to cut spending by nearly \$40 billion over five years, Cheney’s vote was needed. He broke a 50-50 tie. However, because of a small change to the bill, the House will need to act on the bill once more, probably tomorrow. The budget vote might also be a bad portent for Senate GOP leaders, who believed they would probably prevail on the budget vote today, but thought the vote on the defense appropriations bill would be even tighter.
- **Bush Lobbies For Patriot Act, Defense Spending.** President Bush today gave very brief remarks this morning that kept him on the political offense on defense issues, urging the Senate to pass a defense appropriations bill – which is facing difficulty over added measures like ANWR drilling – and the Patriot Act, which some senators are balking at, particularly in light of the revelations of NSA spying on Americans. In his remarks today, President Bush said, “The Senate is debating two very important measures, and I urge the United States Senate to pass the defense appropriations bill. It is an important piece of legislation that provides necessary funding for our troops who are fighting in Afghanistan and in Iraq and who are serving our country around the world. It’s an obligation of every member of the United States Senate to provide necessary funding for our troops on the front lines so that we can fight and win the war on terror.”

Regarding the Patriot Act, Bush said, “In order to protect America, the United States Senate must reauthorize the Patriot Act. The terrorists still want to hit us again. There’s an enemy that lurks, a dangerous group of people that want to do harm to the American people, and we must have the tools necessary to protect the American people. The Patriot Act passed overwhelmingly shortly after the September the 11th attack. It has been an effective tool. It has worked.

“At the same time as we protected the American people using the Patriot Act, we’ve also protected their civil liberties. There is extensive oversight on this very important program. The Patriot Act tore down the wall between law enforcement and intelligence communities, which makes it easier to connect the dots before an attack. The Patriot Act also gave law enforcement tools to investigate terrorism that they have already got to investigate other types of crimes. The Patriot Act is scheduled to expire at the end of the year. The terrorist threat is not going to expire at the end of this year. The House has voted to reauthorize the Patriot Act, and they left town because they thought -- because their business is finished. The Senate is still debating this issue.

“A majority of the United States Senate supports reauthorization. A minority of senators is filibustering and preventing the Senate from voting to renew the Patriot Act. The Senate Democratic leader recently boasted about killing the Patriot Act. This obstruction is inexcusable. The senators obstructing the Patriot Act need to understand that the expiration of this vital law will endanger America and will leave us in a weaker position in the fight against brutal killers. It’s important that the Senate act quickly on these two bills.”

Leahy Pushes Extension, Calls Bush Argument “Irresponsible.” Sen. Pat Leahy also held a press conference this

morning, along with Republican colleague Sen. John Sununu, to urge an extension of the current law. Leahy also appeared to lob an indirect volley at President Bush, calling remarks about what would happen if the Patriot Act were to expire "irresponsible." President Bush has been making that argument as backers of reauthorizing the Act are using the imminent expiration date to pressure lawmakers to vote for reauthorization.

In his remarks this morning, Leahy said, "We have suggested...a brief extension just to give everybody a bit of time, take a deep breath, let some common sense come in here, shed some light on what we're doing and get a better bill. Its clear our extension Bill would pass overwhelmingly. It would pass overwhelmingly if it's allowed to come to a vote, and as soon as it became apparent that the conference report could not pass and there wouldn't be any change on the votes if we a revote on cloture, I went to Senator Sununu, offered to join with him in a three-month extension to work out a better bill. We had bipartisan support of that."

Noting that 52 senators are on record in favor of an extension, and arguing many more than that will support it, Leahy added, "Remember, every single senator, Republican and Democrat, voted in July to amend and extend the existing Patriot Act. It passed out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously. Those of you that know that committee know it would go across the whole spectrum of political thought. This bipartisan solution was cast aside unfortunately, even though we're making progress, when some of the administration pushed those of us who wanted to amend it, pushed us out of that conference and now we are where we are. So we've come together, Republicans and Democrats, for a short-term extension. This is not a time to make irresponsible statements about what happens to this nation if the Patriot Act were to expire. All of us wanted to secure the nation. Just as we came together [after] 9/11, nobody said, wait, this happened in the Bush administration. That wasn't the thing. We said this happened to Americans, and Americans of both parties came together. We should do the same. A country would have a lot -- our country would have a lot more credibility here and abroad if we did that. So let's make the extra effort to produce a balanced Patriot Act, a consensus Patriot Act, balance our security needs with American civil liberties, a balanced consensus bill is what we need. We are founded as a country on those principals. We could protect our liberties and our securities."

Symbolizing the unusual left-right coalition that wants changes to the Patriot Act, conservative Sen. John Sununu today joined Leahy in backing an extension. Sununu said this morning, "Let me emphasize a couple points. First, the kinds of modifications, the balance that Senator Leahy are talking about are in a few provisions of the Patriot Act, two or three areas of the 16 provisions that are being renewed. They are not issues...that were raised a week ago or month ago or two months ago. They were raise the in the legislation introduced over a year and a half ago. They are concerns we have consistently raised time and again.

"Second, these modifications don't in any way undermine law enforcement's ability to do their job. Among the most important are giving Americans a meaningful judicial review on the gag order, the restriction on free speech, that accompanies a 215 order or national security letter. Giving somebody an opportunity to challenge a gag order doesn't inhibit law enforcements ability to do a job. Being fair and getting rid of a punitive provision that requires you to go to the FBI, tell them if you talk to a lawyer and name that lawyer, which is nowhere else in law, doesn't undermine law enforcement's ability to do their job. These are pretty straightforward modifications we're seeking."

Sununu added, "Next, there are a number of different ways that we can work through this issue. We have a bill on the Senate calendar that has already passed the Senate unanimously that could be taken up immediately, passed unanimously again unless someone has flip flopped on it, sent to the House [where] that bill would receive an overwhelming bipartisan majority in the House. That's one path we could take.

"Second, we could address the specifics changes we have discussed here today, or third we could pass an extension, a three-month extension would give us ample time to work out the differences that remain. That's why Senator Leahy and I, Senator Craig and Senator Schumer put together a letter. We've got Republicans and Democrats, 52 on the letter now, just in the last 24 hours, we put this letter together and were able to get 52 signatures saying we are better off putting the Patriot Act in place while we work out the differences, we should pass the extension, there's no reason to leave here without keeping elements of the Patriot Act in place. We support these tools, I certainly do. This isn't a question of changing of weakening or undermining the tools. It's a question of providing a balance where your right for judicial review or civil liberties are concerned."

DOJ, DHS Contend Expiration Would Put Law Enforcement Back In Pre-9/11 Days. The Justice Department and Homeland Security Department today released a "fact sheet" listing nine specific sections of US law that would change if the Patriot Act were to expire, and contended the cumulative effect would mean "we will return to a pre-9/11 mode of information sharing where there are not clear rules governing investigators' ability to share information with each other, where terrorists and spies can use technology against us, and where it is more difficult to investigate a potential terrorist attack than it is to catch a drug dealer, a mobster, or a white collar criminal." Among the sections that would change are laws regarding wiretapping, information sharing between law enforcement and national security agents, FISA surveillance, and the ability to issue nationwide search warrants.

- **Senate GOP Leaders Expected To Force Vote On Defense Bill.** Neither side claims to have the votes for the defense bill expected to come to the Senate floor today, in large part because of a rider attached that would open ANWR to drilling. GOP leaders were looking at a situation last night, according to GOP sources, where they believed they were about three votes shy of a filibuster-proof margin, but with more than enough uncommitted senators to make up the difference. It was unclear how they would line up the necessary votes, but one GOP source tells the Bulletin that rather than hold off the vote to line up support, GOP leaders will press forward on the vote hoping the pressure to fund defense accounts during wartime will win over enough senators to stop a filibuster.
- **Bush Says Current Policy Setting Foundation For Future Peace.** Speaking at Bethesda Naval Hospital today, President Bush

argued that by converting hostile nations to democracies, the US is "laying that foundation for peace for generations to come." Citing Japan's conversion to democracy in the post-WWII era, Bush said, "And one of my predecessors, Harry Truman, recognized the power of freedom to transform an enemy into an ally, that's what happened. And so Japan adopted a Japanese-style democracy, and in that, democracies don't fight each other; in that, democracy is the best way to encourage a peaceful world. It's working."

Bush added, "And what we're seeing today is brave troops and committed citizens who are not only determined to chase down the killers and bring them to justice before they hurt us again, but understand that by spreading freedom and democracy, we're battling an ideology of darkness with an ideology of hope, and we're laying that foundation for peace for generations to come. The task at hand is one that requires determination and discipline and great faith in the ideals of human freedom and human liberty. And so coming here today is a chance to not only thank you for being a part of this incredible team of healers, but also being a part of this historic moment. Some day, an American president will be sitting down with a duly elected leader of Iraq, working hard to keep the peace, and future generations of America will be saying, thank God this generation of America stood strong for what we believe."

- **Johanns Says Billions More Needed To Prepare For Bird Flu Outbreak.** Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said today that billions of dollars are needed to better prepare for the possibility of a bird flu outbreak. Johanns' comments came as the Senate considers appropriating \$3.8 billion for bird flu preparedness which was included in the defense bill passed by the House Monday. The Agriculture Department would get approximately \$100 million of that money. Johanns told the AP, "We'll absolutely do the best we can with the resources we have. Needless to say, that would really help our efforts here."

Mad Cow Inspections To Be Scaled Back. Johanns also said the government will scale back its testing for mad cow disease soon. After the first US case was reported two years ago, officials increased testing from about 55 per day to about 1,000. Officials have tested more than 550,000 animals and turned up one case of mad cow, in Texas in June.

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- **White House Upbeat About 2006.** President Bush and his White House strategists believe the administration is ending the year on an upbeat note and they see signs that 2006 will bring a recovery of the President's political fortunes. Vice President Cheney's breaking a tie in the Senate this morning to win passage for legislation cutting the federal deficit by \$39.7 billion is the latest positive sign. White House insiders say this shows that the White House and the Republican majority in Congress can still work their will despite increasingly determined Democratic opposition and doubts about the president's agenda from a handful of GOP moderates. Bush thinks the country will side with him on the domestic spying furor that has erupted in the past few days. Bush is still feeling upbeat about the generally smooth Iraqi election last week. He is confident the Senate will soon approve his nominee Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. And White House advisers note an uptick in his job-approval numbers and support for the war in Iraq, at least in some polls. "The President is feeling quite good about where things are headed," a senior White House official told U.S. News and the Bulletin.

- **Bush Poll Bounce Cheers GOP Congressional Leaders.** President Bush's mild bounce in public approval polls -- for the first time in a while, a major national poll has him above 45% in job approval -- has also helped GOP lawmakers, making it less likely that the Republicans will lose control of either house, according to strategists for both Democratic and Republican House and Senate campaign committees. "That's great for us," a House Republican leadership aide said of the President's new poll up tick. One poll even found that the job approval rating of Congress is about 65 percent, up from recent polling. However, on the Republican side look for House and Senate members to stick with a non-Washington theme in the 2006 midterms. "Local, local, local, that's our motto," says a Republican strategist. "It worked well in 2002 and 2004 and should do well in 2006." Democrats, who had dreamed of taking control of the House if the President's numbers continued to plummet, are now looking to pick up five to eight House seats and some two Senate seats. Unclear, add Democratic advisors, is how many others they may get if Republicans linked to the Abramoff lobbying affair abruptly quit. Another Democratic strategist added that any House and Senate pickups could be limited if the party doesn't agree on a unified message on Iraq and immigration. "Ultimately, we're going to need to do a better job," he said. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*

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Jay Leno: "USC Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush announced he is available for the NFL draft. Actually, this also marks the first time in history the words 'Bush' and 'available for the draft' have ever appeared together in the same sentence."

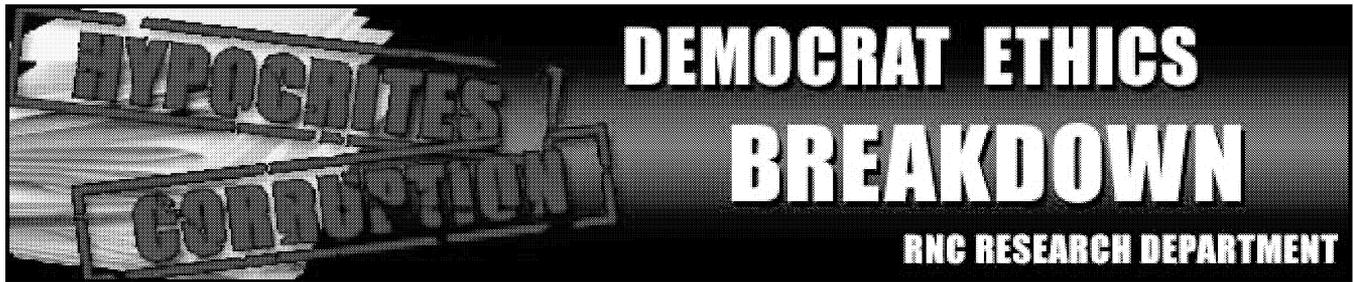
David Letterman: "I don't know if you know about this, but New York City is in the middle of a transit strike and more bad news, they're sending in FEMA."

Conan O'Brien: "Due to the transit strike, New Yorkers are not allowed to drive into the city unless there are at least four people in every car. Yeah. The situation has become so desperate, some New Yorkers have been forced to talk to their neighbors."

Conan O'Brien: "Police are actually stopping cars to make sure they have four people. Yeah. As a result, Donald Trump had to come to work today with three chauffeurs."

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From: RNC Research <RNCResearch@gop.com>
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2006 11:57 AM
To: Susan Ralston <sralston@republican national committee.com>
Subject: Democrat Ethics Breakdown: News For The Week Of May 1, 2006



NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 1, 2006

[PDF Version](#)



Vernon L. Jackson, Chairman Of IGate, Inc., Pled Guilty To Bribing Rep. William Jefferson (D-LA). (Philip Shenon, "Businessman Pleads Guilty To Bribing A Representative," *The New York Times*, 5/4/06)

- **Jackson Admitted Paying \$367,500 To A Company Run By Rep. Jefferson's Family In Exchange For Jefferson Promoting His Products To Federal Agencies, African Governments, And African Companies.** (Philip Shenon, "Businessman Pleads Guilty To Bribing A Representative," *The New York Times*, 5/4/06)
- **In January, Brett Pfeffer, A Former Aide To Rep. Jefferson, Pled Guilty And "[Said Rep. Jefferson] Sought Bribes, Jobs For His Children And Other Favors In Exchange For Official Acts ..."** (Philip Shenon, "Businessman Pleads Guilty To Bribing A Representative," *The New York Times*, 5/4/06)

"[B]y Far, The Most Serious [Ethics] Allegations Are Currently Against ... [Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV), Who Is] Accused Of Steering Federal Money - Up To \$250 Million Dollars Worth - To His Own Nonprofit Organizations." (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)



NPR's Andrea Seabrook: "[O]ne of the Democrats' big problems right now: convincing voters that the so called 'culture of corruption' is a Republican thing. There's a growing list of ethics allegations against Democrats in ... Congress." (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)

- **Melanie Sloan, Executive Director Of Citizens For Responsibility And Ethics In Washington:** "I do think the Democrats are being a little disingenuous about [ethics] when they want to say We're going to give [Rep. Jefferson] a pass." (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)

192 Democrats Voted Against Lobbying Reform Bill That Would Increase Transparency And Disclosure. (H.R. 4975, CQ Vote #119: Passed 217-213; R 209-20; D 8-192; I 0-1, 5/3/06)

- **The Bill Would Temporarily Ban Privately Funded Travel, Deny Pension Benefits To Members Convicted Of Crimes, Force Disclosure Of Earmarks, Increase Reporting From Lobbyists, And Stiffen Penalties For Noncompliance.** (H.R. 4975, CQ Vote #119: Passed 217-213; R 209-20; D 8-192; I 0-1, 5/3/06)

- "[Mollohan] Also Failed To List Real Estate Deals On His Financial Disclosure Forms ... [Which Show His Net Worth Jumping From] About \$575,000 To Between \$6 And \$24 Million Dollars In Just 4 Short Years." (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)
- **Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA):** "[I] was proud to attend the fundraiser [at the DNC headquarters] for Mr. Mollohan. I will work hard in any way he wants me to make sure he is reelected to the Congress." (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)

"Former Gov. Don Siegelman [D-AL] Went On Trial ... In A Federal Criminal Case Accusing Him Of Bribery And Extortion In Political Deals ..." (Bob Johnson, "Trial Opens For Ex-Alabama Governor In Bribery, Corruption Case," *The Associated Press*, 5/1/06)

- **Charges Against Siegelman Include "[S]wapping Political Favors For Gifts And Campaign Donations ... [R]acketeering And Obstruction Of Justice ..."** (Bob Johnson, "Trial Opens For Ex-Alabama Governor In Bribery, Corruption Case," *The Associated Press*, 5/1/06)



On April 27th, Liberal Mega-Donor George Soros Hosted A Cocktail Reception Fundraiser At His Home For Ret. Gen. Wesley Clark's PAC, WESPAC, ("Soros Raises Money For WESPAC," *National Journal's Hotline*, 5/1/06)

Soros Will Also Host A Fundraiser At His Home For Judy Aydelott (D-NY), Who Is Running Against Rep. Sue Kelly (R-NY). (Josh Kurtz, "Soros Hosts Star-Studded Fundraiser For Kelly Foe," *Roll Call*, 5/2/06)

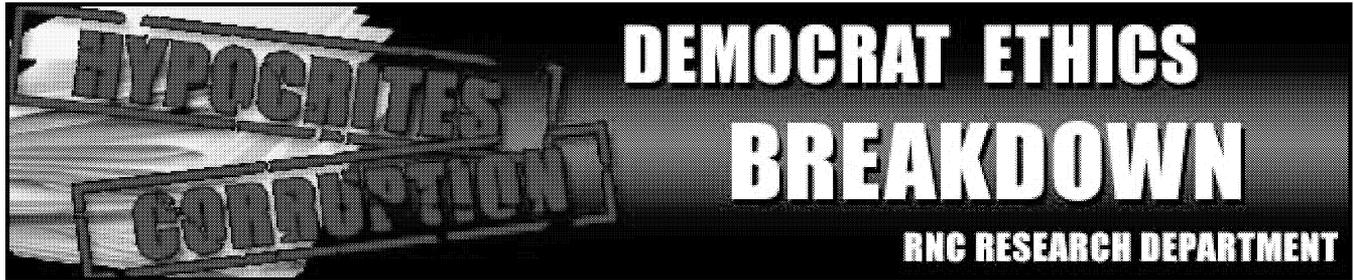
- **Soros Contributed The Most Money (\$27,030,105) Of Any Individual Donor To 527s In The 2004 Cycle.** (Political Money Line Website, www.tray.com, Accessed 12/2/05)
- **Former Carter Cabinet Member Joseph Califano Called Soros: "[T]he Daddy Warbucks Of Drug Legalization."** (Joseph A. Califano Jr., Op-Ed, "Devious Efforts To Legalize Drugs," *The Washington Post*, 12/4/96)

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From: RNC Research <RNCResearch@gop.com>
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 6:01 AM
To: Susan Ralston <sralston@republican national committee.com>
Subject: Democrat Ethics Breakdown: News For The Week Of June 26, 2006



NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 26, 2006

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Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) Has Inserted \$37 Million In Earmarks For Vibration & Sound Solutions Limited (VSSL) For Project M Five Years After "[T]he Navy Decided It Didn't Need The High-Priced Technology." (NBC's "Nightly News," 6/28/06; Charles R. Babcock, "The Project That Wouldn't Die," *The Washington Post*, 6/19/06)

- **"Project M, A Technology Involving Magnetic Levitation ..." Was Meant To Smooth The Rides On Submarines, Boats And ATVs. "All The Applications Have One Thing In Common: The Pentagon Hasn't Wanted Them."** (NBC's "Nightly News," 6/28/06; Charles R. Babcock, "The Project That Wouldn't Die," *The Washington Post*, 6/19/06)
- **NBC's Andrea Mitchell:** "As for the company? It shut its doors last Friday to 'restructure.' But it still plans to produce levitating seats - even if the military doesn't want them." (NBC's "Nightly News," 6/28/06)
- **Since 1998, Robert J. Conkling, President Of VSSL, And His Wife Carolyn, Have Contributed \$19,000 To Rep. Moran.** (The Center For Responsive Politics Website, www.opensecrets.org, Accessed 6/29/06)



Reps. Michael Capuano, William Delahunt and Richard Neal (D-MA) "[H]ave Attended Luxurious Fourth Of July Weekends [Costing More Than \$22,500] At Cape Cod's Exclusive Wequassett Inn ... With Representatives Of Various Interest Groups, Courtesy Of A Little-Known Nonprofit Group Started By A Longtime Lobbyist." (Michael M. Grynbaum, "A Lobbyist Link In Congressmen's Visits To Cape," *The Boston Globe*, 6/28/06)

- **"The Trips To The Wequassett Inn, Where Room Rates Range From \$475 To \$1,300 Per Night ... Represent A Common Route Around Federal Lobbying Restrictions [According To Watchdog Groups]."** (Michael M. Grynbaum, "A Lobbyist Link In Congressmen's Visits To Cape," *The Boston Globe*, 6/28/06)
- **Alex Knott, Political Editor At The Center For Public Integrity:** "[These trips] could violate the intent [of congressional rules] ... Right now, a lobbyist could organize the trip, go with the congressman, play a round of golf with them, and then come back to D.C., lobbying them the entire time ..." (Michael M. Grynbaum, "A Lobbyist Link In Congressmen's Visits To Cape," *The Boston Globe*, 6/28/06)

Senate Candidate Claire McCaskill (D-MO) "[F]axed Political Materials To Several State Offices ..." (David A. Lieb, "McCaskill Campaign Faxes Sent To State Offices," *The Associated Press*, 6/28/06)

- **The Fax Went To "At Least Three Fax Machines At The Department Of Economic Development [And] ... A Fax Machine In The Department Of Insurance's Administrative Offices ..."** (David A. Lieb, "McCaskill Campaign Faxes Sent To State Offices," *The Associated Press*, 6/28/06)

Former Gov. Don Siegelman (D-AL) Was Found Guilty Of Federal Fund Bribery, Conspiracy, Mail Fraud, And Obstruction Of Justice. (WHNT-TV Website, www.whnt.com, Accessed 6/29/06)

- **Siegelman Was "[A]ccused Of Taking Part In Schemes In Which Favorable Business Deals Were Greased By The Siegelman Administration In Exchange For Gifts And Hefty Campaign Donations."** (WHNT-TV Website, www.whnt.com, Accessed 6/29/06)



Former Gov. Mark Warner (D-VA) Hired "[A]n Internet Guru Who Had A Past As A Web Shill For A Worthless Dot-Com Stock ... [W]hen He Hired [Blogger] Jerome Armstrong ..." (Deborah Orin, "Stock Shock In Past Of Dem Hopeful's Aide," *New York Post*, 6/29/06)

- **"Armstrong ... Touted A Dubious Chinese Software Company, Bluepoint, ... Without Disclosing That He Accepted 'Below-Market' Shares In Exchange For The Glowing Reports He Posted On A Site Called Raging Bull ..."** (Roddy Boyd, "Shill To Hack," *New York Post*, 6/18/06)
- **"[A]rmstrong Agreed To A December 2003 SEC Settlement That Permanently Bans Him From Stock-Touting. Armstrong Also Signed A Court Agreement With The SEC That He Can't Deny ... 'Any Allegation In The Complaint' That Accused Him Of Touting Worthless Stock For Pay."** (Deborah Orin, "Stock Shock In Past Of Dem Hopeful's Aide," *New York Post*, 6/29/06)

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Ralston, Susan B.

From: Ralston, Susan B.
Sent: 12/21/2005 3:47:24 PM
To: Susan Ralston
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: White House Bulletin: 12/21/05

THE WHITE HOUSE *BULLETIN*

BULLETIN NEWS NETWORK, INC. • 7915 JONES BRANCH DRIVE, SUITE 6200 • MCLEAN, VA 22102 • FAX (703)749-0060 • TEL (703)749-0040

SUBJECT: TODAY'S BRIEFING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005

OFF THE WIRES:

- **Saddam Claims To Have Been Beaten In Prison.** After listening quietly to several hours of testimony from witnesses who claim to have been tortured under his regime, Saddam Hussein engaged in a long outburst in which he said he has been beaten while in detention. Saddam told the court, "Yes, I have been beaten, everywhere on my body. The marks are still there."
Several witnesses were testifying against Saddam today. Ali Hassan al-Haidari said he and other residents from Dujail, where there was an assassination attempt on Saddam in the early 1980s, were taken to Baghdad and thrown into a prison where people aged nine to 90 were held. He said guards applied electric shocks to detainees, and that they also heated up plastic tubing and allowed the hot plastic to drip onto the bodies of victims. "I cannot express all that suffering and pain we faced in the 70 days inside," he said. Haidari also testified that former intelligence chief Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, who is also standing trial, kicked him once as he was lying in the hallway. Haidari told the court that Barzan "said to the guards, 'Do not treat him; this family does not deserve to live.' I was in pain for weeks because of that kick." He also said that while Saddam was not directly involved, "at that time no one acted on his own unless orders were given by Saddam. I hold Saddam responsible for detaining me and my family and ruining my future."
- **Pakistan Moves Against Insurgents.** Pakistani helicopters attacked two suspected training camps for insurgents in the southwestern province of Baluchistan today and ground troops later seized heavy weapons and ammunition, a military spokesman said today. Lt. Col. Hassan Jamil said there were no casualties and no arrests, however. Jamil also said that in separate attacks, suspected rebels fired eight rockets at three military bases in the area, but nobody was hurt. Tribal leaders say many people have been killed in military operations since Sunday, but Jamil said he could not confirm any deaths.
- **New Round Of Negotiations On Iranian Nuclear Program Begins.** European and Iranian negotiators reopened talks over Iran's nuclear program today in Vienna. Iranian delegate Mohammad Mehdi Akhonzadeh said the first session was a good one, adding, "We expressed our views and came to know each other. It's too early to talk about results. We'll know more after the second session this afternoon." Going into the talks, European diplomats were pessimistic, saying the meetings were unlikely to deter Iran from enriching uranium.
- **3rd Quarter GDP Revised Slightly Downward.** The Department of Commerce this morning revised 3rd quarter GDP downward to 4.1 percent in its third and final report on economic growth during that period. Commerce had originally reported at 4.3 percent rate of growth. Despite the revision, the 3rd quarter growth rate was the strongest gain since the 1st quarter of 2004. The price index for personal consumption was also revised up to a 3.7 percent gain, up from a 3.6 percent estimate earlier. The core index, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, rose 1.4 percent, up from the previous estimate of 1.2 percent.
Snow Credits Fed, Bush Policies For High Growth. Treasury Secretary John Snow said, "We owe the resilience of the US economy to the American entrepreneurs and workers whose creativity and adaptability have kept our economy growing. Sound monetary policy from the Federal Reserve and the pro-growth economic strategy pursued by President Bush have laid the groundwork for the sustained economic growth that has created 4.5 million new jobs over the past two and a half years and has

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helped the economy continue its solid performance despite the difficulties presented in the third quarter.”

IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND AROUND TOWN:

- **Cheney Provides Vote That Puts Budget Bill Over The Top In Senate.** Vice President Dick Cheney cut short a Mideast diplomatic mission to be in Washington just in case his vote was needed for key end of the year legislation in the Senate. On the first big vote of the day, a bill to cut spending by nearly \$40 billion over five years, Cheney’s vote was needed. He broke a 50-50 tie. However, because of a small change to the bill, the House will need to act on the bill once more, probably tomorrow. The budget vote might also be a bad portent for Senate GOP leaders, who believed they would probably prevail on the budget vote today, but thought the vote on the defense appropriations bill would be even tighter.
- **Bush Lobbies For Patriot Act, Defense Spending.** President Bush today gave very brief remarks this morning that kept him on the political offense on defense issues, urging the Senate to pass a defense appropriations bill – which is facing difficulty over added measures like ANWR drilling – and the Patriot Act, which some senators are balking at, particularly in light of the revelations of NSA spying on Americans. In his remarks today, President Bush said, “The Senate is debating two very important measures, and I urge the United States Senate to pass the defense appropriations bill. It is an important piece of legislation that provides necessary funding for our troops who are fighting in Afghanistan and in Iraq and who are serving our country around the world. It’s an obligation of every member of the United States Senate to provide necessary funding for our troops on the front lines so that we can fight and win the war on terror.”

Regarding the Patriot Act, Bush said, “In order to protect America, the United States Senate must reauthorize the Patriot Act. The terrorists still want to hit us again. There’s an enemy that lurks, a dangerous group of people that want to do harm to the American people, and we must have the tools necessary to protect the American people. The Patriot Act passed overwhelmingly shortly after the September the 11th attack. It has been an effective tool. It has worked.

“At the same time as we protected the American people using the Patriot Act, we’ve also protected their civil liberties. There is extensive oversight on this very important program. The Patriot Act tore down the wall between law enforcement and intelligence communities, which makes it easier to connect the dots before an attack. The Patriot Act also gave law enforcement tools to investigate terrorism that they have already got to investigate other types of crimes. The Patriot Act is scheduled to expire at the end of the year. The terrorist threat is not going to expire at the end of this year. The House has voted to reauthorize the Patriot Act, and they left town because they thought -- because their business is finished. The Senate is still debating this issue.

“A majority of the United States Senate supports reauthorization. A minority of senators is filibustering and preventing the Senate from voting to renew the Patriot Act. The Senate Democratic leader recently boasted about killing the Patriot Act. This obstruction is inexcusable. The senators obstructing the Patriot Act need to understand that the expiration of this vital law will endanger America and will leave us in a weaker position in the fight against brutal killers. It’s important that the Senate act quickly on these two bills.”

Leahy Pushes Extension, Calls Bush Argument “Irresponsible.” Sen. Pat Leahy also held a press conference this morning, along with Republican colleague Sen. John Sununu, to urge an extension of the current law. Leahy also appeared to lob an indirect volley at President Bush, calling remarks about what would happen if the Patriot Act were to expire “irresponsible.” President Bush has been making that argument as backers of reauthorizing the Act are using the imminent expiration date to pressure lawmakers to vote for reauthorization.

In his remarks this morning, Leahy said, “We have suggested...a brief extension just to give everybody a bit of time, take a deep breath, let some common sense come in here, shed some light on what we’re doing and get a better bill. Its clear our extension Bill would pass overwhelmingly. It would pass overwhelmingly if it’s allowed to come to a vote, and as soon as it became apparent that the conference report could not pass and there wouldn’t be any change on the votes if we a revote on cloture, I went to Senator Sununu, offered to join with him in a three-month extension to work out a better bill. We had bipartisan support of that.”

Noting that 52 senators are on record in favor of an extension, and arguing many more than that will support it, Leahy added, “Remember, every single senator, Republican and Democrat, voted in July to amend and extend the existing Patriot Act. It passed out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously. Those of you that know that committee know it would go across the whole spectrum of political thought. This bipartisan solution was cast aside unfortunately, even though we’re making progress, when some of the administration pushed those of us who wanted to amend it, pushed us out of that conference and now we are where we are. So we’ve come together, Republicans and Democrats, for a short-term extension. This is not a time to make irresponsible statements about what happens to this nation if the Patriot Act were to expire. All of us wanted to secure the nation. Just as we came together [after] 9/11, nobody said, wait, this happened in the Bush administration. That wasn’t the thing. We said this happened to Americans, and Americans of both parties came together. We should do the same. A country would have a lot -- our country would have a lot more credibility here and abroad if we did that. So let’s make the extra effort to produce a balanced Patriot Act, a consensus Patriot Act, balance our security needs with American civil liberties, a balanced consensus bill is what we need. We are founded as a country on those principals. We could protect our liberties and our securities.”

Symbolizing the unusual left-right coalition that wants changes to the Patriot Act, conservative Sen. John Sununu today joined Leahy in backing an extension. Sununu said this morning, “Let me emphasize a couple points. First, the kinds of modifications, the

balance that Senator Leahy are talking about are in a few provisions of the Patriot Act, two or three areas of the 16 provisions that are being renewed. They are not issues...that were raised a week ago or month ago or two months ago. They were raise the in the legislation introduced over a year and a half ago. They are concerns we have consistently raised time and again.

"Second, these modifications don't in any way undermine law enforcement's ability to do their job. Among the most important are giving Americans a meaningful judicial review on the gag order, the restriction on free speech, that accompanies a 215 order or national security letter. Giving somebody an opportunity to challenge a gag order doesn't inhibit law enforcements ability to do a job. Being fair and getting rid of a punitive provision that requires you to go to the FBI, tell them if you talk to a lawyer and name that lawyer, which is nowhere else in law, doesn't undermine law enforcement's ability to do their job. These are pretty straightforward modifications we're seeking."

Sununu added, "Next, there are a number of different ways that we can work through this issue. We have a bill on the Senate calendar that has already passed the Senate unanimously that could be taken up immediately, passed unanimously again unless someone has flip flopped on it, sent to the House [where] that bill would receive an overwhelming bipartisan majority in the House. That's one path we could take.

"Second, we could address the specifics changes we have discussed here today, or third we could pass an extension, a three-month extension would give us ample time to work out the differences that remain. That's why Senator Leahy and I, Senator Craig and Senator Schumer put together a letter. We've got Republicans and Democrats, 52 on the letter now, just in the last 24 hours, we put this letter together and were able to get 52 signatures saying we are better off putting the Patriot Act in place while we work out the differences, we should pass the extension, there's no reason to leave here without keeping elements of the Patriot Act in place. We support these tools, I certainly do. This isn't a question of changing of weakening or undermining the tools. It's a question of providing a balance where your right for judicial review or civil liberties are concerned."

DOJ, DHS Contend Expiration Would Put Law Enforcement Back In Pre-9/11 Days. The Justice Department and Homeland Security Department today released a "fact sheet" listing nine specific sections of US law that would change if the Patriot Act were to expire, and contended the cumulative effect would mean "we will return to a pre-9/11 mode of information sharing where there are not clear rules governing investigators' ability to share information with each other, where terrorists and spies can use technology against us, and where it is more difficult to investigate a potential terrorist attack than it is to catch a drug dealer, a mobster, or a white collar criminal." Among the sections that would change are laws regarding wiretapping, information sharing between law enforcement and national security agents, FISA surveillance, and the ability to issue nationwide search warrants.

- **Senate GOP Leaders Expected To Force Vote On Defense Bill.** Neither side claims to have the votes for the defense bill expected to come to the Senate floor today, in large part because of a rider attached that would open ANWR to drilling. GOP leaders were looking at a situation last night, according to GOP sources, where they believed they were about three votes shy of a filibuster-proof margin, but with more than enough uncommitted senators to make up the difference. It was unclear how they would line up the necessary votes, but one GOP source tells the Bulletin that rather than hold off the vote to line up support, GOP leaders will press forward on the vote hoping the pressure to fund defense accounts during wartime will win over enough senators to stop a filibuster.
- **Bush Says Current Policy Setting Foundation For Future Peace.** Speaking at Bethesda Naval Hospital today, President Bush argued that by converting hostile nations to democracies, the US is "laying that foundation for peace for generations to come." Citing Japan's conversion to democracy in the post-WWII era, Bush said, "And one of my predecessors, Harry Truman, recognized the power of freedom to transform an enemy into an ally, that's what happened. And so Japan adopted a Japanese-style democracy, and in that, democracies don't fight each other; in that, democracy is the best way to encourage a peaceful world. It's working." Bush added, "And what we're seeing today is brave troops and committed citizens who are not only determined to chase down the killers and bring them to justice before they hurt us again, but understand that by spreading freedom and democracy, we're battling an ideology of darkness with an ideology of hope, and we're laying that foundation for peace for generations to come. The task at hand is one that requires determination and discipline and great faith in the ideals of human freedom and human liberty. And so coming here today is a chance to not only thank you for being a part of this incredible team of healers, but also being a part of this historic moment. Some day, an American president will be sitting down with a duly elected leader of Iraq, working hard to keep the peace, and future generations of America will be saying, thank God this generation of America stood strong for what we believe."
- **Johanns Says Billions More Needed To Prepare For Bird Flu Outbreak.** Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said today that billions of dollars are needed to better prepare for the possibility of a bird flu outbreak. Johanns' comments came as the Senate considers appropriating \$3.8 billion for bird flu preparedness which was included in the defense bill passed by the House Monday. The Agriculture Department would get approximately \$100 million of that money. Johanns told the AP, "We'll absolutely do the best we can with the resources we have. Needless to say, that would really help our efforts here."

Mad Cow Inspections To Be Scaled Back. Johanns also said the government will scale back its testing for mad cow disease soon. After the first US case was reported two years ago, officials increased testing from about 55 per day to about 1,000. Officials have tested more than 550,000 animals and turned up one case of mad cow, in Texas in June.
- **Despite Rumors, Key Rove Aide Susan Ralston Not Leaving White House.** Susan Ralston, a top aide to Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove, has not quit and has no plans of leaving the White House despite a wave or rumors in the foreign press about her

departure. Reached at her West Wing desk today, she assured U.S. News and the Bulletin that after five years in the job she remains "very much committed" to Rove and President Bush and that the reports about her departure were surprising. Described as the most influential Filipino-American in the administration, she is watched very carefully by the island nation's press. The First Philippine News reported earlier this month that she had quit, citing the work burden in the West Wing. She also recently testified in the CIA-Valerie Plame spy case. But, she says, nobody from the news agency ever called to confirm that she remains in place. In fact, associates said that Rove has fought to keep her on the job where she manages much of his day. What was more surprising about the reports, said insiders, was that Ralston's portfolio has actually expanded and she is now also in charge of developing and producing all presidential message events, an office that has been kept very busy as the President has sought to build public support for the war and as he enters the hectic budget and State of the Union period. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*

- **White House Upbeat About 2006.** President Bush and his White House strategists believe the administration is ending the year on an upbeat note and they see signs that 2006 will bring a recovery of the President's political fortunes. Vice President Cheney's breaking a tie in the Senate this morning to win passage for legislation cutting the federal deficit by \$39.7 billion is the latest positive sign. White House insiders say this shows that the White House and the Republican majority in Congress can still work their will despite increasingly determined Democratic opposition and doubts about the president's agenda from a handful of GOP moderates. Bush thinks the country will side with him on the domestic spying furor that has erupted in the past few days. Bush is still feeling upbeat about the generally smooth Iraqi election last week. He is confident the Senate will soon approve his nominee Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. And White House advisers note an uptick in his job-approval numbers and support for the war in Iraq, at least in some polls. "The President is feeling quite good about where things are headed," a senior White House official told U.S. News and the Bulletin.
- **Bush Poll Bounce Cheers GOP Congressional Leaders.** President Bush's mild bounce in public approval polls – for the first time in a while, a major national poll has him above 45% in job approval -- has also helped GOP lawmakers, making it less likely that the Republicans will lose control of either house, according to strategists for both Democratic and Republican House and Senate campaign committees. "That's great for us," a House Republican leadership aide said of the President's new poll up tick. One poll even found that the job approval rating of Congress is about 65 percent, up from recent polling. However, on the Republican side look for House and Senate members to stick with a non-Washington theme in the 2006 midterms. "Local, local, local, that's our motto," says a Republican strategist. "It worked well in 2002 and 2004 and should do well in 2006." Democrats, who had dreamed of taking control of the House if the President's numbers continued to plummet, are now looking to pick up five to eight House seats and some two Senate seats. Unclear, add Democratic advisors, is how many others they may get if Republicans linked to the Abramoff lobbying affair abruptly quit. Another Democratic strategist added that any House and Senate pickups could be limited if the party doesn't agree on a unified message on Iraq and immigration. "Ultimately, we're going to need to do a better job," he said. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*
- **Pirro To End NY Senate Campaign, Run For State Attorney General.** Republican Jeanine Pirro has decided to end her campaign for the party's nomination to challenge Sen. Hillary Clinton and will run instead for state attorney general, two Republicans familiar with the situation told the AP today. They said an announcement could come as early as tomorrow.
- **Political Notes. President. Sen. Hillary Clinton** said on the Senate floor yesterday that if GOP budget cuts go into effect, it will indirectly increase the number of abortions, the AP reports. ... Roll Call reports that House GOP leaders plan to push for legislation regulating 527 groups early next year after the current version of the legislation was pulled from the 2006 Defense authorization bill during conference.

Governors. Former Alabama Gov. **Don Siegelman** (D), who is running to reclaim his old job, told the AP that he is concerned that current corruption charges against him will not go to trial in sufficient time to allow him to wage an effective primary campaign if his name is cleared at trial. ... The Boston Herald reports this morning Massachusetts **Attorney General Tom Reilly** (D) is successfully rallying a number of state Democratic lawmakers to his side in his battle with **Deval Patrick** (D) for their party's gubernatorial nod. ... The Wisconsin State Journal reports today that authorities examining a state travel contract given to a major donor to **Gov. Jim Doyle's** (D) campaign has expanded its investigation to look for links between donations from utility executives and the approval of the sale of a nuclear power plant by state regulators.

Senate. Roll Call reports today that the DSCC "raised \$3.6 million in November, boosting its total to \$38.7 million collected this year, with \$16.7 million remaining in the bank. The NRSC raised \$2.3 million last month, bringing its total to \$33 million collected this year, with \$9 million on hand." ... The Bradenton Herald reports that AFL-CIO members held a press conference outside of a district office of **Rep. Katherine Harris** (R), who is running for Senate, to highlight her "voting record against working families." ... Roll Call reports today that former Majority Leader Dick Arme (R) announced earlier this week that he is backing ex-Rep. **Ed Bryant** in the three-way GOP Tennessee Senate primary.

House. Roll Call reports today that the NRCC "raised \$3.7 million in November, compared to \$2.45 million for the DCCC. The NRCC led the DCCC in cash on hand \$19.5 million to \$11.24 million, but the DCCC was also carrying a debt of \$1.9 million. The NRCC led the DCCC in total fundraising for the year, having amassed \$60.6 million to the DCCC's \$36.7 million." ... The San Diego Union Tribune reports that businessman **Ken King** (R) entered the **CA50** special election on Monday, while Escondido **Mayor Lori**

Holt Pfeiler (R) said she would not run. ... The Cincinnati Enquirer reports today that **OH2 Rep. Jean Schmidt** (R) is making automated recorded calls to her constituents despite the fact that her first act in Congress was to introduce a bill aimed at limiting such calls by political groups. ... Roll Call reports today that **Tyson Pratcher** (D), currently a staff member for **Sen. Hillary Clinton** (D), is leaving his job to return to Tennessee to run for the open **TN9** seat.

POLL WATCH:

54% Say Senate Should Confirm Alito Supreme Court Nomination. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1003 adults (+/- 3%), conducted over December 15-18, shows:

- 54% "think the US should confirm" Judge Samuel Alito's "nomination to the Supreme Court"; 28% think the Senate should not; 19% had no opinion.
- Informed that the Supreme Court "legalized abortion 32 years ago in a ruling known as Roe versus Wade," 61% said "if that case came before the court again," they "would want Alito to vote to uphold Roe versus Wade"; 35% said "vote to overturn it"; 4% had no opinion.
- 42% "would like to see the Supreme Court make it harder to get an abortion than it is now"; 11% said "easier to get an abortion than it is now"; 45% said "leave the ability to get an abortion the same as it is now"; 2% had no opinion.
- 17% said it is "extremely important" that "Alito agrees with your position on abortion"; 26% said "very important"; 38% said "somewhat important"; 17% said "less important"; 1% had no opinion.
- 17% "think abortion should be legal in all cases"; 40% said "most cases"; 27% said "illegal in most cases"; 13% said "illegal in all cases"; 3% had no opinion.

Consumer Confidence Continues To Rise In ABC News/WPost Poll. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1000 adults (+/- 3%) in the four weeks ending December 18 shows:

- The ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index "has gained 10 points in a month and a half, from -21 on Oct. 30 to -11 today on its scale of +100 to -100."
- 38% rate the national economy as excellent or good; 62% rate the economy as not good or poor.
- 59% rate their own finances as excellent or good; 41% rate their finances as not good or poor.
- 37% said now is an excellent time or a good time to buy the things they want and need; 63% said it is not a good time or a poor time.

LAST LAUGHS:

Late Night Political Humor.

Jay Leno: "They have got some great gadgets this year for Christmas. ... This cell phone that has caller ID, call waiting, text messaging and a flashing button to let you know when President Bush is eavesdropping on your calls."

Jay Leno: "That's the big story, you know. President Bush and this whole domestic spying thing. Remember the good old days when the only thing you had to worry about on your phone were telemarketers?"

Jay Leno: "Vice President Dick Cheney made a surprise visit to Iraq over the weekend. He met with the Iraqi prime minister who showed him his purple finger from the election. Then Cheney showed the Iraqi minister his purple fingers from bad circulation."

Jay Leno: "USC Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush announced he is available for the NFL draft. Actually, this also marks the first time in history the words 'Bush' and 'available for the draft' have ever appeared together in the same sentence."

David Letterman: "I don't know if you know about this, but New York City is in the middle of a transit strike and more bad news, they're sending in FEMA."

Conan O'Brien: "Due to the transit strike, New Yorkers are not allowed to drive into the city unless there are at least four people in every car. Yeah. The situation has become so desperate, some New Yorkers have been forced to talk to their neighbors."

Conan O'Brien: "Police are actually stopping cars to make sure they have four people. Yeah. As a result, Donald Trump had to come to work today with three chauffeurs."

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From: Aaron Baer - Research\Communications <ABaer@rnchq.org>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2006 8:20 AM
To: Aaron Baer - Research\Communications <abaer@republican national committee.com>
Subject: Wall Street Journal

Newt Gingrich: [Which Bipartisanship Will Bush Choose?](#)

Rogers: [Lott Returns to Senate Leadership](#)

Editorial: [Detroit and Bush](#)

Hillyer: [Alabama Lazarus Act](#)

WSJ: [Oil Group Warns Congress on Tax Breaks](#)

Which Bipartisanship Will Bush Choose?

WALL STREET JOURNAL

By NEWT GINGRICH

November 16, 2006; Page A18

The election results pose two enormous strategic choices for America. First, the obvious outcome of a Democratic-controlled Congress and a Republican White House is the need for bipartisan cooperation in order to get anything done. The key question is: Which kind of bipartisanship will emerge? Will there be a Ronald Reagan approach to bipartisanship which appeals to the conservative majority of the House? Or will there be an establishment bipartisanship which cuts deals between liberals and the White House? Second: Will the departure of Donald Rumsfeld and his replacement by Robert Gates lead to a tactical effort to minimize the difficulties of Iraq, or to a fundamental rethinking of the larger threats to American safety?

These two choices are strikingly interrelated. An establishment bipartisanship between the White House and liberal congressional leaders will almost certainly make it necessary to focus narrowly on how to minimize difficulties in Iraq and postpone consideration of the larger threats to America for the remainder of this and into the next presidency. By contrast, a conservative bipartisanship that knits together the House Republicans and the Blue Dog Democrats into a floor majority, working with a White House that emphasizes popular issues at the grassroots, would make it much easier to focus on the larger threats to American safety. (Such a bipartisanship could stress making the cap gains tax cut permanent; controlling set-asides and discretionary spending; oversight on failing bureaucracies and waste; English as the language of government; and biofuels as part of an energy policy.)

How these bipartisanship choices are made will do a great deal to define our government and politics for the next few years. Each strategy cross-pressures a different part of the House and Senate. Each requires some members to choose between their loyalty to their values and those held by their districts on the one hand and their party leadership on the other.

A liberal establishment strategy will almost certainly split the GOP and lead to a grassroots rebellion against the kind of policies which a Pelosi-Reid alliance would force on the White House. House Republicans would find themselves split again and again as their leadership cooperated with Nancy Pelosi to bring forward liberal legislation. Conservative senators would find themselves blocking and filibustering liberal legislation brought forward by the Senate establishment Republican leadership and Harry Reid. Their supporters at home would be angrily insistent on active opposition to a liberal establishment legislative agenda.

On the other hand, a conservative populist grassroots strategy would almost certainly make daily interactions with liberal leaders more confrontational as they found themselves nominally chairing committees but losing votes on the floor and having their initiatives rejected by a conservative grassroots coalition. With a conservative populist grassroots strategy it is the 44 Blue Dog Democrats who would find themselves cross-pressured. In the House, some 54 Democrats won by claiming they were much more conservative than Nancy Pelosi, and much more conservative than the San Francisco values she represents. Here, they would be forced to choose between their voters back home and the promises made to them during the campaign, and their leadership.

Ironically, the very nature of the Democratic victory makes it possible to re-establish the conservative Democrat and House Republican coalition which made the Reagan legislative victories of 1981-82 possible. Tip O'Neill was the liberal Democratic speaker when Reagan became president, but he did not have a liberal majority in the House. Yet despite a seemingly liberal Democrat lock in a 242-192 majority, they lost control of the floor on the most important bill of Reagan's first term. His tax cuts were initially passed 238-195 with 48 Democrats splitting from the leadership and siding with Reagan and the GOP. The final passage of the conference report passed 282-95, with a 113-vote Democratic majority siding with Reagan and only 95 liberal democrats voting "no."

I was a sophomore during this exciting Reagan first term and I learned from him the art of appealing to the American people to win votes in Washington. When we passed welfare reform in 1996, the Democrats split 98 "yes" and 98 "no." When we passed the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, the Democrats split 153 "yes" and only 52 diehard liberals voted "no."

If President Bush decides to govern as President Reagan did, he will work to unify the Blue Dog Democrats with the Republicans to win a handful of very large victories while accepting a constant barrage of unhappiness from the liberal leadership. That is what conservative bipartisanship is like. If on the other hand, President Bush decides on an establishment strategy of cooperating with the liberal leadership, he will guarantee splitting his own party and will see his legacy drift further and further to the left as the Pelosi-Reid wing of their party demands more and more concessions.

This choice of which strategy to follow domestically has an enormous implication for national security. A liberal coalition will focus narrowly on Iraq and seek to avoid thinking about the scale of threat we face internationally. A conservative bipartisan coalition will look first to the larger threat to American security and will then seek to find solutions in Iraq to strengthen American security. It is hard to see how a liberal coalition will be able to look at the larger threats to our safety, even when the threat, articulated in this warning by Vice Admiral Patrick Walsh, is clear: "What we are talking about today is an ideology that thrives on murder, intimidation and fear. It puts innocent people at risk, particularly those in open societies. What we are talking about are people who worship death itself."

Thus the decision about which bipartisanship to pursue with regard to a legislative agenda and the Iraq war becomes for the Bush administration a decision about how safe and how prosperous America will be under divided government.

Mr. Gingrich is a former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Lott Returns to Senate Leadership

Election as Republican Whip Spells Political Redemption; A Mixed Blessing for Bush?

WALL STREET JOURNAL

By DAVID ROGERS

November 16, 2006; Page A6

WASHINGTON -- Mississippi's Trent Lott barreled back into the Senate Republican leadership as party whip when the 110th Congress convenes in January.

The narrow 25-24 caucus vote echoed Mr. Lott's 1994 victory when he wrested the same No. 2 party post from former Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson. But this triumph also spelled redemption for a man who rose as high as Senate majority leader before falling precipitously in 2002.

For President Bush, the Mississippian's return could be a mixed blessing. Mr. Lott blamed the White House for contributing to his ouster, but he brings a set of legislative skills that the administration sorely needs to move its agenda in the new Democratic-controlled Congress.

After four years of Bill Frist, the retiring Senate leader who never seemed at home in the chamber, Republicans are hungry for a proven expediter. Mr. Frist's Tennessee colleague, Sen. Lamar Alexander, who began campaigning for the whip's post a year ago, couldn't withstand Mr. Lott's late surge.

Sen. Judd Gregg (R., N.H.) said of Mr. Lott: "He goes across the aisle better than any other member of our caucus. He has an intuitive sense of the way this place works."

"He's the best I've seen in 20 years in the Senate in working both the Senate and the other side of the Capitol," said Sen. John McCain (R., Ariz.).

Mr. Lott fell from power after suggesting at a televised party in December 2002 that the nation would have had fewer problems if the segregationist policies of the old Dixiecrat Party in the South had prevailed. He denied any racist intent but was rebuked by the president and complained that the White House encouraged efforts to replace him with Mr. Frist.

Mr. Lott was emotional after his triumph and pledged his loyalty to the new Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell (R., Ky.). Mr. McConnell had signaled privately that he wouldn't work against Mr. Lott's comeback, but the victory also reflects changes in the senator as a person.

Mr. Lott reached out to colleagues like Sen. McCain, with whom he had fought in the past. And in seconding the nomination, Oregon Sen. Gordon Smith said Mr. Lott was stronger for having dealt with the twin setbacks of losing his leadership post and seeing his home state and Gulf Coast house devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

"If any man has gotten a one-two punch and gotten off the mat a better man, it's Trent Lott," Mr. Smith said.

Mr. Lott's return also underscores the human dimension of leadership elections in Congress, a huge factor again today for House Democrats deciding on majority leader for the coming Congress. Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the party whip, is seeking the post, but faces stiff resistance from Pennsylvania Rep. John Murtha, a Marine Vietnam veteran who has helped to galvanize public support for the party by speaking out against the Iraq war.

Part of the fight is about loyalties, most notably those of Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D., Calif.), the future speaker who publicly endorsed Mr. Murtha, a friend. Part also is about ideas. The 74-year-old Mr. Murtha has risked much of what he has in the House to press his case for a stronger stand on Iraq. And part is about money and the ethical problems that persist for Congress after an election in which corruption was an issue for voters.

Public Citizen, the consumer nonprofit group, last night released a study showing that Mr. Hoyer ranks far higher than Mr. Murtha in his dependency on special-interest political funds. But as the race tightens, Hoyer supporters have focused on Mr. Murtha's ethical scrapes and role as an unindicted co-conspirator in the Abscam bribery scandal in 1980.

A videotape of Mr. Murtha meeting with an FBI operative posing as a cash-wielding Arab sheik was resurrected earlier this year by conservatives attacking his stand on Iraq. It has now come into play in the leadership race and could be fatal.

Mr. Murtha denies taking any money but remains very much an old school politician who lives by his own code. Others in similar circumstances have redeemed themselves in the public's eye by becoming reformers; Mr. Murtha is much more resistant to new rules as the solution, though he has promised to back an ethics package promoted by Ms. Pelosi.

House Republicans also have their caucus races -- and divisions -- which will play out tomorrow. Ohio Rep. John Boehner appears increasingly confident of keep his post as the new minority leader after Rep. Joe Barton (R., Tex.) withdrew last evening and pledged to support Mr. Boehner against the remaining challenger, Rep. Mike Pence (R., Ind.).

Write to David Rogers at david.rogers@wsj.com

Detroit and Bush

WALL STREET JOURNAL

Editorial

November 16, 2006; Page A18

Auto executives from the Big Three finally got their sit-down with President Bush this week, where they (surprise!) pleaded for federal relief. The press billed it as a meeting between the President and "American" car makers, which is true as far as it goes. But what does it mean to be a domestic auto manufacturer today, and do Ford, General Motors and DaimlerChrysler alone still speak for the industry?

The Big Three still dominate U.S. auto production, but foreign makers continue to gain market share, currently accounting for some 40% of all passenger cars and light trucks sold in the U.S. Foreign auto makers also continue to invest and expand their presence stateside. In 2004 foreign-owned plants in the U.S. accounted for nearly 29% of all vehicles produced domestically; in 1984 it was less than 3%. Auto imports are rising, but they remain lower than they were at their peak in the 1980s.

In a study published earlier this year, the Cato Institute's Daniel Griswold and Daniel Ikenson report that each of the top 10 selling cars and trucks in the first half of 2006 is produced at U.S. facilities. "Toyota Camry, Honda Accord, Chevy Impala (GM), Ford Taurus, Nissan Altima, Ford Explorer, Chrysler Town & Country, and other models that round off the most popular 20, regardless of the location of company headquarters, are produced in U.S. plants by American workers who contribute to the local, state, and national economies through their employment, expenditures, and taxes," the authors note.

All of which suggests that the U.S. auto industry as a whole is healthy and that the troubles of GM, Ford and Chrysler are by and large unique to those Detroit players. This is an important distinction, because the auto executives who met with Mr. Bush are keen to present their current woes as industry-wide. And the Big Three are counting on Michigan's Democrats in Congress, who now find themselves in the majority, to help make the case.

GM posted a \$10.6 billion loss last year and has closed plants and offered union-worker buyouts. Ford is downsizing its workforce in the wake of weak sales. Both companies are responding to self-inflicted wounds that result from weak product lines, plus labor deals with the United Auto Workers that include generous benefits and pensions, as well as GM's notorious Jobs Bank that pays thousands of workers for not working. GM is paying for the health care of more retired workers (and their dependents) than of active employees.

These legacy costs, which don't burden foreign competitors, are gobbling up cash at the Big Three and explain their eagerness to seek political benediction. Mr. Bush had been resisting their overtures and appears to be standing his ground, agreeing to little more after this week's meeting than a "continuing dialogue." But with Michigan Democrats Carl Levin and John Dingell filling leadership posts, there's likely to be increased pressure for some kind of government aid. And if these Democrats have their way, that will involve some taxpayer assumption of legacy costs.

The President's inconsistency on bailouts won't help matters. The airlines have received between \$15 billion and \$20 billion in cash to help keep them afloat in the wake of 9/11. And in 2002 the Bush Administration enacted steel tariffs, even as large bankrupt steel firms dumped their own legacy costs on the federal Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

Detroit auto makers are angling for a similar deal, but it would only retard the necessary if painful transformation that is currently taking place at the Big Three. It would also reward bad management decisions -- and union intransigence -- by allowing car companies to toss health care costs over to taxpayers.

Claims that U.S. auto manufacturers are at a competitive disadvantage due to an undervalued Japanese yen also don't hold up. Last year, both the Treasury and Federal Reserve looked into accusations of currency manipulation and found no evidence that it was taking place. Over the past three years the Japanese yen has appreciated against the dollar by about 12%. In any case, the value of the yen has nothing to do with GM competing with the Hondas made in Marysville, Ohio.

With respect to Korea, a huge country with a closely protected auto market, the Big Three have a trade point. But the proper government response is to urge Korea to open its markets more, not to reply in kind. And, by the way, the car makers are also right about U.S. anti-dumping trade laws, which steel makers and their lawyers have used to raise domestic steel prices. How about Democrats and Mr. Bush calling for the repeal of those laws?

GM, Ford, Chrysler and their enablers in the new Congress would have you believe otherwise, but outside of Michigan the U.S. remains a great place to produce vehicles. Consumers have more choices in what to drive and better quality than ever. And prices are competitive. Government intervention in a market this healthy can only increase the chances that it won't stay that way.

Alabama Lazarus Act

WALL STREET JOURNAL

By QUIN HILLYER

November 16, 2006; Page A19

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. -- In Birmingham they love the governor. And in Mobile and Huntsville, too.

As Republicans coast to coast were burying their many political dead, a Republican governor once given up for dead was enjoying a landslide victory. Alabama Gov. Bob Riley was re-elected last week, beating long-popular Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley with more than 58% of the vote, including an impressive 20% of the black vote. His victory was not simply the result of Alabama being a Republican state: Democrats won the two next most prominent statewide races, those for lieutenant governor and Supreme Court chief justice. In Alabama as elsewhere, this was a Democratic year -- with the notable exception of Mr. Riley, a conservative reformer in cowboy boots, with a cheerful, Reagan-like demeanor.

Three years ago, few observers believed that he could ever win again. A businessman who began his post-college career by selling eggs door-to-door (literally), later to sell his hens and build a business of car dealerships and a trucking company, Mr. Riley was a relatively obscure three-term congressman when he ran for governor in 2002. In that race, he barely squeaked past scandal-plagued Democratic incumbent Don Siegelman by a lawsuit-challenged 3,120 votes.

During his first year in office, Mr. Riley pushed an ambitious, complicated tax-reform proposal that was part of a multiyear plan to shift revenues to under-funded departments such as law enforcement while relieving the tax burden on low-income workers. Derided (a bit misleadingly) by opponents as a huge tax increase -- although far more people would have enjoyed a tax cut than endured a tax hike under the proposal -- the initiative was destroyed in a statewide referendum, receiving only 32.5% of the vote. Pundits immediately pronounced the governor a total goner.

How, then, did Mr. Riley recover from such political disaster to win re-election so resoundingly? Not just Mr. Riley but editorial writers across the state will readily identify his successes in the "Three Es": economic development, education and, not least, ethics. Consider the statistics: An unemployment rate that dropped to an astonishingly low (especially for Alabama) 3.3% from 5.3%; school test scores rising, especially in reading proficiency in at-risk schools blessed with the Riley-backed (and nationally copied) Alabama Reading Initiative; and public standards of ethics combined with radically open government records, along with measurable performance standards imposed on every department of state government.

These accomplishments stand in marked contrast to the record of Mr. Siegelman, who presided over a budget crisis and now stands convicted of bribery and other infractions.

In his Birmingham hotel suite an hour before the polls closed Nov. 7, during a lengthy conversation sandwiched around a friendly phone call from Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Mr. Riley explained with great depth and detail -- not to mention a guileless enthusiasm -- how it was that his administration so impressed the voters.

"I think people appreciated that after [the tax reform initiative] failed, we turned around and did exactly what the people told us to do. We cut half a billion dollars out of [an already tight] budget . . . We put a new economic model together for Alabama, and it has been remarkably successful . . . We found a way to cut taxes anyway [chiefly by raising the earnings threshold below which workers pay no income tax], and we got really good grades when the hurricanes came through."

Alabama has been ravaged by three hurricanes during Mr. Riley's tenure, and the state's response each time was a model of effectiveness. Listen to Howard Shell, since 1986 the mayor of Atmore (pop. 8,000): "Ivan and Dennis both hit us hard. . . . For the city of Atmore, Gov. Riley was really responsive when we really needed it. Just one phone call to him, and he began to make things happen. He got us extra law enforcement right away, he got forestry experts, he got all the state agencies to help in every way. . . . He's one of the most proactive governors we have had, the best we've had since I've been here."

Mr. Riley's particular genius, meanwhile, has been evident in his efforts at business development. He

consolidated nine different state agencies charged with economic development into just one, hired top-notch administrators and used federal grants more wisely by paying attention to small details such as re-routing small roads, building water tanks and improving the state's job-training agencies so that they provide what he calls "job-specific, product-specific, even company-specific training."

For four years running, Southern Business and Development Magazine has named Alabama its "state of the year." Site Selection magazine ranked the Alabama Development Office as the top such agency in the nation. And even in the state's rural, long-impooverished "Black Belt" (so named for the color of its loamy soil), unemployment has dropped to 7.7% from many years in the double digits, largely due to initiatives by the Riley-created Black Belt Action Commission.

Elsewhere, Mayor Harold Crouch of Chatom (pop. 1,204), a self-described political ticket-splitter, tells of how Mr. Riley has made the state capitol "acceptable to rural Alabama again." Just by helping with infrastructure such as water service and a little paving and earth-moving, Mr. Riley's team made it possible for Chatom to land a plant of A.C. Manufacturing, a garment company, with 152 jobs. "It would not have occurred if the governor had not personally stepped in to help," Mr. Crouch said.

Thus did Mr. Riley run for re-election as a genial, tax-cutting, budget-cutting, crisis-handling, job-creating, education-boosting, utterly scandal-free reformer. Every major newspaper in the state -- conservative, moderate and liberal alike -- endorsed him for another term. Interesting how that works.

In his victory speech on election night, Bob Riley put himself on the line by urging the people of the state to "demand a higher level of excellence from state government than you have ever demanded before." Judging from the election results, Alabamians think that type of excellence already is housed in their governor's mansion.

Oil Group Warns Congress on Tax Breaks

WALL STREET JOURNAL
November 16, 2006; Page A12

WASHINGTON -- The head of the American Petroleum Institute has sent a letter to lawmakers warning that any "discriminatory tax regimes" could hurt U.S. oil companies' efforts to tap overseas energy supplies -- setting up a potential debate that could play out in the next Congress.

The letter sent by Red Cavaney, president of the Washington-based trade association, appeared to be aimed at Democrats, who retook control of the House and Senate in last week's midterm election. Nancy Pelosi, the coming speaker of the House, had pledged in a July campaign speech that "in the first 100 hours of a new Congress," Democrats would remove "billions of dollars of subsidies to energy companies."

Brendan Daly, a spokesman for Mrs. Pelosi, said the most likely targets would be \$4 billion worth of benefits and tax breaks for oil companies in the Energy Policy Act, which Congress passed in 2005. In his letter, Mr. Cavaney said gasoline prices have declined since summer. He argued that tax increases would also hinder energy-company investments in alternative-energy sources.

Aaron Baer

Republican National Committee

From: Susan Ralston
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2005 3:52 PM
To: Mina Nguyen - Government Affairs <mnguyen@republican national committee.com>
Subject: White House Bulletin: 12/21/05

See this item from the Bulletin below. Does it make sense to forward to Sam Mok to get to Asian Week and others?

Despite Rumors, Key Rove Aide Susan Ralston Not Leaving White House. Susan Ralston, a top aide to Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove, has not quit and has no plans of leaving the White House despite a wave of rumors in the foreign press about her departure. Reached at her West Wing desk today, she assured U.S. News and the Bulletin that after five years in the job she remains "very much committed" to Rove and President Bush and that the reports about her departure were surprising. Described as the most influential Filipino-American in the administration, she is watched very carefully by the island nation's press. The First Philippine News reported earlier this month that she had quit, citing the work burden in the West Wing. She also recently testified in the CIA-Valerie Plame spy case. But, she says, nobody from the news agency ever called to confirm that she remains in place. In fact, associates said that Rove has fought to keep her on the job where she manages much of his day. What was more surprising about the reports, said insiders, was that Ralston's portfolio has actually expanded and she is now also in charge of developing and producing all presidential message events, an office that has been kept very busy as the President has sought to build public support for the war and as he enters the hectic budget and State of the Union period. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*

-----Original Message-----

THE WHITE HOUSE *BULLETIN*

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SUBJECT: TODAY'S BRIEFING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005

OFF THE WIRES:

- **Saddam Claims To Have Been Beaten In Prison.** After listening quietly to several hours of testimony from witnesses who claim to have been tortured under his regime, Saddam Hussein engaged in a long outburst in which he said he has been beaten while in detention. Saddam told the court, "Yes, I have been beaten, everywhere on my body. The marks are still there."

Several witnesses were testifying against Saddam today. Ali Hassan al-Haidari said he and other residents from Dujail, where there was an assassination attempt on Saddam in the early 1980s, were taken to Baghdad and thrown into a prison where people aged nine to 90 were held. He said guards applied electric shocks to detainees, and that they also

RNC-HJC-003550

heated up plastic tubing and allowed the hot plastic to drip onto the bodies of victims. "I cannot express all that suffering and pain we faced in the 70 days inside," he said. Haidari also testified that former intelligence chief Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, who is also standing trial, kicked him once as he was lying in the hallway. Haidari told the court that Barzan "said to the guards, 'Do not treat him; this family does not deserve to live.' I was in pain for weeks because of that kick." He also said that while Saddam was not directly involved, "at that time no one acted on his own unless orders were given by Saddam. I hold Saddam responsible for detaining me and my family and ruining my future."

- **Pakistan Moves Against Insurgents.** Pakistani helicopters attacked two suspected training camps for insurgents in the southwestern province of Baluchistan today and ground troops later seized heavy weapons and ammunition, a military spokesman said today. Lt. Col. Hassan Jamil said there were no casualties and no arrests, however. Jamil also said that in separate attacks, suspected rebels fired eight rockets at three military bases in the area, but nobody was hurt. Tribal leaders say many people have been killed in military operations since Sunday, but Jamil said he could not confirm any deaths.
- **New Round Of Negotiations On Iranian Nuclear Program Begins.** European and Iranian negotiators reopened talks over Iran's nuclear program today in Vienna. Iranian delegate Mohammad Mehdi Akhonzadeh said the first session was a good one, adding, "We expressed our views and came to know each other. It's too early to talk about results. We'll know more after the second session this afternoon." Going into the talks, European diplomats were pessimistic, saying the meetings were unlikely to deter Iran from enriching uranium.
- **3rd Quarter GDP Revised Slightly Downward.** The Department of Commerce this morning revised 3rd quarter GDP downward to 4.1 percent in its third and final report on economic growth during that period. Commerce had originally reported at 4.3 percent rate of growth. Despite the revision, the 3rd quarter growth rate was the strongest gain since the 1st quarter of 2004. The price index for personal consumption was also revised up to a 3.7 percent gain, up from a 3.6 percent estimate earlier. The core index, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, rose 1.4 percent, up from the previous estimate of 1.2 percent.

Snow Credits Fed, Bush Policies For High Growth. Treasury Secretary John Snow said, "We owe the resilience of the US economy to the American entrepreneurs and workers whose creativity and adaptability have kept our economy growing. Sound monetary policy from the Federal Reserve and the pro-growth economic strategy pursued by President Bush have laid the groundwork for the sustained economic growth that has created 4.5 million new jobs over the past two and a half years and has helped the economy continue its solid performance despite the difficulties presented in the third quarter."

IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND AROUND TOWN:

- **Cheney Provides Vote That Puts Budget Bill Over The Top In Senate.** Vice President Dick Cheney cut short a Mideast diplomatic mission to be in Washington just in case his vote was needed for key end of the year legislation in the Senate. On the first big vote of the day, a bill to cut spending by nearly \$40 billion over five years, Cheney's vote was needed. He broke a 50-50 tie. However, because of a small change to the bill, the House will need to act on the bill once more, probably tomorrow. The budget vote might also be a bad portent for Senate GOP leaders, who believed they would probably prevail on the budget vote today, but thought the vote on the defense appropriations bill would be even tighter.
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Regarding the Patriot Act, Bush said, "In order to protect America, the United States Senate must reauthorize the Patriot Act. The terrorists still want to hit us again. There's an enemy that lurks, a dangerous group of people that want to do harm to the American people, and we must have the tools necessary to protect the American people. The Patriot Act passed overwhelmingly shortly after the September the 11th attack. It has been an effective tool. It has worked.

"At the same time as we protected the American people using the Patriot Act, we've also protected their civil liberties. There is extensive oversight on this very important program. The Patriot Act tore down the wall between law enforcement and intelligence communities, which makes it easier to connect the dots before an attack. The Patriot Act also gave law

enforcement tools to investigate terrorism that they have already got to investigate other types of crimes. The Patriot Act is scheduled to expire at the end of the year. The terrorist threat is not going to expire at the end of this year. The House has voted to reauthorize the Patriot Act, and they left town because they thought -- because their business is finished. The Senate is still debating this issue.

"A majority of the United States Senate supports reauthorization. A minority of senators is filibustering and preventing the Senate from voting to renew the Patriot Act. The Senate Democratic leader recently boasted about killing the Patriot Act. This obstruction is inexcusable. The senators obstructing the Patriot Act need to understand that the expiration of this vital law will endanger America and will leave us in a weaker position in the fight against brutal killers. It's important that the Senate act quickly on these two bills."

Leahy Pushes Extension, Calls Bush Argument "Irresponsible." Sen. Pat Leahy also held a press conference this morning, along with Republican colleague Sen. John Sununu, to urge an extension of the current law. Leahy also appeared to lob an indirect volley at President Bush, calling remarks about what would happen if the Patriot Act were to expire "irresponsible." President Bush has been making that argument as backers of reauthorizing the Act are using the imminent expiration date to pressure lawmakers to vote for reauthorization.

In his remarks this morning, Leahy said, "We have suggested...a brief extension just to give everybody a bit of time, take a deep breath, let some common sense come in here, shed some light on what we're doing and get a better bill. Its clear our extension Bill would pass overwhelmingly. It would pass overwhelmingly if it's allowed to come to a vote, and as soon as it became apparent that the conference report could not pass and there wouldn't be any change on the votes if we a revote on cloture, I went to Senator Sununu, offered to join with him in a three-month extension to work out a better bill. We had bipartisan support of that."

Noting that 52 senators are on record in favor of an extension, and arguing many more than that will support it, Leahy added, "Remember, every single senator, Republican and Democrat, voted in July to amend and extend the existing Patriot Act. It passed out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously. Those of you that know that committee know it would go across the whole spectrum of political thought. This bipartisan solution was cast aside unfortunately, even though we're making progress, when some of the administration pushed those of us who wanted to amend it, pushed us out of that conference and now we are where we are. So we've come together, Republicans and Democrats, for a short-term extension. This is not a time to make irresponsible statements about what happens to this nation if the Patriot Act were to expire. All of us wanted to secure the nation. Just as we came together [after] 9/11, nobody said, wait, this happened in the Bush administration. That wasn't the thing. We said this happened to Americans, and Americans of both parties came together. We should do the same. A country would have a lot -- our country would have a lot more credibility here and abroad if we did that. So let's make the extra effort to produce a balanced Patriot Act, a consensus Patriot Act, balance our security needs with American civil liberties, a balanced consensus bill is what we need. We are founded as a country on those principals. We could protect our liberties and our securities."

Symbolizing the unusual left-right coalition that wants changes to the Patriot Act, conservative Sen. John Sununu today joined Leahy in backing an extension. Sununu said this morning, "Let me emphasize a couple points. First, the kinds of modifications, the balance that Senator Leahy are talking about are in a few provisions of the Patriot Act, two or three areas of the 16 provisions that are being renewed. They are not issues...that were raised a week ago or month ago or two months ago. They were raise the in the legislation introduced over a year and a half ago. They are concerns we have consistently raised time and again.

"Second, these modifications don't in any way undermine law enforcement's ability to do their job. Among the most important are giving Americans a meaningful judicial review on the gag order, the restriction on free speech, that accompanies a 215 order or national security letter. Giving somebody an opportunity to challenge a gag order doesn't inhibit law enforcements ability to do a job. Being fair and getting rid of a punitive provision that requires you to go to the FBI, tell them if you talk to a lawyer and name that lawyer, which is nowhere else in law, doesn't undermine law enforcement's ability to do their job. These are pretty straightforward modifications we're seeking."

Sununu added, "Next, there are a number of different ways that we can work through this issue. We have a bill on the Senate calendar that has already passed the Senate unanimously that could be taken up immediately, passed unanimously again unless someone has flip flopped on it, sent to the House [where] that bill would receive an overwhelming bipartisan majority in the House. That's one path we could take.

"Second, we could address the specifics changes we have discussed here today, or third we could pass an extension, a three-month extension would give us ample time to work out the differences that remain. That's why Senator Leahy and I, Senator Craig and Senator Schumer put together a letter. We've got Republicans and Democrats, 52 on the letter now, just in the last 24 hours, we put this letter together and were able to get 52 signatures saying we are better off putting the Patriot Act in place while we work out the differences, we should pass the extension, there's no reason to leave here without keeping elements of the Patriot Act in place. We support these tools, I certainly do. This isn't a question of

changing of weakening or undermining the tools. It's a question of providing a balance where your right for judicial review or civil liberties are concerned."

DOJ, DHS Contend Expiration Would Put Law Enforcement Back In Pre-9/11 Days. The Justice Department and Homeland Security Department today released a "fact sheet" listing nine specific sections of US law that would change if the Patriot Act were to expire, and contended the cumulative effect would mean "we will return to a pre-9/11 mode of information sharing where there are not clear rules governing investigators' ability to share information with each other, where terrorists and spies can use technology against us, and where it is more difficult to investigate a potential terrorist attack than it is to catch a drug dealer, a mobster, or a white collar criminal." Among the sections that would change are laws regarding wiretapping, information sharing between law enforcement and national security agents, FISA surveillance, and the ability to issue nationwide search warrants.

- **Senate GOP Leaders Expected To Force Vote On Defense Bill.** Neither side claims to have the votes for the defense bill expected to come to the Senate floor today, in large part because of a rider attached that would open ANWR to drilling. GOP leaders were looking at a situation last night, according to GOP sources, where they believed they were about three votes shy of a filibuster-proof margin, but with more than enough uncommitted senators to make up the difference. It was unclear how they would line up the necessary votes, but one GOP source tells the Bulletin that rather than hold off the vote to line up support, GOP leaders will press forward on the vote hoping the pressure to fund defense accounts during wartime will win over enough senators to stop a filibuster.
- **Bush Says Current Policy Setting Foundation For Future Peace.** Speaking at Bethesda Naval Hospital today, President Bush argued that by converting hostile nations to democracies, the US is "laying that foundation for peace for generations to come." Citing Japan's conversion to democracy in the post-WWII era, Bush said, "And one of my predecessors, Harry Truman, recognized the power of freedom to transform an enemy into an ally, that's what happened. And so Japan adopted a Japanese-style democracy, and in that, democracies don't fight each other; in that, democracy is the best way to encourage a peaceful world. It's working."

Bush added, "And what we're seeing today is brave troops and committed citizens who are not only determined to chase down the killers and bring them to justice before they hurt us again, but understand that by spreading freedom and democracy, we're battling an ideology of darkness with an ideology of hope, and we're laying that foundation for peace for generations to come. The task at hand is one that requires determination and discipline and great faith in the ideals of human freedom and human liberty. And so coming here today is a chance to not only thank you for being a part of this incredible team of healers, but also being a part of this historic moment. Some day, an American president will be sitting down with a duly elected leader of Iraq, working hard to keep the peace, and future generations of America will be saying, thank God this generation of America stood strong for what we believe."
- **Johanns Says Billions More Needed To Prepare For Bird Flu Outbreak.** Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said today that billions of dollars are needed to better prepare for the possibility of a bird flu outbreak. Johanns' comments came as the Senate considers appropriating \$3.8 billion for bird flu preparedness which was included in the defense bill passed by the House Monday. The Agriculture Department would get approximately \$100 million of that money. Johanns told the AP, "We'll absolutely do the best we can with the resources we have. Needless to say, that would really help our efforts here."

Mad Cow Inspections To Be Scaled Back. Johanns also said the government will scale back its testing for mad cow disease soon. After the first US case was reported two years ago, officials increased testing from about 55 per day to about 1,000. Officials have tested more than 550,000 animals and turned up one case of mad cow, in Texas in June.
- **Despite Rumors, Key Rove Aide Susan Ralston Not Leaving White House.** Susan Ralston, a top aide to Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove, has not quit and has no plans of leaving the White House despite a wave of rumors in the foreign press about her departure. Reached at her West Wing desk today, she assured U.S. News and the Bulletin that after five years in the job she remains "very much committed" to Rove and President Bush and that the reports about her departure were surprising. Described as the most influential Filipino-American in the administration, she is watched very carefully by the island nation's press. The First Philippine News reported earlier this month that she had quit, citing the work burden in the West Wing. She also recently testified in the CIA-Valerie Plame spy case. But, she says, nobody from the news agency ever called to confirm that she remains in place. In fact, associates said that Rove has fought to keep her on the job where she manages much of his day. What was more surprising about the reports, said insiders, was that Ralston's portfolio has actually expanded and she is now also in charge of developing and producing all presidential message events, an office that has been kept very busy as the President has sought to build public support for the war and as he enters the hectic budget and State of the Union period. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*
- **White House Upbeat About 2006.** President Bush and his White House strategists believe the administration is ending the

year on an upbeat note and they see signs that 2006 will bring a recovery of the President's political fortunes. Vice President Cheney's breaking a tie in the Senate this morning to win passage for legislation cutting the federal deficit by \$39.7 billion is the latest positive sign. White House insiders say this shows that the White House and the Republican majority in Congress can still work their will despite increasingly determined Democratic opposition and doubts about the president's agenda from a handful of GOP moderates. Bush thinks the country will side with him on the domestic spying furor that has erupted in the past few days. Bush is still feeling upbeat about the generally smooth Iraqi election last week. He is confident the Senate will soon approve his nominee Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. And White House advisers note an uptick in his job-approval numbers and support for the war in Iraq, at least in some polls. "The President is feeling quite good about where things are headed," a senior White House official told U.S. News and the Bulletin.

- **Bush Poll Bounce Cheers GOP Congressional Leaders.** President Bush's mild bounce in public approval polls – for the first time in a while, a major national poll has him above 45% in job approval -- has also helped GOP lawmakers, making it less likely that the Republicans will lose control of either house, according to strategists for both Democratic and Republican House and Senate campaign committees. "That's great for us," a House Republican leadership aide said of the President's new poll up tick. One poll even found that the job approval rating of Congress is about 65 percent, up from recent polling. However, on the Republican side look for House and Senate members to stick with a non-Washington theme in the 2006 midterms. "Local, local, local, that's our motto," says a Republican strategist. "It worked well in 2002 and 2004 and should do well in 2006." Democrats, who had dreamed of taking control of the House if the President's numbers continued to plummet, are now looking to pick up five to eight House seats and some two Senate seats. Unclear, add Democratic advisors, is how many others they may get if Republicans linked to the Abramoff lobbying affair abruptly quit. Another Democratic strategist added that any House and Senate pickups could be limited if the party doesn't agree on a unified message on Iraq and immigration. "Ultimately, we're going to need to do a better job," he said. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*
- **Pirro To End NY Senate Campaign, Run For State Attorney General.** Republican Jeanine Pirro has decided to end her campaign for the party's nomination to challenge Sen. Hillary Clinton and will run instead for state attorney general, two Republicans familiar with the situation told the AP today. They said an announcement could come as early as tomorrow.
- **Political Notes. President. Sen. Hillary Clinton** said on the Senate floor yesterday that if GOP budget cuts go into effect, it will indirectly increase the number of abortions, the AP reports. ... Roll Call reports that House GOP leaders plan to push for legislation regulating 527 groups early next year after the current version of the legislation was pulled from the 2006 Defense authorization bill during conference.

Governors. Former Alabama Gov. **Don Siegelman** (D), who is running to reclaim his old job, told the AP that he is concerned that current corruption charges against him will not go to trial in sufficient time to allow him to wage an effective primary campaign if his name is cleared at trial. ... The Boston Herald reports this morning Massachusetts **Attorney General Tom Reilly** (D) is successfully rallying a number of state Democratic lawmakers to his side in his battle with **Deval Patrick** (D) for their party's gubernatorial nod. ... The Wisconsin State Journal reports today that authorities examining a state travel contract given to a major donor to **Gov. Jim Doyle's** (D) campaign has expanded its investigation to look for links between donations from utility executives and the approval of the sale of a nuclear power plant by state regulators.

Senate. Roll Call reports today that the DSCC "raised \$3.6 million in November, boosting its total to \$38.7 million collected this year, with \$16.7 million remaining in the bank. The NRSC raised \$2.3 million last month, bringing its total to \$33 million collected this year, with \$9 million on hand." ... The Bradenton Herald reports that AFL-CIO members held a press conference outside of a district office of **Rep. Katherine Harris** (R), who is running for Senate, to highlight her "voting record against working families." ... Roll Call reports today that former Majority Leader Dick Armey (R) announced earlier this week that he is backing ex-Rep. **Ed Bryant** in the three-way GOP Tennessee Senate primary.

House. Roll Call reports today that the NRCC "raised \$3.7 million in November, compared to \$2.45 million for the DCCC. The NRCC led the DCCC in cash on hand \$19.5 million to \$11.24 million, but the DCCC was also carrying a debt of \$1.9 million. The NRCC led the DCCC in total fundraising for the year, having amassed \$60.6 million to the DCCC's \$36.7 million." ... The San Diego Union Tribune reports that businessman **Ken King** (R) entered the **CA50** special election on Monday, while Escondido **Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler** (R) said she would not run. ... The Cincinnati Enquirer reports today that **OH2 Rep. Jean Schmidt** (R) is making automated recorded calls to her constituents despite the fact that her first act in Congress was to introduce a bill aimed at limiting such calls by political groups. ... Roll Call reports today that **Tyson Pratcher** (D), currently a staff member for **Sen. Hillary Clinton** (D), is leaving his job to return to Tennessee to run for the open **TN9** seat.

POLL WATCH:

54% Say Senate Should Confirm Alito Supreme Court Nomination. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1003 adults (+/- 3%), conducted over December 15-18, shows:

- 54% “think the US should confirm” Judge Samuel Alito’s “nomination to the Supreme Court”; 28% think the Senate should not; 19% had no opinion.
- Informed that the Supreme Court “legalized abortion 32 years ago in a ruling known as Roe versus Wade,” 61% said “if that case came before the court again,” they “would want Alito to vote to uphold Roe versus Wade”; 35% said “vote to overturn it”; 4% had no opinion.
- 42% “would like to see the Supreme Court make it harder to get an abortion than it is now”; 11% said “easier to get an abortion than it is now”; 45% said “leave the ability to get an abortion the same as it is now”; 2% had no opinion.
- 17% said it is “extremely important” that “Alito agrees with your position on abortion”; 26% said “very important”; 38% said “somewhat important”; 17% said “less important”; 1% had no opinion.
- 17% “think abortion should be legal in all cases”; 40% said “most cases”; 27% said “illegal in most cases”; 13% said “illegal in all cases”; 3% had no opinion.

Consumer Confidence Continues To Rise In ABC News/WPost Poll. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1000 adults (+/- 3%) in the four weeks ending December 18 shows:

- The ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index “has gained 10 points in a month and a half, from -21 on Oct. 30 to -11 today on its scale of +100 to -100.”
- 38% rate the national economy as excellent or good; 62% rate the economy as not good or poor.
- 59% rate their own finances as excellent or good; 41% rate their finances as not good or poor.
- 37% said now is an excellent time or a good time to buy the things they want and need; 63% said it is not a good time or a poor time.

LAST LAUGHS:

Late Night Political Humor.

Jay Leno: “They have got some great gadgets this year for Christmas. ... This cell phone that has caller ID, call waiting, text messaging and a flashing button to let you know when President Bush is eavesdropping on your calls.”

Jay Leno: “That’s the big story, you know. President Bush and this whole domestic spying thing. Remember the good old days when the only thing you had to worry about on your phone were telemarketers?”

Jay Leno: “Vice President Dick Cheney made a surprise visit to Iraq over the weekend. He met with the Iraqi prime minister who showed him his purple finger from the election. Then Cheney showed the Iraqi minister his purple fingers from bad circulation.”

Jay Leno: “USC Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush announced he is available for the NFL draft. Actually, this also marks the first time in history the words ‘Bush’ and ‘available for the draft’ have ever appeared together in the same sentence.”

David Letterman: “I don’t know if you know about this, but New York City is in the middle of a transit strike and more bad news, they’re sending in FEMA.”

Conan O’Brien: “Due to the transit strike, New Yorkers are not allowed to drive into the city unless there are at least four people in every car. Yeah. The situation has become so desperate, some New Yorkers have been forced to talk to their neighbors.”

Conan O’Brien: “Police are actually stopping cars to make sure they have four people. Yeah. As a result, Donald Trump had to come to work today with three chauffeurs.”

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From: Susan Ralston
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2005 3:53 PM
To: 'rudy@shermanconsultinginc.com'; 'velliogood@cox.net'; 'jlee@who.eop.gov'
Subject: White House Bulletin: 12/21/05

See this item from the Bulletin below and feel free to forward:

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-----Original Message-----

THE WHITE HOUSE ***BULLETIN***

BULLETIN NEWS NETWORK, INC. • 7915 JONES BRANCH DRIVE, SUITE 6200 • MCLEAN, VA 22102 • FAX (703)749-0060 • TEL (703)749-0040

SUBJECT: TODAY'S BRIEFING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005

OFF THE WIRES:

- **Saddam Claims To Have Been Beaten In Prison.** After listening quietly to several hours of testimony from witnesses who claim to have been tortured under his regime, Saddam Hussein engaged in a long outburst in which he said he has been beaten while in detention. Saddam told the court, "Yes, I have been beaten, everywhere on my body. The marks are still there."

Several witnesses were testifying against Saddam today. Ali Hassan al-Haidari said he and other residents from Dujail, where there was an assassination attempt on Saddam in the early 1980s, were taken to Baghdad and thrown into a prison where people aged nine to 90 were held. He said guards applied electric shocks to detainees, and that they also heated up plastic tubing and allowed the hot plastic to drip onto the bodies of victims. "I cannot express all that suffering and

pain we faced in the 70 days inside,” he said. Haidari also testified that former intelligence chief Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, who is also standing trial, kicked him once as he was lying in the hallway. Haidari told the court that Barzan “said to the guards, ‘Do not treat him; this family does not deserve to live.’ I was in pain for weeks because of that kick.” He also said that while Saddam was not directly involved, “at that time no one acted on his own unless orders were given by Saddam. I hold Saddam responsible for detaining me and my family and ruining my future.”

- **Pakistan Moves Against Insurgents.** Pakistani helicopters attacked two suspected training camps for insurgents in the southwestern province of Baluchistan today and ground troops later seized heavy weapons and ammunition, a military spokesman said today. Lt. Col. Hassan Jamil said there were no casualties and no arrests, however. Jamil also said that in separate attacks, suspected rebels fired eight rockets at three military bases in the area, but nobody was hurt. Tribal leaders say many people have been killed in military operations since Sunday, but Jamil said he could not confirm any deaths.
- **New Round Of Negotiations On Iranian Nuclear Program Begins.** European and Iranian negotiators reopened talks over Iran’s nuclear program today in Vienna. Iranian delegate Mohammad Mehdi Akhonzadeh said the first session was a good one, adding, “We expressed our views and came to know each other. It’s too early to talk about results. We’ll know more after the second session this afternoon.” Going into the talks, European diplomats were pessimistic, saying the meetings were unlikely to deter Iran from enriching uranium.
- **3rd Quarter GDP Revised Slightly Downward.** The Department of Commerce this morning revised 3rd quarter GDP downward to 4.1 percent in its third and final report on economic growth during that period. Commerce had originally reported at 4.3 percent rate of growth. Despite the revision, the 3rd quarter growth rate was the strongest gain since the 1st quarter of 2004. The price index for personal consumption was also revised up to a 3.7 percent gain, up from a 3.6 percent estimate earlier. The core index, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, rose 1.4 percent, up from the previous estimate of 1.2 percent.

Snow Credits Fed, Bush Policies For High Growth. Treasury Secretary John Snow said, “We owe the resilience of the US economy to the American entrepreneurs and workers whose creativity and adaptability have kept our economy growing. Sound monetary policy from the Federal Reserve and the pro-growth economic strategy pursued by President Bush have laid the groundwork for the sustained economic growth that has created 4.5 million new jobs over the past two and a half years and has helped the economy continue its solid performance despite the difficulties presented in the third quarter.”

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“At the same time as we protected the American people using the Patriot Act, we’ve also protected their civil liberties. There is extensive oversight on this very important program. The Patriot Act tore down the wall between law enforcement and intelligence communities, which makes it easier to connect the dots before an attack. The Patriot Act also gave law enforcement tools to investigate terrorism that they have already got to investigate other types of crimes. The Patriot Act is

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- **Johanns Says Billions More Needed To Prepare For Bird Flu Outbreak.** Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said today that billions of dollars are needed to better prepare for the possibility of a bird flu outbreak. Johanns’ comments came as the Senate considers appropriating \$3.8 billion for bird flu preparedness which was included in the defense bill passed by the House Monday. The Agriculture Department would get approximately \$100 million of that money. Johanns told the AP, “We’ll absolutely do the best we can with the resources we have. Needless to say, that would really help our efforts here.”

Mad Cow Inspections To Be Scaled Back. Johanns also said the government will scale back its testing for mad cow disease soon. After the first US case was reported two years ago, officials increased testing from about 55 per day to about 1,000. Officials have tested more than 550,000 animals and turned up one case of mad cow, in Texas in June.
- **Despite Rumors, Key Rove Aide Susan Ralston Not Leaving White House.** Susan Ralston, a top aide to Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove, has not quit and has no plans of leaving the White House despite a wave of rumors in the foreign press about her departure. Reached at her West Wing desk today, she assured U.S. News and the Bulletin that after five years in the job she remains “very much committed” to Rove and President Bush and that the reports about her departure were surprising. Described as the most influential Filipino-American in the administration, she is watched very carefully by the island nation’s press. The First Philippine News reported earlier this month that she had quit, citing the work burden in the West Wing. She also recently testified in the CIA-Valerie Plame spy case. But, she says, nobody from the news agency ever called to confirm that she remains in place. In fact, associates said that Rove has fought to keep her on the job where she manages much of his day. What was more surprising about the reports, said insiders, was that Ralston’s portfolio has actually expanded and she is now also in charge of developing and producing all presidential message events, an office that has been kept very busy as the President has sought to build public support for the war and as he enters the hectic budget and State of the Union period. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*
- **White House Upbeat About 2006.** President Bush and his White House strategists believe the administration is ending the year on an upbeat note and they see signs that 2006 will bring a recovery of the President’s political fortunes. Vice President

Cheney's breaking a tie in the Senate this morning to win passage for legislation cutting the federal deficit by \$39.7 billion is the latest positive sign. White House insiders say this shows that the White House and the Republican majority in Congress can still work their will despite increasingly determined Democratic opposition and doubts about the president's agenda from a handful of GOP moderates. Bush thinks the country will side with him on the domestic spying furor that has erupted in the past few days. Bush is still feeling upbeat about the generally smooth Iraqi election last week. He is confident the Senate will soon approve his nominee Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. And White House advisers note an uptick in his job-approval numbers and support for the war in Iraq, at least in some polls. "The President is feeling quite good about where things are headed," a senior White House official told U.S. News and the Bulletin.

- **Bush Poll Bounce Cheers GOP Congressional Leaders.** President Bush's mild bounce in public approval polls – for the first time in a while, a major national poll has him above 45% in job approval -- has also helped GOP lawmakers, making it less likely that the Republicans will lose control of either house, according to strategists for both Democratic and Republican House and Senate campaign committees. "That's great for us," a House Republican leadership aide said of the President's new poll up tick. One poll even found that the job approval rating of Congress is about 65 percent, up from recent polling. However, on the Republican side look for House and Senate members to stick with a non-Washington theme in the 2006 midterms. "Local, local, local, that's our motto," says a Republican strategist. "It worked well in 2002 and 2004 and should do well in 2006." Democrats, who had dreamed of taking control of the House if the President's numbers continued to plummet, are now looking to pick up five to eight House seats and some two Senate seats. Unclear, add Democratic advisors, is how many others they may get if Republicans linked to the Abramoff lobbying affair abruptly quit. Another Democratic strategist added that any House and Senate pickups could be limited if the party doesn't agree on a unified message on Iraq and immigration. "Ultimately, we're going to need to do a better job," he said. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*
- **Pirro To End NY Senate Campaign, Run For State Attorney General.** Republican Jeanine Pirro has decided to end her campaign for the party's nomination to challenge Sen. Hillary Clinton and will run instead for state attorney general, two Republicans familiar with the situation told the AP today. They said an announcement could come as early as tomorrow.
- **Political Notes. President. Sen. Hillary Clinton** said on the Senate floor yesterday that if GOP budget cuts go into effect, it will indirectly increase the number of abortions, the AP reports. ... Roll Call reports that House GOP leaders plan to push for legislation regulating 527 groups early next year after the current version of the legislation was pulled from the 2006 Defense authorization bill during conference.

Governors. Former Alabama Gov. **Don Siegelman** (D), who is running to reclaim his old job, told the AP that he is concerned that current corruption charges against him will not go to trial in sufficient time to allow him to wage an effective primary campaign if his name is cleared at trial. ... The Boston Herald reports this morning Massachusetts **Attorney General Tom Reilly** (D) is successfully rallying a number of state Democratic lawmakers to his side in his battle with **Deval Patrick** (D) for their party's gubernatorial nod. ... The Wisconsin State Journal reports today that authorities examining a state travel contract given to a major donor to **Gov. Jim Doyle's** (D) campaign has expanded its investigation to look for links between donations from utility executives and the approval of the sale of a nuclear power plant by state regulators.

Senate. Roll Call reports today that the DSCC "raised \$3.6 million in November, boosting its total to \$38.7 million collected this year, with \$16.7 million remaining in the bank. The NRSC raised \$2.3 million last month, bringing its total to \$33 million collected this year, with \$9 million on hand." ... The Bradenton Herald reports that AFL-CIO members held a press conference outside of a district office of **Rep. Katherine Harris** (R), who is running for Senate, to highlight her "voting record against working families." ... Roll Call reports today that former Majority Leader Dick Arme (R) announced earlier this week that he is backing ex-Rep. **Ed Bryant** in the three-way GOP Tennessee Senate primary.

House. Roll Call reports today that the NRCC "raised \$3.7 million in November, compared to \$2.45 million for the DCCC. The NRCC led the DCCC in cash on hand \$19.5 million to \$11.24 million, but the DCCC was also carrying a debt of \$1.9 million. The NRCC led the DCCC in total fundraising for the year, having amassed \$60.6 million to the DCCC's \$36.7 million." ... The San Diego Union Tribune reports that businessman **Ken King** (R) entered the **CA50** special election on Monday, while Escondido **Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler** (R) said she would not run. ... The Cincinnati Enquirer reports today that **OH2 Rep. Jean Schmidt** (R) is making automated recorded calls to her constituents despite the fact that her first act in Congress was to introduce a bill aimed at limiting such calls by political groups. ... Roll Call reports today that **Tyson Pratcher** (D), currently a staff member for **Sen. Hillary Clinton** (D), is leaving his job to return to Tennessee to run for the open **TN9** seat.

POLL WATCH:

54% Say Senate Should Confirm Alito Supreme Court Nomination. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1003 adults (+/-

3%), conducted over December 15-18, shows:

- 54% “think the US should confirm” Judge Samuel Alito’s “nomination to the Supreme Court”; 28% think the Senate should not; 19% had no opinion.
- Informed that the Supreme Court “legalized abortion 32 years ago in a ruling known as Roe versus Wade,” 61% said “if that case came before the court again,” they “would want Alito to vote to uphold Roe versus Wade”; 35% said “vote to overturn it”; 4% had no opinion.
- 42% “would like to see the Supreme Court make it harder to get an abortion than it is now”; 11% said “easier to get an abortion than it is now”; 45% said “leave the ability to get an abortion the same as it is now”; 2% had no opinion.
- 17% said it is “extremely important” that “Alito agrees with your position on abortion”; 26% said “very important”; 38% said “somewhat important”; 17% said “less important”; 1% had no opinion.
- 17% “think abortion should be legal in all cases”; 40% said “most cases”; 27% said “illegal in most cases”; 13% said “illegal in all cases”; 3% had no opinion.

Consumer Confidence Continues To Rise In ABC News/WPost Poll. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1000 adults (+/- 3%) in the four weeks ending December 18 shows:

- The ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index “has gained 10 points in a month and a half, from -21 on Oct. 30 to -11 today on its scale of +100 to -100.”
- 38% rate the national economy as excellent or good; 62% rate the economy as not good or poor.
- 59% rate their own finances as excellent or good; 41% rate their finances as not good or poor.
- 37% said now is an excellent time or a good time to buy the things they want and need; 63% said it is not a good time or a poor time.

LAST LAUGHS:

Late Night Political Humor.

Jay Leno: “They have got some great gadgets this year for Christmas. ... This cell phone that has caller ID, call waiting, text messaging and a flashing button to let you know when President Bush is eavesdropping on your calls.”

Jay Leno: “That’s the big story, you know. President Bush and this whole domestic spying thing. Remember the good old days when the only thing you had to worry about on your phone were telemarketers?”

Jay Leno: “Vice President Dick Cheney made a surprise visit to Iraq over the weekend. He met with the Iraqi prime minister who showed him his purple finger from the election. Then Cheney showed the Iraqi minister his purple fingers from bad circulation.”

Jay Leno: “USC Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush announced he is available for the NFL draft. Actually, this also marks the first time in history the words ‘Bush’ and ‘available for the draft’ have ever appeared together in the same sentence.”

David Letterman: “I don’t know if you know about this, but New York City is in the middle of a transit strike and more bad news, they’re sending in FEMA.”

Conan O’Brien: “Due to the transit strike, New Yorkers are not allowed to drive into the city unless there are at least four people in every car. Yeah. The situation has become so desperate, some New Yorkers have been forced to talk to their neighbors.”

Conan O’Brien: “Police are actually stopping cars to make sure they have four people. Yeah. As a result, Donald Trump had to come to work today with three chauffeurs.”

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From: Susan Ralston
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2005 3:59 PM
To: 'Cindy Coburn' <cindycoburnuk@yahoo.com>
Subject: FW: White House Bulletin: 12/21/05

See this item from the Bulletin below:

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-----Original Message-----

THE WHITE HOUSE **BULLETIN**

BULLETIN NEWS NETWORK, INC. • 7915 JONES BRANCH DRIVE, SUITE 6200 • MCLEAN, VA 22102 • FAX (703)749-0060 • TEL (703)749-0040

SUBJECT: TODAY'S BRIEFING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005

OFF THE WIRES:

- **Saddam Claims To Have Been Beaten In Prison.** After listening quietly to several hours of testimony from witnesses who claim to have been tortured under his regime, Saddam Hussein engaged in a long outburst in which he said he has been beaten while in detention. Saddam told the court, "Yes, I have been beaten, everywhere on my body. The marks are still there."

Several witnesses were testifying against Saddam today. Ali Hassan al-Haidari said he and other residents from Dujail, where there was an assassination attempt on Saddam in the early 1980s, were taken to Baghdad and thrown into a prison where people aged nine to 90 were held. He said guards applied electric shocks to detainees, and that they also heated up plastic tubing and allowed the hot plastic to drip onto the bodies of victims. "I cannot express all that suffering and

pain we faced in the 70 days inside,” he said. Haidari also testified that former intelligence chief Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, who is also standing trial, kicked him once as he was lying in the hallway. Haidari told the court that Barzan “said to the guards, ‘Do not treat him; this family does not deserve to live.’ I was in pain for weeks because of that kick.” He also said that while Saddam was not directly involved, “at that time no one acted on his own unless orders were given by Saddam. I hold Saddam responsible for detaining me and my family and ruining my future.”

- **Pakistan Moves Against Insurgents.** Pakistani helicopters attacked two suspected training camps for insurgents in the southwestern province of Baluchistan today and ground troops later seized heavy weapons and ammunition, a military spokesman said today. Lt. Col. Hassan Jamil said there were no casualties and no arrests, however. Jamil also said that in separate attacks, suspected rebels fired eight rockets at three military bases in the area, but nobody was hurt. Tribal leaders say many people have been killed in military operations since Sunday, but Jamil said he could not confirm any deaths.
- **New Round Of Negotiations On Iranian Nuclear Program Begins.** European and Iranian negotiators reopened talks over Iran’s nuclear program today in Vienna. Iranian delegate Mohammad Mehdi Akhonzadeh said the first session was a good one, adding, “We expressed our views and came to know each other. It’s too early to talk about results. We’ll know more after the second session this afternoon.” Going into the talks, European diplomats were pessimistic, saying the meetings were unlikely to deter Iran from enriching uranium.
- **3rd Quarter GDP Revised Slightly Downward.** The Department of Commerce this morning revised 3rd quarter GDP downward to 4.1 percent in its third and final report on economic growth during that period. Commerce had originally reported at 4.3 percent rate of growth. Despite the revision, the 3rd quarter growth rate was the strongest gain since the 1st quarter of 2004. The price index for personal consumption was also revised up to a 3.7 percent gain, up from a 3.6 percent estimate earlier. The core index, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, rose 1.4 percent, up from the previous estimate of 1.2 percent.

Snow Credits Fed, Bush Policies For High Growth. Treasury Secretary John Snow said, “We owe the resilience of the US economy to the American entrepreneurs and workers whose creativity and adaptability have kept our economy growing. Sound monetary policy from the Federal Reserve and the pro-growth economic strategy pursued by President Bush have laid the groundwork for the sustained economic growth that has created 4.5 million new jobs over the past two and a half years and has helped the economy continue its solid performance despite the difficulties presented in the third quarter.”

IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND AROUND TOWN:

- **Cheney Provides Vote That Puts Budget Bill Over The Top In Senate.** Vice President Dick Cheney cut short a Mideast diplomatic mission to be in Washington just in case his vote was needed for key end of the year legislation in the Senate. On the first big vote of the day, a bill to cut spending by nearly \$40 billion over five years, Cheney’s vote was needed. He broke a 50-50 tie. However, because of a small change to the bill, the House will need to act on the bill once more, probably tomorrow. The budget vote might also be a bad portent for Senate GOP leaders, who believed they would probably prevail on the budget vote today, but thought the vote on the defense appropriations bill would be even tighter.
- **Bush Lobbies For Patriot Act, Defense Spending.** President Bush today gave very brief remarks this morning that kept him on the political offense on defense issues, urging the Senate to pass a defense appropriations bill – which is facing difficulty over added measures like ANWR drilling – and the Patriot Act, which some senators are balking at, particularly in light of the revelations of NSA spying on Americans. In his remarks today, President Bush said, “The Senate is debating two very important measures, and I urge the United States Senate to pass the defense appropriations bill. It is an important piece of legislation that provides necessary funding for our troops who are fighting in Afghanistan and in Iraq and who are serving our country around the world. It’s an obligation of every member of the United States Senate to provide necessary funding for our troops on the front lines so that we can fight and win the war on terror.”

Regarding the Patriot Act, Bush said, “In order to protect America, the United States Senate must reauthorize the Patriot Act. The terrorists still want to hit us again. There’s an enemy that lurks, a dangerous group of people that want to do harm to the American people, and we must have the tools necessary to protect the American people. The Patriot Act passed overwhelmingly shortly after the September the 11th attack. It has been an effective tool. It has worked.

“At the same time as we protected the American people using the Patriot Act, we’ve also protected their civil liberties. There is extensive oversight on this very important program. The Patriot Act tore down the wall between law enforcement and intelligence communities, which makes it easier to connect the dots before an attack. The Patriot Act also gave law enforcement tools to investigate terrorism that they have already got to investigate other types of crimes. The Patriot Act is

scheduled to expire at the end of the year. The terrorist threat is not going to expire at the end of this year. The House has voted to reauthorize the Patriot Act, and they left town because they thought -- because their business is finished. The Senate is still debating this issue.

"A majority of the United States Senate supports reauthorization. A minority of senators is filibustering and preventing the Senate from voting to renew the Patriot Act. The Senate Democratic leader recently boasted about killing the Patriot Act. This obstruction is inexcusable. The senators obstructing the Patriot Act need to understand that the expiration of this vital law will endanger America and will leave us in a weaker position in the fight against brutal killers. It's important that the Senate act quickly on these two bills."

Leahy Pushes Extension, Calls Bush Argument "Irresponsible." Sen. Pat Leahy also held a press conference this morning, along with Republican colleague Sen. John Sununu, to urge an extension of the current law. Leahy also appeared to lob an indirect volley at President Bush, calling remarks about what would happen if the Patriot Act were to expire "irresponsible." President Bush has been making that argument as backers of reauthorizing the Act are using the imminent expiration date to pressure lawmakers to vote for reauthorization.

In his remarks this morning, Leahy said, "We have suggested...a brief extension just to give everybody a bit of time, take a deep breath, let some common sense come in here, shed some light on what we're doing and get a better bill. Its clear our extension Bill would pass overwhelmingly. It would pass overwhelmingly if it's allowed to come to a vote, and as soon as it became apparent that the conference report could not pass and there wouldn't be any change on the votes if we a revote on cloture, I went to Senator Sununu, offered to join with him in a three-month extension to work out a better bill. We had bipartisan support of that."

Noting that 52 senators are on record in favor of an extension, and arguing many more than that will support it, Leahy added, "Remember, every single senator, Republican and Democrat, voted in July to amend and extend the existing Patriot Act. It passed out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously. Those of you that know that committee know it would go across the whole spectrum of political thought. This bipartisan solution was cast aside unfortunately, even though we're making progress, when some of the administration pushed those of us who wanted to amend it, pushed us out of that conference and now we are where we are. So we've come together, Republicans and Democrats, for a short-term extension. This is not a time to make irresponsible statements about what happens to this nation if the Patriot Act were to expire. All of us wanted to secure the nation. Just as we came together [after] 9/11, nobody said, wait, this happened in the Bush administration. That wasn't the thing. We said this happened to Americans, and Americans of both parties came together. We should do the same. A country would have a lot -- our country would have a lot more credibility here and abroad if we did that. So let's make the extra effort to produce a balanced Patriot Act, a consensus Patriot Act, balance our security needs with American civil liberties, a balanced consensus bill is what we need. We are founded as a country on those principals. We could protect our liberties and our securities."

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Governors. Former Alabama Gov. **Don Siegelman** (D), who is running to reclaim his old job, told the AP that he is concerned that current corruption charges against him will not go to trial in sufficient time to allow him to wage an effective primary campaign if his name is cleared at trial. ... The Boston Herald reports this morning Massachusetts **Attorney General Tom Reilly** (D) is successfully rallying a number of state Democratic lawmakers to his side in his battle with **Deval Patrick** (D) for their party's gubernatorial nod. ... The Wisconsin State Journal reports today that authorities examining a state travel contract given to a major donor to **Gov. Jim Doyle's** (D) campaign has expanded its investigation to look for links between donations from utility executives and the approval of the sale of a nuclear power plant by state regulators.

Senate. Roll Call reports today that the DSCC "raised \$3.6 million in November, boosting its total to \$38.7 million collected this year, with \$16.7 million remaining in the bank. The NRSC raised \$2.3 million last month, bringing its total to \$33 million collected this year, with \$9 million on hand." ... The Bradenton Herald reports that AFL-CIO members held a press conference outside of a district office of **Rep. Katherine Harris** (R), who is running for Senate, to highlight her "voting record against working families." ... Roll Call reports today that former Majority Leader Dick Arme (R) announced earlier this week that he is backing ex-Rep. **Ed Bryant** in the three-way GOP Tennessee Senate primary.

House. Roll Call reports today that the NRCC "raised \$3.7 million in November, compared to \$2.45 million for the DCCC. The NRCC led the DCCC in cash on hand \$19.5 million to \$11.24 million, but the DCCC was also carrying a debt of \$1.9 million. The NRCC led the DCCC in total fundraising for the year, having amassed \$60.6 million to the DCCC's \$36.7 million." ... The San Diego Union Tribune reports that businessman **Ken King** (R) entered the **CA50** special election on Monday, while Escondido **Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler** (R) said she would not run. ... The Cincinnati Enquirer reports today that **OH2 Rep. Jean Schmidt** (R) is making automated recorded calls to her constituents despite the fact that her first act in Congress was to introduce a bill aimed at limiting such calls by political groups. ... Roll Call reports today that **Tyson Pratcher** (D), currently a staff member for **Sen. Hillary Clinton** (D), is leaving his job to return to Tennessee to run for the open **TN9** seat.

POLL WATCH:

54% Say Senate Should Confirm Alito Supreme Court Nomination. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1003 adults (+/-

3%), conducted over December 15-18, shows:

- 54% “think the US should confirm” Judge Samuel Alito’s “nomination to the Supreme Court”; 28% think the Senate should not; 19% had no opinion.
- Informed that the Supreme Court “legalized abortion 32 years ago in a ruling known as Roe versus Wade,” 61% said “if that case came before the court again,” they “would want Alito to vote to uphold Roe versus Wade”; 35% said “vote to overturn it”; 4% had no opinion.
- 42% “would like to see the Supreme Court make it harder to get an abortion than it is now”; 11% said “easier to get an abortion than it is now”; 45% said “leave the ability to get an abortion the same as it is now”; 2% had no opinion.
- 17% said it is “extremely important” that “Alito agrees with your position on abortion”; 26% said “very important”; 38% said “somewhat important”; 17% said “less important”; 1% had no opinion.
- 17% “think abortion should be legal in all cases”; 40% said “most cases”; 27% said “illegal in most cases”; 13% said “illegal in all cases”; 3% had no opinion.

Consumer Confidence Continues To Rise In ABC News/WPost Poll. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1000 adults (+/- 3%) in the four weeks ending December 18 shows:

- The ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index “has gained 10 points in a month and a half, from -21 on Oct. 30 to -11 today on its scale of +100 to -100.”
- 38% rate the national economy as excellent or good; 62% rate the economy as not good or poor.
- 59% rate their own finances as excellent or good; 41% rate their finances as not good or poor.
- 37% said now is an excellent time or a good time to buy the things they want and need; 63% said it is not a good time or a poor time.

LAST LAUGHS:

Late Night Political Humor.

Jay Leno: “They have got some great gadgets this year for Christmas. ... This cell phone that has caller ID, call waiting, text messaging and a flashing button to let you know when President Bush is eavesdropping on your calls.”

Jay Leno: “That’s the big story, you know. President Bush and this whole domestic spying thing. Remember the good old days when the only thing you had to worry about on your phone were telemarketers?”

Jay Leno: “Vice President Dick Cheney made a surprise visit to Iraq over the weekend. He met with the Iraqi prime minister who showed him his purple finger from the election. Then Cheney showed the Iraqi minister his purple fingers from bad circulation.”

Jay Leno: “USC Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush announced he is available for the NFL draft. Actually, this also marks the first time in history the words ‘Bush’ and ‘available for the draft’ have ever appeared together in the same sentence.”

David Letterman: “I don’t know if you know about this, but New York City is in the middle of a transit strike and more bad news, they’re sending in FEMA.”

Conan O’Brien: “Due to the transit strike, New Yorkers are not allowed to drive into the city unless there are at least four people in every car. Yeah. The situation has become so desperate, some New Yorkers have been forced to talk to their neighbors.”

Conan O’Brien: “Police are actually stopping cars to make sure they have four people. Yeah. As a result, Donald Trump had to come to work today with three chauffeurs.”

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From: Susan Ralston
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2005 4:03 PM
To: 'Jennifer Harshbarger' <jharshbarger@wilkow.com>
Cc: Marc Wilkow <mwilkow@wilkow.com>
Subject: White House Bulletin: 12/21/05

Along the lines of what I was telling you earlier, always be skeptical of what you read about me, especially on the web and in the ethnic media. The stuff that's reported is unbelievable. See this item from the Bulletin below:

Despite Rumors, Key Rove Aide Susan Ralston Not Leaving White House. Susan Ralston, a top aide to Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove, has not quit and has no plans of leaving the White House despite a wave of rumors in the foreign press about her departure. Reached at her West Wing desk today, she assured U.S. News and the Bulletin that after five years in the job she remains "very much committed" to Rove and President Bush and that the reports about her departure were surprising. Described as the most influential Filipino-American in the administration, she is watched very carefully by the island nation's press. The First Philippine News reported earlier this month that she had quit, citing the work burden in the West Wing. She also recently testified in the CIA-Valerie Plame spy case. But, she says, nobody from the news agency ever called to confirm that she remains in place. In fact, associates said that Rove has fought to keep her on the job where she manages much of his day. What was more surprising about the reports, said insiders, was that Ralston's portfolio has actually expanded and she is now also in charge of developing and producing all presidential message events, an office that has been kept very busy as the President has sought to build public support for the war and as he enters the hectic budget and State of the Union period. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*

-----Original Message-----

THE WHITE HOUSE ***BULLETIN***

BULLETIN NEWS NETWORK, INC. • 7915 JONES BRANCH DRIVE, SUITE 6200 • MCLEAN, VA 22102 • FAX (703)749-0060 • TEL (703)749-0040

SUBJECT: TODAY'S BRIEFING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005

OFF THE WIRES:

- **Saddam Claims To Have Been Beaten In Prison.** After listening quietly to several hours of testimony from witnesses who claim to have been tortured under his regime, Saddam Hussein engaged in a long outburst in which he said he has been beaten while in detention. Saddam told the court, "Yes, I have been beaten, everywhere on my body. The marks are still there."

Several witnesses were testifying against Saddam today. Ali Hassan al-Haidari said he and other residents from Dujail, where there was an assassination attempt on Saddam in the early 1980s, were taken to Baghdad and thrown into a

RNC-HJC-003568

prison where people aged nine to 90 were held. He said guards applied electric shocks to detainees, and that they also heated up plastic tubing and allowed the hot plastic to drip onto the bodies of victims. "I cannot express all that suffering and pain we faced in the 70 days inside," he said. Haidari also testified that former intelligence chief Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, who is also standing trial, kicked him once as he was lying in the hallway. Haidari told the court that Barzan "said to the guards, 'Do not treat him; this family does not deserve to live.' I was in pain for weeks because of that kick." He also said that while Saddam was not directly involved, "at that time no one acted on his own unless orders were given by Saddam. I hold Saddam responsible for detaining me and my family and ruining my future."

- **Pakistan Moves Against Insurgents.** Pakistani helicopters attacked two suspected training camps for insurgents in the southwestern province of Baluchistan today and ground troops later seized heavy weapons and ammunition, a military spokesman said today. Lt. Col. Hassan Jamil said there were no casualties and no arrests, however. Jamil also said that in separate attacks, suspected rebels fired eight rockets at three military bases in the area, but nobody was hurt. Tribal leaders say many people have been killed in military operations since Sunday, but Jamil said he could not confirm any deaths.
- **New Round Of Negotiations On Iranian Nuclear Program Begins.** European and Iranian negotiators reopened talks over Iran's nuclear program today in Vienna. Iranian delegate Mohammad Mehdi Akhonzadeh said the first session was a good one, adding, "We expressed our views and came to know each other. It's too early to talk about results. We'll know more after the second session this afternoon." Going into the talks, European diplomats were pessimistic, saying the meetings were unlikely to deter Iran from enriching uranium.
- **3rd Quarter GDP Revised Slightly Downward.** The Department of Commerce this morning revised 3rd quarter GDP downward to 4.1 percent in its third and final report on economic growth during that period. Commerce had originally reported at 4.3 percent rate of growth. Despite the revision, the 3rd quarter growth rate was the strongest gain since the 1st quarter of 2004. The price index for personal consumption was also revised up to a 3.7 percent gain, up from a 3.6 percent estimate earlier. The core index, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, rose 1.4 percent, up from the previous estimate of 1.2 percent.

Snow Credits Fed, Bush Policies For High Growth. Treasury Secretary John Snow said, "We owe the resilience of the US economy to the American entrepreneurs and workers whose creativity and adaptability have kept our economy growing. Sound monetary policy from the Federal Reserve and the pro-growth economic strategy pursued by President Bush have laid the groundwork for the sustained economic growth that has created 4.5 million new jobs over the past two and a half years and has helped the economy continue its solid performance despite the difficulties presented in the third quarter."

IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND AROUND TOWN:

- **Cheney Provides Vote That Puts Budget Bill Over The Top In Senate.** Vice President Dick Cheney cut short a Mideast diplomatic mission to be in Washington just in case his vote was needed for key end of the year legislation in the Senate. On the first big vote of the day, a bill to cut spending by nearly \$40 billion over five years, Cheney's vote was needed. He broke a 50-50 tie. However, because of a small change to the bill, the House will need to act on the bill once more, probably tomorrow. The budget vote might also be a bad portent for Senate GOP leaders, who believed they would probably prevail on the budget vote today, but thought the vote on the defense appropriations bill would be even tighter.
- **Bush Lobbies For Patriot Act, Defense Spending.** President Bush today gave very brief remarks this morning that kept him on the political offense on defense issues, urging the Senate to pass a defense appropriations bill – which is facing difficulty over added measures like ANWR drilling – and the Patriot Act, which some senators are balking at, particularly in light of the revelations of NSA spying on Americans. In his remarks today, President Bush said, "The Senate is debating two very important measures, and I urge the United States Senate to pass the defense appropriations bill. It is an important piece of legislation that provides necessary funding for our troops who are fighting in Afghanistan and in Iraq and who are serving our country around the world. It's an obligation of every member of the United States Senate to provide necessary funding for our troops on the front lines so that we can fight and win the war on terror."

Regarding the Patriot Act, Bush said, "In order to protect America, the United States Senate must reauthorize the Patriot Act. The terrorists still want to hit us again. There's an enemy that lurks, a dangerous group of people that want to do harm to the American people, and we must have the tools necessary to protect the American people. The Patriot Act passed overwhelmingly shortly after the September the 11th attack. It has been an effective tool. It has worked.

"At the same time as we protected the American people using the Patriot Act, we've also protected their civil liberties. There is extensive oversight on this very important program. The Patriot Act tore down the wall between law enforcement

and intelligence communities, which makes it easier to connect the dots before an attack. The Patriot Act also gave law enforcement tools to investigate terrorism that they have already got to investigate other types of crimes. The Patriot Act is scheduled to expire at the end of the year. The terrorist threat is not going to expire at the end of this year. The House has voted to reauthorize the Patriot Act, and they left town because they thought -- because their business is finished. The Senate is still debating this issue.

"A majority of the United States Senate supports reauthorization. A minority of senators is filibustering and preventing the Senate from voting to renew the Patriot Act. The Senate Democratic leader recently boasted about killing the Patriot Act. This obstruction is inexcusable. The senators obstructing the Patriot Act need to understand that the expiration of this vital law will endanger America and will leave us in a weaker position in the fight against brutal killers. It's important that the Senate act quickly on these two bills."

Leahy Pushes Extension, Calls Bush Argument "Irresponsible." Sen. Pat Leahy also held a press conference this morning, along with Republican colleague Sen. John Sununu, to urge an extension of the current law. Leahy also appeared to lob an indirect volley at President Bush, calling remarks about what would happen if the Patriot Act were to expire "irresponsible." President Bush has been making that argument as backers of reauthorizing the Act are using the imminent expiration date to pressure lawmakers to vote for reauthorization.

In his remarks this morning, Leahy said, "We have suggested...a brief extension just to give everybody a bit of time, take a deep breath, let some common sense come in here, shed some light on what we're doing and get a better bill. Its clear our extension Bill would pass overwhelmingly. It would pass overwhelmingly if it's allowed to come to a vote, and as soon as it became apparent that the conference report could not pass and there wouldn't be any change on the votes if we a revote on cloture, I went to Senator Sununu, offered to join with him in a three-month extension to work out a better bill. We had bipartisan support of that."

Noting that 52 senators are on record in favor of an extension, and arguing many more than that will support it, Leahy added, "Remember, every single senator, Republican and Democrat, voted in July to amend and extend the existing Patriot Act. It passed out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously. Those of you that know that committee know it would go across the whole spectrum of political thought. This bipartisan solution was cast aside unfortunately, even though we're making progress, when some of the administration pushed those of us who wanted to amend it, pushed us out of that conference and now we are where we are. So we've come together, Republicans and Democrats, for a short-term extension. This is not a time to make irresponsible statements about what happens to this nation if the Patriot Act were to expire. All of us wanted to secure the nation. Just as we came together [after] 9/11, nobody said, wait, this happened in the Bush administration. That wasn't the thing. We said this happened to Americans, and Americans of both parties came together. We should do the same. A country would have a lot -- our country would have a lot more credibility here and abroad if we did that. So let's make the extra effort to produce a balanced Patriot Act, a consensus Patriot Act, balance our security needs with American civil liberties, a balanced consensus bill is what we need. We are founded as a country on those principals. We could protect our liberties and our securities."

Symbolizing the unusual left-right coalition that wants changes to the Patriot Act, conservative Sen. John Sununu today joined Leahy in backing an extension. Sununu said this morning, "Let me emphasize a couple points. First, the kinds of modifications, the balance that Senator Leahy are talking about are in a few provisions of the Patriot Act, two or three areas of the 16 provisions that are being renewed. They are not issues...that were raised a week ago or month ago or two months ago. They were raise the in the legislation introduced over a year and a half ago. They are concerns we have consistently raised time and again.

"Second, these modifications don't in any way undermine law enforcement's ability to do their job. Among the most important are giving Americans a meaningful judicial review on the gag order, the restriction on free speech, that accompanies a 215 order or national security letter. Giving somebody an opportunity to challenge a gag order doesn't inhibit law enforcements ability to do a job. Being fair and getting rid of a punitive provision that requires you to go to the FBI, tell them if you talk to a lawyer and name that lawyer, which is nowhere else in law, doesn't undermine law enforcement's ability to do their job. These are pretty straightforward modifications we're seeking."

Sununu added, "Next, there are a number of different ways that we can work through this issue. We have a bill on the Senate calendar that has already passed the Senate unanimously that could be taken up immediately, passed unanimously again unless someone has flip flopped on it, sent to the House [where] that bill would receive an overwhelming bipartisan majority in the House. That's one path we could take.

"Second, we could address the specifics changes we have discussed here today, or third we could pass an extension, a three-month extension would give us ample time to work out the differences that remain. That's why Senator Leahy and I, Senator Craig and Senator Schumer put together a letter. We've got Republicans and Democrats, 52 on the letter now, just in the last 24 hours, we put this letter together and were able to get 52 signatures saying we are better off putting the Patriot Act in place while we work out the differences, we should pass the extension, there's no reason to leave

here without keeping elements of the Patriot Act in place. We support these tools, I certainly do. This isn't a question of changing or weakening or undermining the tools. It's a question of providing a balance where your right for judicial review or civil liberties are concerned."

DOJ, DHS Contend Expiration Would Put Law Enforcement Back In Pre-9/11 Days. The Justice Department and Homeland Security Department today released a "fact sheet" listing nine specific sections of US law that would change if the Patriot Act were to expire, and contended the cumulative effect would mean "we will return to a pre-9/11 mode of information sharing where there are not clear rules governing investigators' ability to share information with each other, where terrorists and spies can use technology against us, and where it is more difficult to investigate a potential terrorist attack than it is to catch a drug dealer, a mobster, or a white collar criminal." Among the sections that would change are laws regarding wiretapping, information sharing between law enforcement and national security agents, FISA surveillance, and the ability to issue nationwide search warrants.

- **Senate GOP Leaders Expected To Force Vote On Defense Bill.** Neither side claims to have the votes for the defense bill expected to come to the Senate floor today, in large part because of a rider attached that would open ANWR to drilling. GOP leaders were looking at a situation last night, according to GOP sources, where they believed they were about three votes shy of a filibuster-proof margin, but with more than enough uncommitted senators to make up the difference. It was unclear how they would line up the necessary votes, but one GOP source tells the Bulletin that rather than hold off the vote to line up support, GOP leaders will press forward on the vote hoping the pressure to fund defense accounts during wartime will win over enough senators to stop a filibuster.
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- **Pirro To End NY Senate Campaign, Run For State Attorney General.** Republican Jeanine Pirro has decided to end her campaign for the party's nomination to challenge Sen. Hillary Clinton and will run instead for state attorney general, two Republicans familiar with the situation told the AP today. They said an announcement could come as early as tomorrow.
- **Political Notes. President. Sen. Hillary Clinton** said on the Senate floor yesterday that if GOP budget cuts go into effect, it will indirectly increase the number of abortions, the AP reports. ... Roll Call reports that House GOP leaders plan to push for legislation regulating 527 groups early next year after the current version of the legislation was pulled from the 2006 Defense authorization bill during conference.

Governors. Former Alabama Gov. **Don Siegelman** (D), who is running to reclaim his old job, told the AP that he is concerned that current corruption charges against him will not go to trial in sufficient time to allow him to wage an effective primary campaign if his name is cleared at trial. ... The Boston Herald reports this morning Massachusetts **Attorney General Tom Reilly** (D) is successfully rallying a number of state Democratic lawmakers to his side in his battle with **Deval Patrick** (D) for their party's gubernatorial nod. ... The Wisconsin State Journal reports today that authorities examining a state travel contract given to a major donor to **Gov. Jim Doyle's** (D) campaign has expanded its investigation to look for links between donations from utility executives and the approval of the sale of a nuclear power plant by state regulators.

Senate. Roll Call reports today that the DSCC "raised \$3.6 million in November, boosting its total to \$38.7 million collected this year, with \$16.7 million remaining in the bank. The NRSC raised \$2.3 million last month, bringing its total to \$33 million collected this year, with \$9 million on hand." ... The Bradenton Herald reports that AFL-CIO members held a press conference outside of a district office of **Rep. Katherine Harris** (R), who is running for Senate, to highlight her "voting record against working families." ... Roll Call reports today that former Majority Leader Dick Arney (R) announced earlier this week that he is backing ex-Rep. **Ed Bryant** in the three-way GOP Tennessee Senate primary.

House. Roll Call reports today that the NRCC "raised \$3.7 million in November, compared to \$2.45 million for the DCCC. The NRCC led the DCCC in cash on hand \$19.5 million to \$11.24 million, but the DCCC was also carrying a debt of \$1.9 million. The NRCC led the DCCC in total fundraising for the year, having amassed \$60.6 million to the DCCC's \$36.7 million." ... The San Diego Union Tribune reports that businessman **Ken King** (R) entered the **CA50** special election on Monday, while Escondido **Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler** (R) said she would not run. ... The Cincinnati Enquirer reports today that **OH2 Rep. Jean Schmidt** (R) is making automated recorded calls to her constituents despite the fact that her first act in Congress was to introduce a bill aimed at limiting such calls by political groups. ... Roll Call reports today that **Tyson Pratcher** (D), currently a staff member for **Sen. Hillary Clinton** (D), is leaving his job to return to Tennessee to run for the open **TN9** seat.

POLL WATCH:

54% Say Senate Should Confirm Alito Supreme Court Nomination. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1003 adults (+/- 3%), conducted over December 15-18, shows:

- 54% “think the US should confirm” Judge Samuel Alito’s “nomination to the Supreme Court”; 28% think the Senate should not; 19% had no opinion.
- Informed that the Supreme Court “legalized abortion 32 years ago in a ruling known as Roe versus Wade,” 61% said “if that case came before the court again,” they “would want Alito to vote to uphold Roe versus Wade”; 35% said “vote to overturn it”; 4% had no opinion.
- 42% “would like to see the Supreme Court make it harder to get an abortion than it is now”; 11% said “easier to get an abortion than it is now”; 45% said “leave the ability to get an abortion the same as it is now”; 2% had no opinion.
- 17% said it is “extremely important” that “Alito agrees with your position on abortion”; 26% said “very important”; 38% said “somewhat important”; 17% said “less important”; 1% had no opinion.
- 17% “think abortion should be legal in all cases”; 40% said “most cases”; 27% said “illegal in most cases”; 13% said “illegal in all cases”; 3% had no opinion.

Consumer Confidence Continues To Rise In ABC News/WPost Poll. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1000 adults (+/- 3%) in the four weeks ending December 18 shows:

- The ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index “has gained 10 points in a month and a half, from -21 on Oct. 30 to -11 today on its scale of +100 to -100.”
- 38% rate the national economy as excellent or good; 62% rate the economy as not good or poor.
- 59% rate their own finances as excellent or good; 41% rate their finances as not good or poor.
- 37% said now is an excellent time or a good time to buy the things they want and need; 63% said it is not a good time or a poor time.

LAST LAUGHS:

Late Night Political Humor.

Jay Leno: “They have got some great gadgets this year for Christmas. ... This cell phone that has caller ID, call waiting, text messaging and a flashing button to let you know when President Bush is eavesdropping on your calls.”

Jay Leno: “That’s the big story, you know. President Bush and this whole domestic spying thing. Remember the good old days when the only thing you had to worry about on your phone were telemarketers?”

Jay Leno: “Vice President Dick Cheney made a surprise visit to Iraq over the weekend. He met with the Iraqi prime minister who showed him his purple finger from the election. Then Cheney showed the Iraqi minister his purple fingers from bad circulation.”

Jay Leno: “USC Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush announced he is available for the NFL draft. Actually, this also marks the first time in history the words ‘Bush’ and ‘available for the draft’ have ever appeared together in the same sentence.”

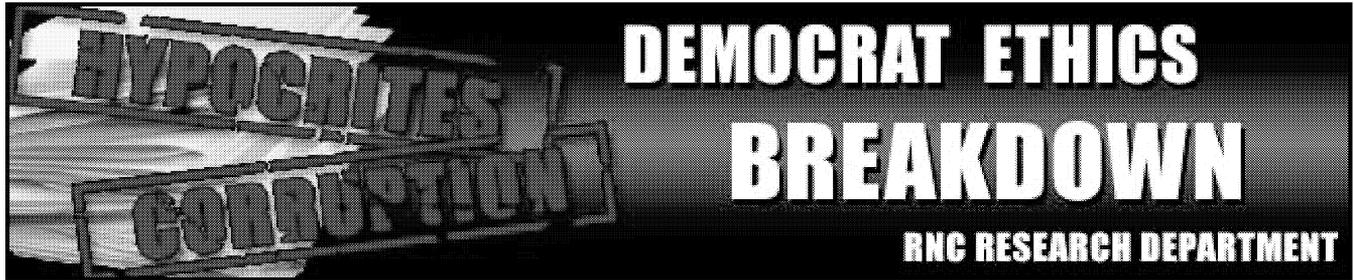
David Letterman: “I don’t know if you know about this, but New York City is in the middle of a transit strike and more bad news, they’re sending in FEMA.”

Conan O’Brien: “Due to the transit strike, New Yorkers are not allowed to drive into the city unless there are at least four people in every car. Yeah. The situation has become so desperate, some New Yorkers have been forced to talk to their neighbors.”

Conan O’Brien: “Police are actually stopping cars to make sure they have four people. Yeah. As a result, Donald Trump had to come to work today with three chauffeurs.”

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From: RNC Research <RNCResearch@gop.com>
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2006 11:57 AM
To: Susan Ralston <sralston@republican national committee.com>
Subject: Democrat Ethics Breakdown: News For The Week Of May 1, 2006



NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 1, 2006

[PDF Version](#)



Vernon L. Jackson, Chairman Of iGate, Inc., Pled Guilty To Bribing Rep. William Jefferson (D-LA). (Philip Shenon, "Businessman Pleads Guilty To Bribing A Representative," *The New York Times*, 5/4/06)

- **Jackson Admitted Paying \$367,500 To A Company Run By Rep. Jefferson's Family In Exchange For Jefferson Promoting His Products To Federal Agencies, African Governments, And African Companies.** (Philip Shenon, "Businessman Pleads Guilty To Bribing A Representative," *The New York Times*, 5/4/06)
- **In January, Brett Pfeffer, A Former Aide To Rep. Jefferson, Pled Guilty And "[Said Rep. Jefferson] Sought Bribes, Jobs For His Children And Other Favors In Exchange For Official Acts ..."** (Philip Shenon, "Businessman Pleads Guilty To Bribing A Representative," *The New York Times*, 5/4/06)

"[B]y Far, The Most Serious [Ethics] Allegations Are Currently Against ... [Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV), Who Is] Accused Of Steering Federal Money - Up To \$250 Million Dollars Worth - To His Own Nonprofit Organizations." (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)



NPR's Andrea Seabrook: "[O]ne of the Democrats' big problems right now: convincing voters that the so called 'culture of corruption' is a Republican thing. There's a growing list of ethics allegations against Democrats in ... Congress." (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)

- **Melanie Sloan, Executive Director Of Citizens For Responsibility And Ethics In Washington:** "I do think the Democrats are being a little disingenuous about [ethics] when they want to say We're going to give [Rep. Jefferson] a pass." (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)

192 Democrats Voted Against Lobbying Reform Bill That Would Increase Transparency And Disclosure. (H.R. 4975, CQ Vote #119: Passed 217-213; R 209-20; D 8-192; I 0-1, 5/3/06)

- **The Bill Would Temporarily Ban Privately Funded Travel, Deny Pension Benefits To Members Convicted Of Crimes, Force Disclosure Of Earmarks, Increase Reporting From Lobbyists, And Stiffen Penalties For Noncompliance.** (H.R. 4975, CQ Vote #119: Passed 217-213; R 209-20; D 8-192; I 0-1, 5/3/06)

- **"[Mollohan] Also Failed To List Real Estate Deals On His Financial Disclosure Forms ... [Which Show His Net Worth Jumping From] About \$575,000 To Between \$6 And \$24 Million Dollars In Just 4 Short Years."** (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)
- **Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA):** "[I] was proud to attend the fundraiser [at the DNC headquarters] for Mr. Mollohan. I will work hard in any way he wants me to make sure he is reelected to the Congress." (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)

"Former Gov. Don Siegelman [D-AL] Went On Trial ... In A Federal Criminal Case Accusing Him Of Bribery And Extortion In Political Deals ..." (Bob Johnson, "Trial Opens For Ex-Alabama Governor In Bribery, Corruption Case," *The Associated Press*, 5/1/06)

- **Charges Against Siegelman Include "[S]wapping Political Favors For Gifts And Campaign Donations ... [R]acketeering And Obstruction Of Justice ..."** (Bob Johnson, "Trial Opens For Ex-Alabama Governor In Bribery, Corruption Case," *The Associated Press*, 5/1/06)



On April 27th, Liberal Mega-Donor George Soros Hosted A Cocktail Reception Fundraiser At His Home For Ret. Gen. Wesley Clark's PAC, WESPAC, ("Soros Raises Money For WESPAC," *National Journal's Hotline*, 5/1/06)

Soros Will Also Host A Fundraiser At His Home For Judy Aydelott (D-NY), Who Is Running Against Rep. Sue Kelly (R-NY). (Josh Kurtz, "Soros Hosts Star-Studded Fundraiser For Kelly Foe," *Roll Call*, 5/2/06)

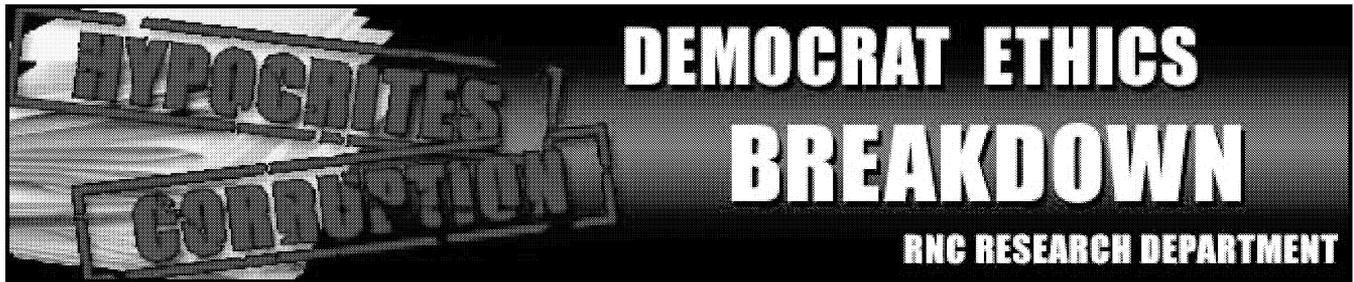
- **Soros Contributed The Most Money (\$27,030,105) Of Any Individual Donor To 527s In The 2004 Cycle.** (Political Money Line Website, www.tray.com, Accessed 12/2/05)
- **Former Carter Cabinet Member Joseph Califano Called Soros: "[T]he Daddy Warbucks Of Drug Legalization."** (Joseph A. Califano Jr., Op-Ed, "Devious Efforts To Legalize Drugs," *The Washington Post*, 12/4/96)

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From: RNC Research <RNCResearch@gop.com>
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 6:01 AM
To: Susan Ralston <sralston@republican national committee.com>
Subject: Democrat Ethics Breakdown: News For The Week Of June 26, 2006



NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 26, 2006

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Rep. Jim Moran (D-VA) Has Inserted \$37 Million In Earmarks For Vibration & Sound Solutions Limited (VSSL) For Project M Five Years After "[T]he Navy Decided It Didn't Need The High-Priced Technology." (NBC's "Nightly News," 6/28/06; Charles R. Babcock, "The Project That Wouldn't Die," *The Washington Post*, 6/19/06)

- **"Project M, A Technology Involving Magnetic Levitation ..." Was Meant To Smooth The Rides On Submarines, Boats And ATVs. "All The Applications Have One Thing In Common: The Pentagon Hasn't Wanted Them."** (NBC's "Nightly News," 6/28/06; Charles R. Babcock, "The Project That Wouldn't Die," *The Washington Post*, 6/19/06)
- **NBC's Andrea Mitchell:** "As for the company? It shut its doors last Friday to 'restructure.' But it still plans to produce levitating seats - even if the military doesn't want them." (NBC's "Nightly News," 6/28/06)
- **Since 1998, Robert J. Conkling, President Of VSSL, And His Wife Carolyn, Have Contributed \$19,000 To Rep. Moran.** (The Center For Responsive Politics Website, www.opensecrets.org, Accessed 6/29/06)



Reps. Michael Capuano, William Delahunt and Richard Neal (D-MA) "[H]ave Attended Luxurious Fourth Of July Weekends [Costing More Than \$22,500] At Cape Cod's Exclusive Wequassett Inn ... With Representatives Of Various Interest Groups, Courtesy Of A Little-Known Nonprofit Group Started By A Longtime Lobbyist." (Michael M. Grynbaum, "A Lobbyist Link In Congressmen's Visits To Cape," *The Boston Globe*, 6/28/06)

- **"The Trips To The Wequassett Inn, Where Room Rates Range From \$475 To \$1,300 Per Night ... Represent A Common Route Around Federal Lobbying Restrictions [According To Watchdog Groups]."** (Michael M. Grynbaum, "A Lobbyist Link In Congressmen's Visits To Cape," *The Boston Globe*, 6/28/06)
- **Alex Knott, Political Editor At The Center For Public Integrity:** "[These trips] could violate the intent [of congressional rules] ... Right now, a lobbyist could organize the trip, go with the congressman, play a round of golf with them, and then come back to D.C., lobbying them the entire time ..." (Michael M. Grynbaum, "A Lobbyist Link In Congressmen's Visits To Cape," *The Boston Globe*, 6/28/06)

Senate Candidate Claire McCaskill (D-MO) "[F]axed Political Materials To Several State Offices ..." (David A. Lieb, "McCaskill Campaign Faxes Sent To State Offices," *The Associated Press*, 6/28/06)

- **The Fax Went To "At Least Three Fax Machines At The Department Of Economic Development [And] ... A Fax Machine In The Department Of Insurance's Administrative Offices ..."** (David A. Lieb, "McCaskill Campaign Faxes Sent To State Offices," *The Associated Press*, 6/28/06)

Former Gov. Don Siegelman (D-AL) Was Found Guilty Of Federal Fund Bribery, Conspiracy, Mail Fraud, And Obstruction Of Justice. (WHNT-TV Website, www.whnt.com, Accessed 6/29/06)

- **Siegelman Was "[A]ccused Of Taking Part In Schemes In Which Favorable Business Deals Were Greased By The Siegelman Administration In Exchange For Gifts And Hefty Campaign Donations."** (WHNT-TV Website, www.whnt.com, Accessed 6/29/06)



Former Gov. Mark Warner (D-VA) Hired "[A]n Internet Guru Who Had A Past As A Web Shill For A Worthless Dot-Com Stock ... [W]hen He Hired [Blogger] Jerome Armstrong ..." (Deborah Orin, "Stock Shock In Past Of Dem Hopeful's Aide," *New York Post*, 6/29/06)

- **"Armstrong ... Touted A Dubious Chinese Software Company, Bluepoint, ... Without Disclosing That He Accepted 'Below-Market' Shares In Exchange For The Glowing Reports He Posted On A Site Called Raging Bull ..."** (Roddy Boyd, "Shill To Hack," *New York Post*, 6/18/06)
- **"[A]rmstrong Agreed To A December 2003 SEC Settlement That Permanently Bans Him From Stock-Touting. Armstrong Also Signed A Court Agreement With The SEC That He Can't Deny ... 'Any Allegation In The Complaint' That Accused Him Of Touting Worthless Stock For Pay."** (Deborah Orin, "Stock Shock In Past Of Dem Hopeful's Aide," *New York Post*, 6/29/06)

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From: Ralston, Susan B. <Susan_B._Ralston@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, December 21, 2005 3:47 PM
To: Susan Ralston <sralston@republican national committee.com>
Subject: FW: White House Bulletin: 12/21/05

THE WHITE HOUSE *BULLETIN*

BULLETIN NEWS NETWORK, INC. • 7915 JONES BRANCH DRIVE, SUITE 6200 • MCLEAN, VA 22102 • FAX (703)749-0060 • TEL (703)749-0040

SUBJECT: TODAY'S BRIEFING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2005

OFF THE WIRES:

- **Saddam Claims To Have Been Beaten In Prison.** After listening quietly to several hours of testimony from witnesses who claim to have been tortured under his regime, Saddam Hussein engaged in a long outburst in which he said he has been beaten while in detention. Saddam told the court, "Yes, I have been beaten, everywhere on my body. The marks are still there."
Several witnesses were testifying against Saddam today. Ali Hassan al-Haidari said he and other residents from Dujail, where there was an assassination attempt on Saddam in the early 1980s, were taken to Baghdad and thrown into a prison where people aged nine to 90 were held. He said guards applied electric shocks to detainees, and that they also heated up plastic tubing and allowed the hot plastic to drip onto the bodies of victims. "I cannot express all that suffering and pain we faced in the 70 days inside," he said. Haidari also testified that former intelligence chief Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, who is also standing trial, kicked him once as he was lying in the hallway. Haidari told the court that Barzan "said to the guards, 'Do not treat him; this family does not deserve to live.' I was in pain for weeks because of that kick." He also said that while Saddam was not directly involved, "at that time no one acted on his own unless orders were given by Saddam. I hold Saddam responsible for detaining me and my family and ruining my future."
- **Pakistan Moves Against Insurgents.** Pakistani helicopters attacked two suspected training camps for insurgents in the southwestern province of Baluchistan today and ground troops later seized heavy weapons and ammunition, a military spokesman said today. Lt. Col. Hassan Jamil said there were no casualties and no arrests, however. Jamil also said that in separate attacks, suspected rebels fired eight rockets at three military bases in the area, but nobody was hurt. Tribal leaders say many people have been killed in military operations since Sunday, but Jamil said he could not confirm any deaths.
- **New Round Of Negotiations On Iranian Nuclear Program Begins.** European and Iranian negotiators reopened talks over Iran's nuclear program today in Vienna. Iranian delegate Mohammad Mehdi Akhonzadeh said the first session was a good one, adding, "We expressed our views and came to know each other. It's too early to talk about results. We'll know more after the second session this afternoon." Going into the talks, European diplomats were pessimistic, saying the meetings were unlikely to deter Iran from enriching uranium.
- **3rd Quarter GDP Revised Slightly Downward.** The Department of Commerce this morning revised 3rd quarter GDP downward to 4.1 percent in its third and final report on economic growth during that period. Commerce had originally reported at 4.3 percent rate of growth. Despite the revision, the 3rd quarter growth rate was the strongest gain since the 1st quarter of 2004. The price index for personal consumption was also revised up to a 3.7 percent gain, up from a 3.6 percent estimate earlier. The core index, which excludes volatile food and energy costs, rose 1.4 percent, up from the previous estimate of 1.2 percent.

Snow Credits Fed, Bush Policies For High Growth. Treasury Secretary John Snow said, "We owe the resilience of the US economy to the American entrepreneurs and workers whose creativity and adaptability have kept our economy growing. Sound monetary policy from the Federal Reserve and the pro-growth economic strategy pursued by President Bush have laid the groundwork for the sustained economic growth that has created 4.5 million new jobs over the past two and a half years and has helped the economy continue its solid performance despite the difficulties presented in the third quarter."

IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND AROUND TOWN:

- **Cheney Provides Vote That Puts Budget Bill Over The Top In Senate.** Vice President Dick Cheney cut short a Mideast diplomatic mission to be in Washington just in case his vote was needed for key end of the year legislation in the Senate. On the first big vote of the day, a bill to cut spending by nearly \$40 billion over five years, Cheney's vote was needed. He broke a 50-50 tie. However, because of a small change to the bill, the House will need to act on the bill once more, probably tomorrow. The budget vote might also be a bad portent for Senate GOP leaders, who believed they would probably prevail on the budget vote today, but thought the vote on the defense appropriations bill would be even tighter.
- **Bush Lobbies For Patriot Act, Defense Spending.** President Bush today gave very brief remarks this morning that kept him on the political offense on defense issues, urging the Senate to pass a defense appropriations bill – which is facing difficulty over added measures like ANWR drilling – and the Patriot Act, which some senators are balking at, particularly in light of the revelations of NSA spying on Americans. In his remarks today, President Bush said, "The Senate is debating two very important measures, and I urge the United States Senate to pass the defense appropriations bill. It is an important piece of legislation that provides necessary funding for our troops who are fighting in Afghanistan and in Iraq and who are serving our country around the world. It's an obligation of every member of the United States Senate to provide necessary funding for our troops on the front lines so that we can fight and win the war on terror."

Regarding the Patriot Act, Bush said, "In order to protect America, the United States Senate must reauthorize the Patriot Act. The terrorists still want to hit us again. There's an enemy that lurks, a dangerous group of people that want to do harm to the American people, and we must have the tools necessary to protect the American people. The Patriot Act passed overwhelmingly shortly after the September the 11th attack. It has been an effective tool. It has worked.

"At the same time as we protected the American people using the Patriot Act, we've also protected their civil liberties. There is extensive oversight on this very important program. The Patriot Act tore down the wall between law enforcement and intelligence communities, which makes it easier to connect the dots before an attack. The Patriot Act also gave law enforcement tools to investigate terrorism that they have already got to investigate other types of crimes. The Patriot Act is scheduled to expire at the end of the year. The terrorist threat is not going to expire at the end of this year. The House has voted to reauthorize the Patriot Act, and they left town because they thought -- because their business is finished. The Senate is still debating this issue.

"A majority of the United States Senate supports reauthorization. A minority of senators is filibustering and preventing the Senate from voting to renew the Patriot Act. The Senate Democratic leader recently boasted about killing the Patriot Act. This obstruction is inexcusable. The senators obstructing the Patriot Act need to understand that the expiration of this vital law will endanger America and will leave us in a weaker position in the fight against brutal killers. It's important that the Senate act quickly on these two bills."

Leahy Pushes Extension, Calls Bush Argument "Irresponsible." Sen. Pat Leahy also held a press conference this morning, along with Republican colleague Sen. John Sununu, to urge an extension of the current law. Leahy also appeared to lob an indirect volley at President Bush, calling remarks about what would happen if the Patriot Act were to expire "irresponsible." President Bush has been making that argument as backers of reauthorizing the Act are using the imminent expiration date to pressure lawmakers to vote for reauthorization.

In his remarks this morning, Leahy said, "We have suggested...a brief extension just to give everybody a bit of time, take a deep breath, let some common sense come in here, shed some light on what we're doing and get a better bill. Its clear our extension Bill would pass overwhelmingly. It would pass overwhelmingly if it's allowed to come to a vote, and as soon as it became apparent that the conference report could not pass and there wouldn't be any change on the votes if we a revote on cloture, I went to Senator Sununu, offered to join with him in a three-month extension to work out a better bill. We had bipartisan support of that."

Noting that 52 senators are on record in favor of an extension, and arguing many more than that will support it, Leahy added, "Remember, every single senator, Republican and Democrat, voted in July to amend and extend the existing Patriot Act. It passed out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously. Those of you that know that committee know it would go across the whole spectrum of political thought. This bipartisan solution was cast aside unfortunately, even though we're making

progress, when some of the administration pushed those of us who wanted to amend it, pushed us out of that conference and now we are where we are. So we've come together, Republicans and Democrats, for a short-term extension. This is not a time to make irresponsible statements about what happens to this nation if the Patriot Act were to expire. All of us wanted to secure the nation. Just as we came together [after] 9/11, nobody said, wait, this happened in the Bush administration. That wasn't the thing. We said this happened to Americans, and Americans of both parties came together. We should do the same. A country would have a lot -- our country would have a lot more credibility here and abroad if we did that. So let's make the extra effort to produce a balanced Patriot Act, a consensus Patriot Act, balance our security needs with American civil liberties, a balanced consensus bill is what we need. We are founded as a country on those principals. We could protect our liberties and our securities."

Symbolizing the unusual left-right coalition that wants changes to the Patriot Act, conservative Sen. John Sununu today joined Leahy in backing an extension. Sununu said this morning, "Let me emphasize a couple points. First, the kinds of modifications, the balance that Senator Leahy are talking about are in a few provisions of the Patriot Act, two or three areas of the 16 provisions that are being renewed. They are not issues...that were raised a week ago or month ago or two months ago. They were raised in the legislation introduced over a year and a half ago. They are concerns we have consistently raised time and again.

"Second, these modifications don't in any way undermine law enforcement's ability to do their job. Among the most important are giving Americans a meaningful judicial review on the gag order, the restriction on free speech, that accompanies a 215 order or national security letter. Giving somebody an opportunity to challenge a gag order doesn't inhibit law enforcement's ability to do a job. Being fair and getting rid of a punitive provision that requires you to go to the FBI, tell them if you talk to a lawyer and name that lawyer, which is nowhere else in law, doesn't undermine law enforcement's ability to do their job. These are pretty straightforward modifications we're seeking."

Sununu added, "Next, there are a number of different ways that we can work through this issue. We have a bill on the Senate calendar that has already passed the Senate unanimously that could be taken up immediately, passed unanimously again unless someone has flip flopped on it, sent to the House [where] that bill would receive an overwhelming bipartisan majority in the House. That's one path we could take.

"Second, we could address the specific changes we have discussed here today, or third we could pass an extension, a three-month extension would give us ample time to work out the differences that remain. That's why Senator Leahy and I, Senator Craig and Senator Schumer put together a letter. We've got Republicans and Democrats, 52 on the letter now, just in the last 24 hours, we put this letter together and were able to get 52 signatures saying we are better off putting the Patriot Act in place while we work out the differences, we should pass the extension, there's no reason to leave here without keeping elements of the Patriot Act in place. We support these tools, I certainly do. This isn't a question of changing or weakening or undermining the tools. It's a question of providing a balance where your right for judicial review or civil liberties are concerned."

DOJ, DHS Contend Expiration Would Put Law Enforcement Back In Pre-9/11 Days. The Justice Department and Homeland Security Department today released a "fact sheet" listing nine specific sections of US law that would change if the Patriot Act were to expire, and contended the cumulative effect would mean "we will return to a pre-9/11 mode of information sharing where there are not clear rules governing investigators' ability to share information with each other, where terrorists and spies can use technology against us, and where it is more difficult to investigate a potential terrorist attack than it is to catch a drug dealer, a mobster, or a white collar criminal." Among the sections that would change are laws regarding wiretapping, information sharing between law enforcement and national security agents, FISA surveillance, and the ability to issue nationwide search warrants.

- **Senate GOP Leaders Expected To Force Vote On Defense Bill.** Neither side claims to have the votes for the defense bill expected to come to the Senate floor today, in large part because of a rider attached that would open ANWR to drilling. GOP leaders were looking at a situation last night, according to GOP sources, where they believed they were about three votes shy of a filibuster-proof margin, but with more than enough uncommitted senators to make up the difference. It was unclear how they would line up the necessary votes, but one GOP source tells the Bulletin that rather than hold off the vote to line up support, GOP leaders will press forward on the vote hoping the pressure to fund defense accounts during wartime will win over enough senators to stop a filibuster.
- **Bush Says Current Policy Setting Foundation For Future Peace.** Speaking at Bethesda Naval Hospital today, President Bush argued that by converting hostile nations to democracies, the US is "laying that foundation for peace for generations to come." Citing Japan's conversion to democracy in the post-WWII era, Bush said, "And one of my predecessors, Harry Truman, recognized the power of freedom to transform an enemy into an ally, that's what happened. And so Japan adopted a Japanese-style democracy, and in that, democracies don't fight each other; in that, democracy is the best way to

encourage a peaceful world. It's working."

Bush added, "And what we're seeing today is brave troops and committed citizens who are not only determined to chase down the killers and bring them to justice before they hurt us again, but understand that by spreading freedom and democracy, we're battling an ideology of darkness with an ideology of hope, and we're laying that foundation for peace for generations to come. The task at hand is one that requires determination and discipline and great faith in the ideals of human freedom and human liberty. And so coming here today is a chance to not only thank you for being a part of this incredible team of healers, but also being a part of this historic moment. Some day, an American president will be sitting down with a duly elected leader of Iraq, working hard to keep the peace, and future generations of America will be saying, thank God this generation of America stood strong for what we believe."

- **Johanns Says Billions More Needed To Prepare For Bird Flu Outbreak.** Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns said today that billions of dollars are needed to better prepare for the possibility of a bird flu outbreak. Johanns' comments came as the Senate considers appropriating \$3.8 billion for bird flu preparedness which was included in the defense bill passed by the House Monday. The Agriculture Department would get approximately \$100 million of that money. Johanns told the AP, "We'll absolutely do the best we can with the resources we have. Needless to say, that would really help our efforts here."
Mad Cow Inspections To Be Scaled Back. Johanns also said the government will scale back its testing for mad cow disease soon. After the first US case was reported two years ago, officials increased testing from about 55 per day to about 1,000. Officials have tested more than 550,000 animals and turned up one case of mad cow, in Texas in June.
- **Despite Rumors, Key Rove Aide Susan Ralston Not Leaving White House.** Susan Ralston, a top aide to Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove, has not quit and has no plans of leaving the White House despite a wave of rumors in the foreign press about her departure. Reached at her West Wing desk today, she assured U.S. News and the Bulletin that after five years in the job she remains "very much committed" to Rove and President Bush and that the reports about her departure were surprising. Described as the most influential Filipino-American in the administration, she is watched very carefully by the island nation's press. The First Philippine News reported earlier this month that she had quit, citing the work burden in the West Wing. She also recently testified in the CIA-Valerie Plame spy case. But, she says, nobody from the news agency ever called to confirm that she remains in place. In fact, associates said that Rove has fought to keep her on the job where she manages much of his day. What was more surprising about the reports, said insiders, was that Ralston's portfolio has actually expanded and she is now also in charge of developing and producing all presidential message events, an office that has been kept very busy as the President has sought to build public support for the war and as he enters the hectic budget and State of the Union period. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*
- **White House Upbeat About 2006.** President Bush and his White House strategists believe the administration is ending the year on an upbeat note and they see signs that 2006 will bring a recovery of the President's political fortunes. Vice President Cheney's breaking a tie in the Senate this morning to win passage for legislation cutting the federal deficit by \$39.7 billion is the latest positive sign. White House insiders say this shows that the White House and the Republican majority in Congress can still work their will despite increasingly determined Democratic opposition and doubts about the president's agenda from a handful of GOP moderates. Bush thinks the country will side with him on the domestic spying furor that has erupted in the past few days. Bush is still feeling upbeat about the generally smooth Iraqi election last week. He is confident the Senate will soon approve his nominee Samuel Alito to the Supreme Court. And White House advisers note an uptick in his job-approval numbers and support for the war in Iraq, at least in some polls. "The President is feeling quite good about where things are headed," a senior White House official told U.S. News and the Bulletin.
- **Bush Poll Bounce Cheers GOP Congressional Leaders.** President Bush's mild bounce in public approval polls – for the first time in a while, a major national poll has him above 45% in job approval -- has also helped GOP lawmakers, making it less likely that the Republicans will lose control of either house, according to strategists for both Democratic and Republican House and Senate campaign committees. "That's great for us," a House Republican leadership aide said of the President's new poll up tick. One poll even found that the job approval rating of Congress is about 65 percent, up from recent polling. However, on the Republican side look for House and Senate members to stick with a non-Washington theme in the 2006 midterms. "Local, local, local, that's our motto," says a Republican strategist. "It worked well in 2002 and 2004 and should do well in 2006." Democrats, who had dreamed of taking control of the House if the President's numbers continued to plummet, are now looking to pick up five to eight House seats and some two Senate seats. Unclear, add Democratic advisors, is how many others they may get if Republicans linked to the Abramoff lobbying affair abruptly quit. Another Democratic strategist added that any House and Senate pickups could be limited if the party doesn't agree on a unified message on Iraq and immigration. "Ultimately, we're going to need to do a better job," he said. -- *Bulletin exclusive from U.S. News*
- **Pirro To End NY Senate Campaign, Run For State Attorney General.** Republican Jeanine Pirro has decided to end her

campaign for the party's nomination to challenge Sen. Hillary Clinton and will run instead for state attorney general, two Republicans familiar with the situation told the AP today. They said an announcement could come as early as tomorrow.

- **Political Notes. President. Sen. Hillary Clinton** said on the Senate floor yesterday that if GOP budget cuts go into effect, it will indirectly increase the number of abortions, the AP reports. ... Roll Call reports that House GOP leaders plan to push for legislation regulating 527 groups early next year after the current version of the legislation was pulled from the 2006 Defense authorization bill during conference.

Governors. Former Alabama Gov. **Don Siegelman** (D), who is running to reclaim his old job, told the AP that he is concerned that current corruption charges against him will not go to trial in sufficient time to allow him to wage an effective primary campaign if his name is cleared at trial. ... The Boston Herald reports this morning Massachusetts **Attorney General Tom Reilly** (D) is successfully rallying a number of state Democratic lawmakers to his side in his battle with **Deval Patrick** (D) for their party's gubernatorial nod. ... The Wisconsin State Journal reports today that authorities examining a state travel contract given to a major donor to **Gov. Jim Doyle's** (D) campaign has expanded its investigation to look for links between donations from utility executives and the approval of the sale of a nuclear power plant by state regulators.

Senate. Roll Call reports today that the DSCC "raised \$3.6 million in November, boosting its total to \$38.7 million collected this year, with \$16.7 million remaining in the bank. The NRSC raised \$2.3 million last month, bringing its total to \$33 million collected this year, with \$9 million on hand." ... The Bradenton Herald reports that AFL-CIO members held a press conference outside of a district office of **Rep. Katherine Harris** (R), who is running for Senate, to highlight her "voting record against working families." ... Roll Call reports today that former Majority Leader Dick Armeey (R) announced earlier this week that he is backing ex-Rep. **Ed Bryant** in the three-way GOP Tennessee Senate primary.

House. Roll Call reports today that the NRCC "raised \$3.7 million in November, compared to \$2.45 million for the DCCC. The NRCC led the DCCC in cash on hand \$19.5 million to \$11.24 million, but the DCCC was also carrying a debt of \$1.9 million. The NRCC led the DCCC in total fundraising for the year, having amassed \$60.6 million to the DCCC's \$36.7 million." ... The San Diego Union Tribune reports that businessman **Ken King** (R) entered the **CA50** special election on Monday, while Escondido **Mayor Lori Holt Pfeiler** (R) said she would not run. ... The Cincinnati Enquirer reports today that **OH2 Rep. Jean Schmidt** (R) is making automated recorded calls to her constituents despite the fact that her first act in Congress was to introduce a bill aimed at limiting such calls by political groups. ... Roll Call reports today that **Tyson Pratcher** (D), currently a staff member for **Sen. Hillary Clinton** (D), is leaving his job to return to Tennessee to run for the open **TN9** seat.

POLL WATCH:

54% Say Senate Should Confirm Alito Supreme Court Nomination. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1003 adults (+/- 3%), conducted over December 15-18, shows:

- 54% "think the US should confirm" Judge Samuel Alito's "nomination to the Supreme Court"; 28% think the Senate should not; 19% had no opinion.
- Informed that the Supreme Court "legalized abortion 32 years ago in a ruling known as Roe versus Wade," 61% said "if that case came before the court again," they "would want Alito to vote to uphold Roe versus Wade"; 35% said "vote to overturn it"; 4% had no opinion.
- 42% "would like to see the Supreme Court make it harder to get an abortion than it is now"; 11% said "easier to get an abortion than it is now"; 45% said "leave the ability to get an abortion the same as it is now"; 2% had no opinion.
- 17% said it is "extremely important" that "Alito agrees with your position on abortion"; 26% said "very important"; 38% said "somewhat important"; 17% said "less important"; 1% had no opinion.
- 17% "think abortion should be legal in all cases"; 40% said "most cases"; 27% said "illegal in most cases"; 13% said "illegal in all cases"; 3% had no opinion.

Consumer Confidence Continues To Rise In ABC News/WPost Poll. An ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1000 adults (+/- 3%) in the four weeks ending December 18 shows:

- The ABC News/Washington Post Consumer Comfort Index "has gained 10 points in a month and a half, from -21 on Oct. 30 to -11 today on its scale of +100 to -100."
- 38% rate the national economy as excellent or good; 62% rate the economy as not good or poor.
- 59% rate their own finances as excellent or good; 41% rate their finances as not good or poor.
- 37% said now is an excellent time or a good time to buy the things they want and need; 63% said it is not a good time or a poor time.

LAST LAUGHS:

Late Night Political Humor.

Jay Leno: "They have got some great gadgets this year for Christmas. ... This cell phone that has caller ID, call waiting, text messaging and a flashing button to let you know when President Bush is eavesdropping on your calls."

Jay Leno: "That's the big story, you know. President Bush and this whole domestic spying thing. Remember the good old days when the only thing you had to worry about on your phone were telemarketers?"

Jay Leno: "Vice President Dick Cheney made a surprise visit to Iraq over the weekend. He met with the Iraqi prime minister who showed him his purple finger from the election. Then Cheney showed the Iraqi minister his purple fingers from bad circulation."

Jay Leno: "USC Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush announced he is available for the NFL draft. Actually, this also marks the first time in history the words 'Bush' and 'available for the draft' have ever appeared together in the same sentence."

David Letterman: "I don't know if you know about this, but New York City is in the middle of a transit strike and more bad news, they're sending in FEMA."

Conan O'Brien: "Due to the transit strike, New Yorkers are not allowed to drive into the city unless there are at least four people in every car. Yeah. The situation has become so desperate, some New Yorkers have been forced to talk to their neighbors."

Conan O'Brien: "Police are actually stopping cars to make sure they have four people. Yeah. As a result, Donald Trump had to come to work today with three chauffeurs."

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From: Karl Rove <KR@georgewbush.com>
Sent: Friday, March 10, 2006 4:51 PM
To: 'Taylor_A._Hughes@who.eop.gov'
Subject: Fw: Southern Political Report
Attach: spr672.doc;image001.jpg;image002.gif

-----Original Message-----

From: Tricia Ruggiero <tricia@insideradvantage.com>
Sent: Fri Mar 10 16:36:41 2006
Subject: Southern Political Report
Have a great weekend!
Tricia Ruggiero
Director of Finance
tricia@insideradvantage.com
www.insideradvantage.com
(404) 233-3710 X36
(404) 233-6877 fax



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How Southern Senators Are Faring

Senators, unlike governors, aren't as likely to experience wide swings, either up or down, in their approval ratings. The explanation may lie in the fact that governors are in the news on a much more regular basis in their states than are senators, and as executives – rather than one-in-one hundred legislators – their actions affect the public more directly.

Nevertheless, events can affect the standing of senators among their constituents. A comparison of the approval ratings of Dixie's senators over the past six months shows that while many lawmakers maintained a stable image with the voters, some gained significantly, while others declined notably.

The big gainers among senators over the past six months increased 10 points (Coburn/OK), 8 points (Warner/VA), and 5 points (Graham/SC and Martinez/FL). In the past nine months, governors enjoyed much larger gains – 16 points (Riley/AL), 15 points (Henry/OK), 13 points (Bush/FL and Perdue/GA). Senators also experienced somewhat less precipitous declines – six points Landrieu/LA) and three points (Cornyn/TX), than governors– 23 points (Blanco/LA) and six points (Sanford/SC).

Approval Ratings for Southern Senators

Senator	Natl Rank	%Feb06	%Sep95
Warner (R-VA)	11 th	65	57
Lott (R-MS)*	16 th	64	60
Graham (R-SC)	20 th	62	57
Cochran (R-MS)	27 th	60	58
Hutchison (R-TX)*	34 th	58	57
Sessions (R-AL)	34 th	58	55
Shelby (R-AL)	35 th	58	60
Vitter (R-AL)	36 th	58	57
Alexander (R-TN)	47 th	56	53
Pryor (D-AR)	48 th	56	53
Lincoln (D-AR)	56 th	54	52
McConnell (R-KY)	61 st	53	51
Frist (R-TN)	62 nd	53	49
Coburn (R-OK)	65 th	52	42
Allen (R-VA)*	70 th	51	52
Dole (R-NC)	71 st	51	54
Isakson (R-GA)	74 th	50	49
Nelson (R-FL)*	76 th	49	48
Chambliss (R-GA)	83 rd	48	48
Inhofe (R-OK)	84 th	48	48
DeMint (R-SC)	85 th	48	48
Bunning (R-KY)	90 th	46	48
Martinez (R-FL)	91 st	46	41
Landrieu (D-LA)	92 nd	46	52
Burr (R-NC)	94 th	43	45
Cornyn (R-TX)	98 th	40	43

*Up for re-election this year.



The polls were taken in September and February by SurveyUSA for media clients across the South. Some observations:

- Dixie’s Republican senators outnumber Democrats 22 to 4, so partisan comparisons are not very meaningful. The top nine senators in terms of approval are all Republicans, but two of the four Democrats are in the top half and two in the bottom, suggesting senators from neither party have a monopoly on approval.

- Four Southern senators are up for re-election this year. Two – Lott (R-MS) and Hutchison (R-TX) – have very high approval ratings and face weak challenges this fall. The other two – Allen (R-VA) and Nelson (D-FL) – have middling ratings, 51% and 49%, respectively, and could have more serious races.

- **Tom Coburn** (R-OK) gained 10 points, more than any other Southern senator. Coburn’s approval rating went up, says University of Oklahoma Professor **Keith Gaddie**, “because he started to be politically visible on the issues he was elected on.” Gaddie cites as an example Coburn’s strong opposition to earmarks, by which lawmakers circumvent the normal appropriations process to get federal projects for their districts. He noted that earlier, “Coburn’s numbers were abnormally low” due to the drop in **President Bush**’s popularity and the “attention paid to nonsense behavior like [Coburn’s] giving STD lectures. [Now,] he’s acting like a senator instead of a gadfly.” Gaddie says that the voters who like Coburn are “practical conservatives who like less taxes, government spending that is specific and necessary, and, preferably, paid for by someone else.”

- **John Warner** (R-VA) gained 8 points during the past six months, in part because he’s seen as helping Virginia keep its military bases, and in part because he has a reservoir of

good will in the state. “Warner has always been up toward to top,” says the University of Virginia’s **Larry Sabato**. “He’s our bipartisan senator. Republicans like him and Democrats like him and independents love him. He’s a moderate conservative, and that’s exactly where Virginia is today.” Finally, SPR has a feeling that John Warner may have benefited from spillover from his namesake, popular former Gov. **Mark Warner** (D-VA).

- **Mary Landrieu**’s (D-LA) approval rating dropped six points over the past half year. While no single cause is evident, Baton Rouge pollster **Bernie Pinsonat** of Southern Media and Opinion Research cited several possible reasons, including Landrieu’s opposition to Bush choice **Samuel Alito** to the US Supreme Court, which was the subject of TV spots in the state during the confirmation debate. He also noted that last fall, in a moment of exasperation, Landrieu threatened to “punch” **President Bush** if he were critical of New Orleans police, a statement not well-received by many voters. Finally, Pinsonat noted, “The majority of her voters have been African-American” and since Hurricane Katrina, the state’s black electorate has declined from around 28% to about 25%. “That attrition is no longer pollable;” says Pinsonat; “you’ve got a lot of black voters not in Orleans Parish, hundreds of thousands of them.”

US Senate Updates

Three Southern states (FL, TN & VA) could have competitive US Senate contests this fall. Here’s SPR’s take on all three.

Florida: Harris on the Ropes

Congresswoman and US Senate candidate **Katherine Harris** (R) had finally gotten the GOP behind her, even getting a favorable reference from National Republican Senatorial



Committee (NRSC) chair **Elizabeth Dole** (NC), who had long opposed Harris's senate candidacy. Then **Mitchell Wade**, the ex-CEO of the MZM defense contracting company, pleaded guilty to bribing then-US Rep. **Randy "Duke" Cunningham** (R-CA). In his plea, he also admitted making substantial illegal contributions to other lawmakers. Harris has acknowledged receiving contributions from MZM, but denied knowing that Wade had illegally reimbursed employees for the contributions. She also noted that she had tried unsuccessfully to return the money, and when she could not, donated it – some \$32,000 – to charity. Harris also acknowledged that she contacted appropriations subcommittee chairmen on behalf of the MZM project because it would mean "numerous high-skilled, high-wage jobs in my district." She noted that the MZM request was one of 80 such contacts she made on behalf of projects for her district. Later, it was revealed that Harris' schedule coordinator left her office last year for a job with MZM.

There have been no allegations, by prosecutors or others, of illegality on Harris' part, but getting linked to prominent figures in recent bribery scandals is political dynamite. It has also been revealed that another Southerner, US Rep. **Virgil Goode** (R-VA), received similarly illegal contributions from MZM. Goode, however, is not a high-profile candidate for higher office and the publicity in his district surrounding the MZM contributions has been more or less even-handed.

In Harris's case, however, the link to a scandal is widely seen as the last straw in a series of obstacles to her candidacy. The list includes controversy about her role as Florida's secretary of state in the 2000 presidential election re-count; the reluctance of major GOP powerbrokers, including the White House, the NRSC and Gov. **Jeb Bush**, to support her

Senate bid; her poor fundraising; and the resignations of several key campaign staffers.

Harris gamely defended her campaign in a conference call to supporters, but since the story broke, she has cancelled five campaign appearances and is looking like a candidate on the way out. "She's done," says one Florida consultant (R); "The only question is, how does she have a graceful exit strategy?"

Even before the latest spate of bad news for Harris, the polling data wasn't good. A Quinnipiac poll taken Feb. 15-20 showed Nelson with 53%, Harris with 31%. In earlier surveys, not only was Harris higher, but Nelson was lower, hovering just below 50%. The problem for the GOP in replacing her as a Senate candidate, however, is that – at least before the MZM story – Harris was far and away the most popular candidate among Republicans. Quinnipiac showed her as the preference of 46% of likely GOP primary voters, to 12% for US Rep. **Mark Foley**, her nearest competitor. State House Speaker **Allen Bense** drew only 6%, US Rep. **Ginny Brown-Waite** 4%, US Rep. **Dave Weldon** 3% and state Sen. **Daniel Webster** 1%.

The poll showed that if Harris were not in the race – as is now highly possible – there is no obvious successor. Without Harris, Foley draws 24% of the GOPers, Bense 13%, Brown-Waite 8%, Weldon 7% and Webster 4%. Foley has some \$2.6 million on hand in campaign funds, but he has some baggage from his aborted 2004 US Senate campaign.

In General Election match-ups, the only Republican with a solid lead over Nelson is Gov. Bush, who beats the incumbent 52% to 38%. But it is doubtful that Bush would run, in part because he wouldn't like leaving an executive post and becoming one of 100 senators. Two GOP gubernatorial candidates



would also run strong races against Harris. Attorney General **Charlie Crist** edges Nelson 46% to 45% and Chief Financial Officer **Tom Gallagher** runs a close second – 43% to Nelson’s 45%. But both stand a better chance of winning the governorship than beating Nelson. Stay tuned.

Tennessee: Ford Falters

US Rep. **Harold Ford** (D) looked weaker against his GOP opponents in February than he did in January, according to Rasmussen Reports polling company. Ford’s share of the vote declined in match-ups with all three candidates. If the election were held on Feb. 27, the day the poll was taken, ex-US Rep. **Ed Bryant** (R) would beat Ford 45% to 36%; ex-US Rep. **Van Hilleary** (R) would beat for 43% to 35% and ex-mayor of Chattanooga **Bob Corker** would beat him 39% to 35%.

While Bryant runs the best race against Ford in the General Election, a private poll of Republican primary voters reportedly shows Hilleary with 40%, Bryant 30% and Corker with “15% or 20%.” Nevertheless, it is not clear who is most likely to win the Aug. 3 primary (there is no runoff in Tennessee). Two factors complicate forecasts. For starters, despite his weak polling numbers, Corker is far and away the best fundraiser. At year’s end, he had \$3,825,000 on hand, to \$1,013,000 for Hilleary and \$714,000 for Bryant – and \$1,863,000 for Ford. And while all three claim the conservative mantle, Bryant and Hilleary are both strong in the GOP’s more conservative faction and are likely to divide that vote, while Corker is expected to unite voters who have traditionally voted for such mainstream GOPers as US Sen. **Lamar Alexander** and ex-US Sen. **Howard Baker**.

Corker announced his candidacy this week, with appearances in five cities, including two

in East Tennessee, which has been a Republican stronghold since the Civil War. Local elected officials, as well as his congressman, **Zach Wamp** (R), showed up to offer him support.

On the Democratic side, Ford should easily defeat the tepid competition from state Sen. **Rosalind Kurita**. Of the General Election, one Democratic insider says, “It’ll be hard for Ford to win,” but adds that he stands a chance if **President Bush**’s numbers continue to decline and if that “suppresses Republican turnout and African-American turnout is increased. That’s his ticket to victory.”

Virginia: Allen OK, but...

Two contenders, ex-Navy Secretary **James Webb** and Northern Virginia lobbyist **Harris Miller**, are vying in a June 13 Democratic primary for the right to go up against US Sen. **George Allen** (R). Both candidates have pluses and minuses, notes political scientist **Larry Sabato**. “Miller has a base in Northern Virginia and can raise a fair amount of money, plus spend some of his own. Webb is the more exciting candidate, but is a high-risk candidate,” in that he tends to say what he thinks. In addition, as a former Reagan Administration official, he has supported some Republicans, which may not please some Democrats. A Tidewater activist (D), however, says “The ex-Navy Secretary wins; he has the better resume.”

In the General Election, Allen remains the favorite. “Neither candidate strikes most people as likely to bring him down,” says Sabato, “but they do have the ability to run a strong race against him and weaken his presidential bid.” Allen, notes Sabato, is “not nearly as popular as he used to be,” noting that his approval rating now ranks 70th in the 100-member Senate, while the state’s other US



Senator, **John Warner** (R), ranks 11th – and first in the South. “Virginia has moderated, but Allen hasn’t,” probably because he wants the GOP’s 2008 presidential nomination.

Texas Primary Results

These results of the March 7 primaries are from the Texas Secretary of State’s website, with 100% of precincts reporting.

Republicans: In the gubernatorial primary, Gov. **Rick Perry** had 550,441 (84%), **Larry Kilgore** 49,626 (8%), **Rhett Smith** 30,223 (5%) and **Star Locke** (4%).....In the 22nd District (Sugarland, etc.), US Rep. **Tom DeLay** had 20,558 votes (62%), **Tom Campbell** 9,937 (30%), **Mike Fjetland** 1,550 (5%) and **Pat Baig** 1,115 (3%).....In the 17th District (Waco, etc.), **Van Taylor** had 17,214 (54%) to **Tucker Anderson**’s 14,673 (46%).

Democrats: In the gubernatorial contest, **Chris Bell** had 324,127 (64%) to **Bob Gammage**’s 145,328 (29%), with 38,861 (8%) for **Rashad Jafer**.....In the US Senate contest, **Barbara Radnofsky** had 214,837 (43%) to 191,276 (38%) for **Gene Kelly** and 94,049 (19%) for **Darrel Hunter**. Radnofsky and Kelly will meet in an April 11 runoff.....In the 28th District (Laredo, etc.), freshman US Rep. **Henry Cuellar** had 23,546 (53%) to ex-US Rep. **Ciro Rodriguez**’s 18,217 (41%) and **Victor Morales**’s 2,893 (6%).

Traditionally in Texas, turn-out is higher in the Democratic primary than in the Republican primary; this year, however, 653,198 turned out for the GOP’s relatively uncontested gubernatorial primary to 508,316 who voted in the Democrats’ contested race for governor.

Vox Populi

Southeast Split on Bush, Iraq War. In late February, Elon University extended its polling

area beyond North Carolina and surveyed 1,277 residents of five Southeastern states (FL, GA, NC, SC & VA). In the region as a whole, **President Bush**’s approval rating was in the red – 42% approve, 52% disapprove. His strongest showing was in South Carolina, where 46% approved his performance, to 49% who disapproved. His weakest showing was in Florida, where 45% approved, to 54% who disapproved. And the war in Iraq did not get high marks in this usually hawkish region. When asked if the United States should be in Iraq, 48% said no to 47% who said yes. And 51% said the war was not worth fighting, to 44% who said it was.

Alabama: Democratic Primary Close?

Lt. Gov. **Lucy Baxley**, the early favorite in the June 6 Democratic gubernatorial primary, had a smaller than expected lead over indicted ex-Gov. **Don Siegelman** in a Mobile Register-University of South Alabama poll. The survey, taken Feb. 9-16, gave Baxley 37%, Siegelman 34%, with a large 29% undecided. The winner will face either Gov. **Bob Riley** (R) or ex-state Chief Justice **Roy Moore** (R), his primary challenger – or perhaps both, if Moore decides to run as an independent.

Florida: Crist, Davis Top Gubernatorial Polls. In a Feb. 17-19 Strategic Vision poll of likely voters in the June 5 Republican primary for governor, Attorney General **Charlie Crist** had 46%, Chief Financial Officer **Tom Gallagher** 37%, with 17% undecided. Among likely Democratic voters, US Rep. **Jim Davis** led with 38% to state Sen. **Rod Smith**’s 20%, with 42% undecided. In General Election match-ups, Crist had stronger leads over the Democrats, beating Davis 46%-39% and Smith 47%-36%. Gallagher beat the Democrats by slimmer margins, leading Davis 45%-38% and Smith 46%-35%.



In a Quinnipiac Poll taken Feb. 15-20 among registered Republicans, Crist leads Gallagher by 40% to 31%, with 30% undecided. Among Democrats, Davis leads Smith 29% to 13% with 47% undecided. In General Election match-ups, Crist (R) leads Davis (D) 40% to 36% and leads Smith 42% to 32%. Gallagher(R) has slimmer leads, leading Davis 37%-36% and Smith 38%-34%.

Georgia: Burns & Barrow Even. A Public Opinion Strategies poll taken Feb. 20-21 for ex-US Rep. **Max Burns** (R) in Georgia's 12th District (Augusta to Savannah) shows him just one point behind freshman US Rep. **John Barrow** (D). The survey gave Barrow 43%, Burns 42% and showed Burns with 70% name ID to 84% for Burns.

Kentucky: Lucas Leads. A Cooper & Secrest poll commissioned by ex-US Rep. **Ken Lucas** (D) showed that he would defeat incumbent US Rep. **Geoff Davis** (R) 47% to 37%. The survey was taken Feb. 7-8.

North Carolina: Immigration an Issue. A late February Elon University poll shows that 62 percent of North Carolinians believe immigration is a "very important" issue and 79 percent favor an increase in the state's minimum wage. The public is divided, however, on whether state House Speaker **Jim Black** (D), unindicted but under investigation for campaign finance violations, should stay in office: 30% said Black should resign; 25% say stay; and 35% were undecided.

Grits

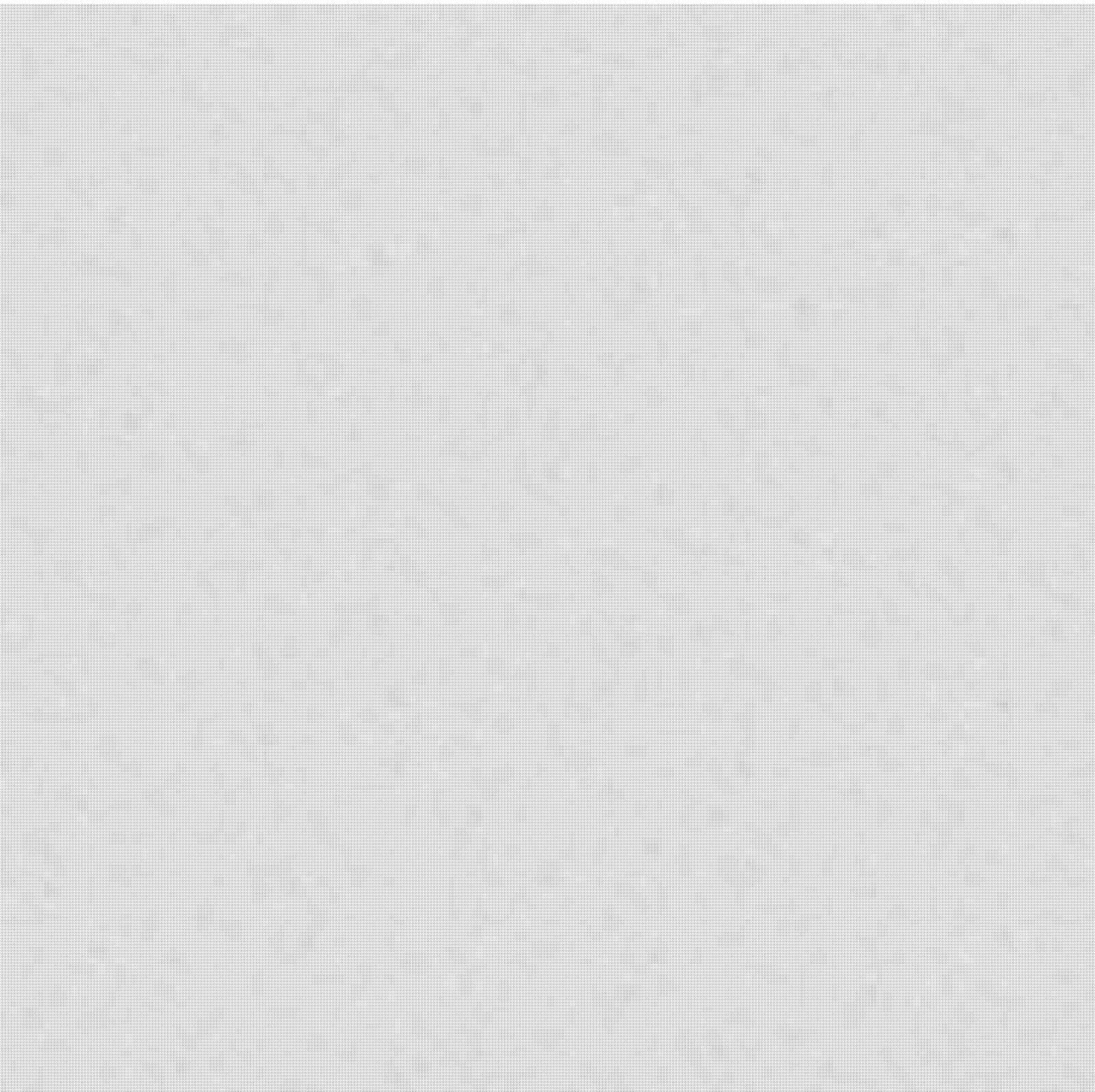
• **Three Wealthy Districts in Dixie.** Three of the nation's ten richest congressional districts are in the South, according to census data on household income published in *The Hill* newspaper. Virginia's 11th District (Washington suburbs, etc.), represented by US Rep. **Tom Davis** (R), is number

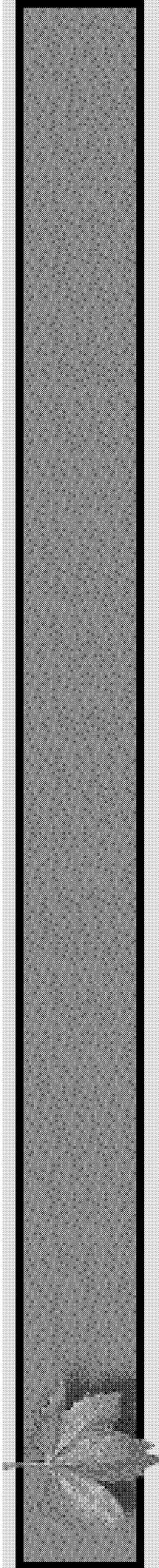
one in the nation. Georgia's 6th District (Atlanta suburbs), represented by US Rep. **Tom Price** (R), ranks fourth. And Virginia's 10th District, also in suburban Northern Virginia and represented by US Rep. **Frank Wolf** (R), is tenth. All three districts are represented by Republicans, but two are moving slowly toward the Democrats – in 2004 **President Bush** carried the 10th by a respectable but not overwhelming 55%-44% and carried the 11th by a slim 50%-49%. Georgia's 6th District voters, however, remain firmly in the GOP camp, with a 70%-29% Bush victory.

• **Alabama: GOP Gains State House Seat.** The Republican candidate won a special election on Feb. 28 to fill a seat previously held by a Democrat. Engineering manager **Barry Mask** (R) defeated Tallassee Mayor **Bobby Payne** (D) by 4,269 (59%) to 2,981 (41%). The campaign was hard-fought. Gov. **Bob Riley** (R) endorsed Mask and the state GOP provided financial backing, while the Alabama Education Association worked for Payne. Watch the March 21 special election for another seat previously held by a Democrat. The Alabama House currently has 61 Democrats, 43 Republicans and one vacancy.

• **Virginia: Gay Marriage Ban May Spur Turnout.** At a Virginia Electoral Board Association meeting last weekend, reports a local electoral board chairman who attended, the state's top elections official urged local boards to be staffed for a high turnout this November, indicating the anti-marriage amendment as the cause. SPR's source also noted, "There is chatter among registrars across the state that they may have to request additional police protection at polling places this November, because emotions on the amendment are riding high and they expect people to be picketing the polls."

For the South's political news on a daily basis, contact James Austin Meehan at 404-233-3710, ext. 37, or jmeehan@insideradvantage.com, and get your username and password. Then log on to www.southernpoliticalreport.com.





From: Karl Rove <KR@georgewbush.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 5:23 PM
To: 'Taylor_A._Hughes@who.eop.gov'
Subject: Fw: ATRA Speech
Attach: ATRA Speech.doc

-----Original Message-----

From: Jordan, Myriah L. <Myriah_L._Jordan@who.eop.gov>
To: Karl Rove <KR@georgewbush.com>
CC: Hughes, Taylor A. <Taylor_A._Hughes@who.eop.gov>; McMillin, Stephen S.
<Stephen_S._McMillin@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Tue Mar 21 17:23:32 2006
Subject: ATRA Speech

Karl –

Attached, please find the latest draft of talking points for your ATRA speech. As you requested, I added a couple of bullets regarding costs of litigation to the Impact on Competitiveness section.

Thanks,
Myriah

ATRA Talking Points

I. Economic Impact

- The tort system has a considerable impact on our economy, leading to lower spending on research and development, higher health care costs, and job losses.
- Resources that are wasted in the tort system or that are used to avoid tort liability could instead be directed toward more productive uses. The tort system generates a large excess burden because it forces individuals to change the way in which they do business. For example, doctors order extra tests and procedures that are unnecessary, and are discouraged from engaging in high-risk practices. Firms choose not to develop new products in order to avoid potential liability.
- Why the tort system is ineffective:
 - Market incentives already induce firms to produce safe products.
 - Several products and services already face government regulation (the tort system may not provide incremental benefits).
- In 2004, tort costs amounted to \$260.1 billion, about \$886 per person and 2.22% of GDP. This is an increase of \$14.4 billion, or 5.9%, from the 2003 estimate of \$245.7 billion. The 5.9% rate of growth exceeded overall economic growth.
- Tort costs have increased more than a hundredfold over the past 50 years.
- The lawsuit industry earns approximately \$40 billion annually, 50% more than Microsoft and twice the revenues of Coca-Cola.
- The United States continues to have the highest tort costs of any developed nation (tort costs as a percent of GDP in 2003):
 - France: 0.74%
 - Japan: 0.80%
 - Italy: 1.70%
 - UK: 0.69%
 - Germany: 1.14%
- Asbestos-related litigation has clogged the courts, depriving those with injuries of a meaningful remedy and resulting in the bankruptcy of at least 70 companies, the loss of tens of thousands of jobs, and costs to the U.S. economy estimated at over \$300 billion.
- But we are making progress. February 18th marked the one-year anniversary of the Class Action Fairness Act. The Act has already made inroads toward the President's goal of reforming the litigation system. For example, in notorious Madison County, Illinois, there were 82 class actions filed in 2004, and 36 in the first month-and-a-half of 2005 (before the Act became law). Between Feb. 18, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2005, however, just 10 class actions have been filed in Madison County, a decline of 87% from the 77 suits filed during the same period in 2004.

II. Impact on Health Care

Mississippi

- Rural obstetric care is in serious jeopardy. Cleveland has lost three of six Ob-Gyns, Greenwood has lost two of four, and Yazoo City-with 14,550 residents, has no one practicing obstetrics. (Associated Press, November 19, 2003)

- Fifty-one of Mississippi's 82 counties face doctor shortages, according to a report by the Mississippi Health Policy Research Center. Starkville physician Steve Parvin, president-elect of the Mississippi State Medical Association, said a major reason for Mississippi's depleting work force of physicians is the high cost and scarcity of medical liability insurance. (Health & Medicine Week, December 29, 2003)
- Pediatric specialist Kurt Kooyer, MD, left the small town of Rolling Fork after getting fed up with a legal system that allowed lawyers to file suit against him without the patients knowledge they were suing their physician. Dr. Kooyer, the only pediatrician among three physicians in town, arrived in 1994 and was responsible for the infant mortality decreasing from an average of 10 deaths per 1,000 live births to 3.4. Dr. Kooyer now lives in North Dakota. (Clarion Ledger, August 23, 2003)
- Donald Palmisano, MD, Immediate Past-President of the AMA recently learned from a young surgeon that he "understood the crisis all too well because he recently lost his son because there was no neurosurgeon available." Mississippi surgeon John Lucas, III, MD, related that his son was in a car accident and needed immediate neurosurgical intervention, but the area's neurosurgeons had already either quit doing head trauma cases or had moved away. His son had a correctible problem if immediate attention by a neurosurgeon could be given. Dr. Lucas did everything he could to expedite the transfer and find a neurosurgeon. Unfortunately, the transfer came too late and his son John Lucas, IV died.

Pennsylvania

- Pennsylvania faces a shortfall of as many as 13,000 physicians by 2020 if present trends continue, according to the Pennsylvania Medical Society. ("Doctors: Shortfall looms if no malpractice reform," *The Morning Call*, 02/04/04)
- Many of the "disappearing doctors" are neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons, and their increasing withdrawal from practices in Pennsylvania has resulted in reduced access to emergency surgery services, particularly in rural locations, according to the Pennsylvania Medical Society Alliance. ("Sen. Santorum visits Pittsburgh hospital to discuss Pennsylvania's 'disappearing doctors' crisis," *States News Service*, 3/12/04)
- One in four Pennsylvania Ob/Gyns has dropped or is planning to drop obstetrics due to high liability costs, according to a survey by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. ("Will you still have an ob-gyn when you need one?" Pennsylvania Section, ACOG, available at [online](#).)
- Out-of-control medical liability lawsuits have driven up insurance rates by double and triple digits for hospitals and physicians. The situation is so bad that Lloyd's of London informed hospitals in southeastern Pennsylvania that the region is one of the three most difficult places in the world to write medical liability coverage. ("A medical emergency," *The Baltimore Sun*, 03/24/04)
- Young Ob-Gyn Dr. Christine Larson decided to move her family to Minnesota and start over because of Pennsylvania's worsening medical liability crisis. Dr. Daniel Kegel, president of OB-GYN of Lancaster -- Dr. Larson's former group -- said "most (young doctors) are going to make the same decision (to leave Pennsylvania)." Dr. Kegel emphasized that losing a young doctor "exacerbates the difficulty we have with a limited number of appointment slots and an increasing demand for them. It is difficult to

accommodate everyone who wants and needs us." (Lancaster Sunday News, September 14, 2003)

- More than two out of three medical residents in six medical specialties chose to leave Pennsylvania after completing their training, according to the Philadelphia Daily News, which examined data from the city's major teaching hospitals between 1998-2002. "The resident brain drain is greatest among doctors going into high-risk specialties: Ob-Gyns, orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons. These doctors, not surprisingly, are most likely to be sued for malpractice -- and pay some of the highest malpractice insurance premiums." (Philadelphia Daily News, May 28, 2003)
- According to Grand View Hospital President Stuart Fine, the medical liability crisis is a main reason why patient access problems are occurring throughout the state and "has caused experienced doctors to leave the area, especially neurosurgeons, orthopedic and general surgeons, obstetricians and cardiologists. Few young doctors are coming in to take their place, and the result is a shortage of doctors." (Morning Call (Allentown, PA), January 23, 2004)

California Model

- California's 1975 Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act (MICRA) reduced the cost of insurance premiums and provided that truly injured people get properly compensated for their injuries. This bi-partisan reform has saved California residents billions of dollars in lower health care costs and saved federal taxpayers billions of dollars in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
 - The law caps medical malpractice liability awards for non-economic damages at \$250,000.
 - MICRA also limits the percentage that plaintiffs' lawyers receive from awarded judgments, setting their contingency fees according to a sliding scale that goes down as awards go up.
 - MICRA's results have been dramatic.
 - In the law's first 27 years, California's medical malpractice insurance premiums increased 245 percent, compared with 750 percent for the rest of the nation.
 - A recent study by the RAND Institute examined a database of 257 California jury verdicts in medical malpractice cases between 1995 and 1999 in which the plaintiffs won, and found that MICRA reduced total payouts 30 percent on average.
 - Moreover, due to the attorney-fee restrictions, the average plaintiff recovery fell by only half as much as payouts, *i.e.*, patients kept a higher percentage of the smaller judgments.
 - For the average non-economic damage award, the typical plaintiff recovery actually increased 7 percent, and for 97 percent of all verdicts, the patient's payout fell by 7.5 percent or less.
 - The average attorney award fell by 60 percent.
 - The percentage of claims resolved through settlement and arbitration has increased in California, saving money for injured patients. Cases in California settle 23% faster than in States without caps on non-economic damages.

III. Impact on Competitiveness

- How tort costs diverge between the U.S. and other countries:

- Noneconomic damages are much higher in the U.S., accounting for half of all compensation awarded in the U.S. These damages are capped or restricted in other countries.
- Judges typically decide the outcome of tort claims in a number of other countries, while in the U.S. the jury system plays an important part.
- In several other nations, the loser in a tort case is responsible for both sides' legal fees, whereas in the U.S. each side pays its respective costs. The "loser pay-all" method is effective in averting low-quality (nuisance) cases.
- The U.S. tort system cost \$260 billion in 2004 (\$886 per person, or \$41 per person more than in 2003). *Source: Tillinghast.*
- The United States has over 6.35 times as many lawyers as France, 3.84 times Italy, 3.07 times Japan, 2.33 times Great Britain, 1.85 times Canada, and 1.64 times Germany. *Source: The Economist.*
- According to the National Academy of Sciences, in 2001, US industry spent more on tort litigation than on R&D.

IV. Moral Dimension

- Fairness
 - Asbestos: Approximately 600,000 claimants—fewer than a quarter of potential plaintiffs—have filed suit. But non-malignant claims comprise almost 90% of the claims and almost 2/3 of asbestos compensation awards.
- Confidence in Legal System

Texas

- In 1995, the Texas Legislature passed a series of bills to reform the state's civil justice system. These bills addressed limits on punitive damages, joint and several liability, sanctions for filing frivolous suits, limits on venue shopping and out-of-state filings, modifications to deceptive trade practices and medical malpractice reform. In 2003, the Texas state Legislature passed H.B. 4 to further reform the state's civil justice system. Voters also approved a constitutional amendment in 2003 that eliminates potential court challenges to the law that limited non-economic damages to \$750,000.
 - According to the Perryman Group ("The Impact of Judicial Reforms on Economic Activity in Texas," August 2000), the total cost of the Texas tort system in 2000 was \$15.482 billion. Without reforms, it is estimated that the total cost would have been \$25.889 billion. Of the \$10.407 billion in total direct savings, approximately \$2.777 billion may be attributed to improvements at the national level while \$7.630 billion in savings were from reforms in Texas. Of the total savings, \$2.542 billion went directly to benefit consumers.
 - The American Medical Association dropped Texas from its list of states in medical liability crisis (Houston Chronicle, 5/17/05).
 - Malpractice claims are down and physician recruitment and retention are up, particularly in high risk specialties (Houston Chronicle, 5/17/05).
 - The five largest Texas insurers cut rates, which will save doctors about \$50 million, according to the AMA (Houston Chronicle, 5/17/05).

Alabama

- Until recently, Alabama was known in the business community as “tort hell.” A study by Yale Law Professor George Priest found that from 1989 to 1996 the Alabama Supreme Court affirmed over \$80 million in punitive damages awards, not including wrongful death cases. This was almost nine times more than the amount affirmed in Georgia over the same period, and four times more than Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee combined. At the trial court level, Professor Priest found the average punitive damages award in Alabama during the period was over \$3.2 million. By comparison, a U.S. Justice Department study of state courts in the 75 largest counties in the country found that the average punitive damages award was only \$735,000. Professor Priest described the explosion of punitive damages awards in Alabama in the late 1980s and early 1990s as “unparalleled in the history of American jurisprudence.” A particularly glaring feature of the explosion was the fact it was directed predominantly at out-of-state corporations doing business in the state. Predictably, this situation hurt Alabama’s ability to attract new businesses and jobs to the state.
- A package of tort reform measures was passed by the Alabama legislature in 1999 and signed into law by Gov. Don Siegelman. These reforms included: a cap of \$500,000 on punitive damages, or three times compensatory damages, whichever is greater, if no physical injury is involved; a cap of \$1.5 million, or three times compensatory damages, in cases involving a physical injury; a separate cap for small businesses of \$50,000 or 10 percent of the business’s net worth up to \$200,000, whichever is greater; a clarification of the law on venue which determines where a case can be filed.

Michigan

- Under Governor John Engler, Michigan succeeded in passing sweeping reforms to a legal climate that was once hostile to business. Today, Michigan is a better place to start a business or find a doctor because of the many legal reforms enacted by Governor Engler and upheld by the Michigan Supreme Court, which has refused to let trial lawyers trump legislation passed by the Michigan Legislature.

Karl Rove

From: Karl Rove
Sent: 5/12/2006 3:05:15 PM
To: Hughes, Taylor A.
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: Southern Political Report
Attachments: image.jpg;image.gif;image.jpg;SPR676.doc;

----- Forwarded Message

From: Tricia Ruggiero <tricia@insideradvantage.com>
Date: Fri, 12 May 2006 14:50:02 -0400
Conversation: Southern Political Report
Subject: Southern Political Report

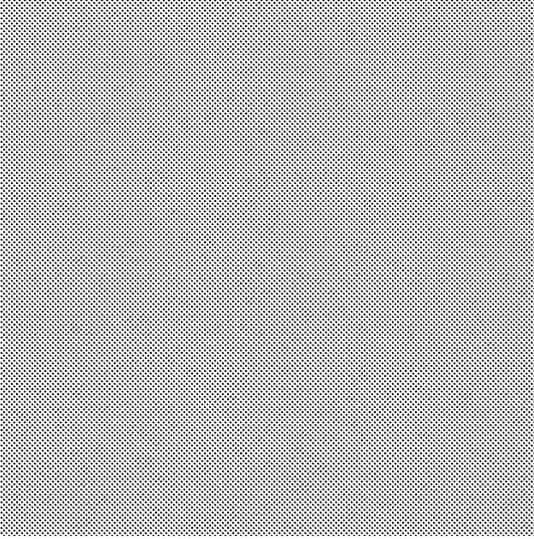


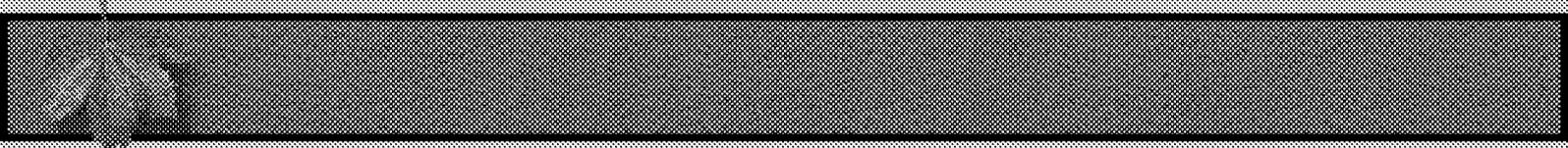
Have a great weekend!

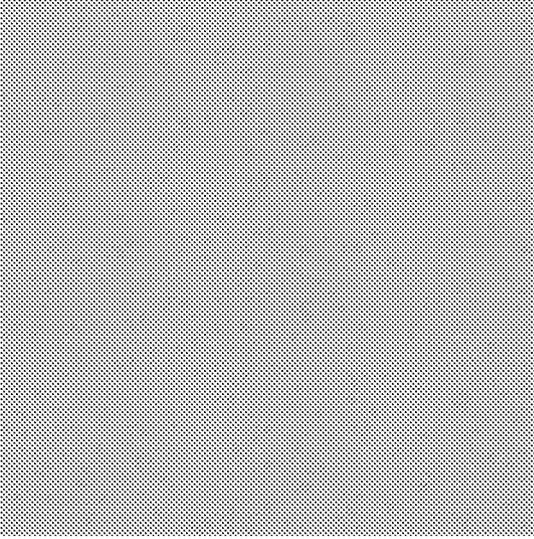
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----- End of Forwarded Message









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Number 676, May 8, 2006

Three Tennessee Districts and One in Texas

There are two open seats in the Volunteer State this year. One is safely Republican, the other safely Democratic. Because vacant congressional seats rarely come up and because incumbents rarely get beat -- here or elsewhere -- primaries in both districts are crowded. The primary will be held on Aug. 3; there is no runoff in Tennessee.

1st District (Kingsport, etc.)

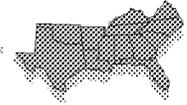
Six-term US Rep. **Bill Jenkins** (R) has announced his retirement and 17 candidates -- 13 Republicans and four Democrats -- have entered the race to succeed him. Bush got 68% here in 2004. Since a Democrat was last elected in this district in 1880 -- 126 years ago -- the main focus is on the Republican primary. With no runoff required in Tennessee, only a plurality is required to win the primary, which is tantamount to election in this district. In 1996, Jenkins won with 18.3% in a field of seven candidates.

Eight of the GOP contenders have a degree of visibility in the race, and thus appear to have better a chance of winning the plurality necessary for election.

Richard Venable is mayor of Sullivan County, the district's largest county; he is the only candidate from that area. He is a former member of the state House of Representatives, where he served as the House Republican whip. Venable also sought the seat in 1996, coming in fifth in the primary, with 12.5%. He supports drilling for oil in Alaska's ANWR region to help bring down gasoline prices. He reported \$80,000 in his war chest, including \$50,000 of his own funds that he lent the campaign.

Richard Roberts, formerly associated with one of the area's largest trucking firms, not only has extensive business connections throughout the district, but could benefit from being one of only two candidates from Greene County. Watch the 2nd Quarter FEC reports to see if Roberts' funding is significant

State Rep. **David Davis**, one of two candidates who filed Federal Election Commission (FEC) financial reports in April, had \$31,000 cash on hand. Davis also sought the seat in 1996, but lost in the primary. In that race, Davis came in fourth with 12.7%. Tennessee Right-to-Life has endorsed Davis, "a pretty big deal," says a journalist, "especially in that part of the state."



Ex-State Claims Commissioner **Vance Cheek**, a former mayor of Johnson City, has a bone disorder and uses a motorized chair. He has already conducted a campaign tour that reached each of the district's 12 counties.

Davis and Cheek are both from Johnson City, as are three other candidates, ex-Johnson City Mayor **Bill Breeding**, who says he will donate \$10,000 to jumpstart his campaign; Johnson City Vice Mayor **Phil Roe**; and former Assistant US Attorney **Dan Smith**.

With five well-known candidates from Johnson City in the race, the vote from that area, one of the district's three largest towns, is likely to be divided, thus helping other candidates from areas with only one or two contenders, such as Sevier County Mayor **Larry Waters**, who might run strong in his home county.

Five others in the GOP race have so far received less attention. They are **Peggy Barnett**, **Colquitt Brackett**, **Claude Cox**, **John Grose** and **David Heinsohn**.

The four Democrats are actor and ex-New Yorker **Joel Goodman**, **Alan Howell**, **Rick Trent** and **Dennis Whaley**. Four independents have also filed.

The major issues so far include illegal immigration, gasoline prices, job creation, making the Bush tax cuts permanent and agricultural policy. All candidates claim the conservative label; support for pro-life policies and gun rights, and opposition to same-sex marriage are strong among the candidates. On the war in Iraq, there is opposition to precipitous withdrawal of US troops.

4th District (Sewanee, etc.)

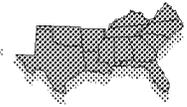
Second-term US Rep. **Lincoln Davis** (D) is in a marginal district that gave Bush 58% in 2004 while it was reelecting Davis with 55%. Thus,

he often draws a significant -- though not necessarily a threatening -- challenge. This year is no exception. While three candidates have filed on the Republican side, the major contender and likely primary winner is **Alan Pedigo**, who had a slew of local lawmakers at his announcement. Pedigo, an ex-Marine and a civil engineer, ran a close but losing primary (46%) for the state Senate in 2002. Were this a GOP year, and lots of money was flowing into Pedigo's coffers, he might make a race of it. This year, with Davis having no particular vulnerability, it looks like an easy victory for Democrat Davis.

9th District (Memphis.)

The decision of Congressman **Harold Ford, Jr.** (D) to seek a US Senate seat has left in its wake a major free-for-all in the state's only black-majority district. Moreover, there are plots and subplots galore. Of the 15 candidates who have entered the Democratic primary (it only takes 25 petition signatures), 13 are black and two are white. A number of the African-American candidates are well-positioned to get a significant vote, which could divide the black vote, while only one of the two white candidates is well-known, state Sen. **Steve Cohen**. Cohen, a 30-year veteran of the state legislature, has been to Washington, DC, to meet with liberal PACs. In 1996, he lost to Ford, 34% to 60%. But with an electorate that's 60% black and 35% white, and only a plurality needed for victory, it is very possible that Cohen could win the primary, to the presumed consternation of many of the district's black voters and politicians.

Enter the Ford family, with a political network rivaling the Kennedys and the Bushes. **Joe Ford, Jr.**, son of Shelby County Commissioner **Joe Ford**, first cousin of Congressman Harold Ford, Jr., and a lawyer in Virginia, moved back to Memphis to run for the seat, hoping that voter loyalty to the Ford name would give him the needed plurality, and



assure that the seat stays in the family. Meanwhile, Harold Jr.'s brother, **Jake Ford**, 33, moved back to Memphis from California, where he's been an entertainment and contracts lawyer, and filed for the seat as an independent. Thus, if Cohen – by virtue of a plurality provided by white voters – should “slip in,” as one observer put it, then brother Jake, bolstered by Harold, Jr.'s name on the US Senate ballot, could save the seat for the family and for African Americans.

Cohen's victory in the primary is far from a sure thing, of course. In addition to Joe Ford, Jr., the black candidates in the Democratic race include some substantial political players.

Julian Bolton, a Shelby County Commissioner, has very high name ID in the district and significant political contacts in the black community, in addition to the clout that comes from his current office. Bolton is trailing in the money chase, however, with \$18,000 on hand in the 1st Quarter Federal Election Commission (FEC) reports.

Marvell Mitchell, formerly with IBM and Digital Equipment Corporation, now has his own business, Mitchell Technology Group. He has been active in such groups as the Memphis Chamber of Commerce and the Black Business Association. At the end of the first quarter, Mitchell had \$107,000 on hand, third behind Tinker and Stanton.

Tyson Pratcher, a native of Memphis, is a graduate of Columbia University Law School and a former staffer to US Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY). (One rumor has it that one or more Clintons may make an appearance on his behalf.) He had a respectable \$78,000 on hand by Mar. 31.

Ron Redwing runs his own public relations firm. He has previously served as manager of the Mayor's Citizen Service Center, as a communications officer for the Catholic

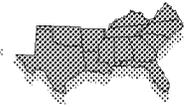
Diocese and later for the Methodist Health Systems. He has been active in politics, supporting both Harold Ford, Jr. and Sr. in their congressional races. He did not file a 1st Quarter FEC report.

Edward Stanton, an attorney with Memphis-based Fed-Ex, is locally born, bred and educated. He's been active in civic affairs and is a former assistant city attorney for Memphis. He's also a very good fundraiser, with \$134,000 on hand as of Mar. 31, second only to Tinker.

Nikki Tinker, 35, a labor lawyer with Northwest Airlines and a campaign operative for Harold Ford, Jr. in several of his earlier races, has been an aggressive fundraiser, bringing in high-profile headliners for fundraising dinners that have brought her publicity as well as contributions. She's been endorsed by the Steel Workers, the area's largest union. She's a top-notch fundraiser, with \$178,000 on hand for the 1st Quarter, but touts the economic poverty of her roots. She received her law degree from the University of Alabama, where she served as the first African-American student body president. Tinker may also benefit from being the only woman in the race.

State Rep. **Joe Towns** is a six-term member of the Tennessee House where he serves on a number of education and small business committees.

Ralph White, pastor of the 900-member Bloomfield Full Gospel Baptist Church, has been active in a wide range of civic causes -- chairman of the city's Civilian Law Enforcement Review Board, an officer in the county Democratic Party and Memphis spokesman for the Religious Alliance Against Pornography. He has some Republican backers, though most GOPers are likely to be voting in their party's hotly contested US Senate primary.



Bill Whitman is a lawyer with a history of working with groups that advocate on behalf of the poor. He spent a year as a volunteer with Catholic Charities and the Notre Dame Legal Clinic. He was a law clerk for a federal judge. As of Mar. 31, he had \$9,000 on hand.

Besides Cohen, another white candidate in the race is **Lee Harris**, a law professor at the University of Memphis. Harris has a top-notch resume, with a law degree from Yale and additional studies at the London School of Economics. At 27, he is the youngest candidate in the race. He plans a “minimum budget” campaign; he had \$38,000 on hand by Mar. 31.

Texas 22: Without DeLay

There are four steps to the arcane system for choosing a new Republican nominee for the 22nd District, now that incumbent **Tom DeLay** says he is retiring from the seat. First, DeLay must move his official residence from Sugar Land, Texas, to Washington, DC’s Virginia suburbs. Second, local officials must declare DeLay ineligible to run for the seat. Third, the GOP precinct chairs in each of the four counties in the district must choose a representative to serve on a committee to choose the new nominee. Finally, the four-member committee must pick a candidate by a majority vote, which means -- in this case -- by three of votes. If the committee stalemates, then the Texas Republican Executive Committee chooses the nominee.

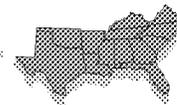
There are a couple of wrinkles that could spell trouble for the process. The campaign of **Nick Lampson**, the Democratic nominee, is considering a legal challenge the DeLay contention that he is ineligible to run, contending that instead he’s simply stepping aside because he knows he can’t win. In addition, a large number of precinct chairmanships are vacant. Filling those slots could offer opportunity for controversy.

While the prescribed-by-law procedure for replacing DeLay on the ballot allows for little or no public participation, some of the county chairs are attempting to rectify that. In Fort Bend County, the party sent out a list of potential candidates to all those who voted in the Mar. 7 primary for guidance in choosing the nominee. (**Mike Fjetland**, who got 5% vote in the primary when he ran against DeLay, has complained that his name was left off the list).

There are at least seven prospects for the GOP slot on the ballot. The top two appear to be Houston City Council member-at-large **Shelley Sekula-Gibbs**, a dermatologist, and Sugar Land Mayor **David Wallace**. Sekula-Gibbs claims the support of Houston homebuilder and political power-broker **Bob Perry**. She is the only candidate with a campaign website, and stresses both her conservative views and her economic development activities for Houston and its suburbs. Wallace has also been close to Perry, as well as close to DeLay, but the ex-majority leader says publicly he is not taking sides.

Other prospects include state Rep. **Charlie Howard** and attorney **Tom Campbell**, who came in second to DeLay with 30% in the primary, both of Sugar Land. Campbell’s subsequent refusal to endorse DeLay is unlikely to endear him to party officials, who are more important than usual in this selection process. Three other state legislators are getting mentioned for the GOP nod: State Sen. **Mike Jackson** of La Porte, state Rep. **Robert Talton** of Pasadena, and state Rep. **Larry Taylor** of Friendswood.

The 22nd leans significantly to the GOP: Bush got 64% here in 2004. However, DeLay’s 55% in 2004 suggests it is more competitive than the presidential vote indicates. In addition, Lampson represented part of the district when he represented the neighboring 9th district (Beaumont) in Congress. Finally, Lampson



had nearly \$1.8 million on hand in his 1st Quarter report, enough to give any GOP nominee a tough row to hoe.

Campaign Updates

Alabama: Riley on a Roll

Polls continue to show Gov. **Bob Riley** (R), whose approval ratings dragged the floor after he advocated a major tax restructuring (i.e., increase) in 2003, continues to look like a sure-thing in his June 6 primary battle with ex-state Supreme Court Chief Justice **Roy Moore**, known mainly for promoting public display of the Ten Commandments. It's Riley 67%, Moore 23%, according to a news media poll taken Apr. 17-20 by the University of Alabama at Birmingham. And Riley is way ahead of Moore in the money chase, with \$3.6 million on hand at the end of the 1st Quarter to Moore's \$274,000.

On the Democratic side, there's a dog fight. Indicted ex-Gov. **Don Siegelman** had 39%, Lt. Gov. **Lucy Baxley** 38%, according to the University of Alabama at Birmingham poll. But Baxley has the most cash, \$1.3 million to Siegelman's \$368,000.

Florida: Crist, Davis Strong

In the June 5 Republican primary for governor, Attorney General **Charlie Crist** beats Chief Financial Officer **Tom Gallagher**, by 47% to 35%, says Strategic Vision (R) in an Apr. 21-23 survey; in the Democratic primary, US Rep. **Jim Davis** beats state Sen. **Rod Smith**, by 44% to 21%. In November, Crist (R) beats Davis (D) 46% to 39%. In a Quinnipiac University Poll, taken Apr. 11-17, Crist beats Gallagher 34%-30% and Davis beats Smith

27%-17%. In November, Davis outpolls Crist 39% to 37% and ties Gallagher, 38%-38%.

Florida: Nelson Weak, Harris Weaker

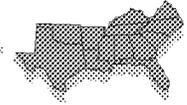
The Strategic Vision poll showed US Sen. **Bill Nelson** (D) leading US Rep. **Katherine Harris** (R) by a very solid 56% to 27%, but weaker against other GOPers. Harris beat US Rep. **Mark Foley** 48% to 39%, and likely contender House Speaker **Allan Bense** 47% to 36% Nelson just edges **Tom Gallagher**, 47% to 45%. In the Quinnipiac poll, Nelson beat Harris 56%-27%.

Tennessee GOP Gets A Gubernatorial Candidate

State Sen. **Jim Bryson** (R) who is completing his first term in the upper chamber, is giving up his solid opportunity for a second term to run for governor on the Republican ticket. Bryson represents a suburban Nashville district. "He is quite well thought of," says a Nashville observer. Bryson will oppose incumbent Gov. **Phil Bredesen** (D), a heavy favorite in November. Bryson "is a very respectable sacrificial lamb," says the Nashvillian. "He's a real long shot. He'll get most of the (Republican) party base, though Bredesen will get some moderate Republicans." There are several other GOPers on the Republican ballot, but none of them have significant vote-getting potential.

Grits

● **New Orleans: Couhig Backs Nagin.** In the Big Easy's mayoral election, the decision of the primary's fourth-place finisher **Rob Couhig**, a long-time business mover-and-shaker and Republican political figure, to endorse embattled incumbent **Ray Nagin** could make a tight race of it. In the first vote, Nagin's 38% plus Couhig's 10% equal 48%; Lt. Gov. **Mitch Landrieu**'s 29% plus third-place finisher **Ron Forman**'s 17% equal 46%.



The big question, of course, is whether Couhig, an aggressive campaigner who surprised observers with his strong showing, will be able to move his supporters, most of whom are white, into African-American Nagin's column. And not just race is involved; those who opposed Nagin in the primary are likely to feel he did a poor job coping with Hurricane Katrina. The runoff is May 20.

● **Virginia: Immigrant Shelter Foes Win.** In a May 2 election in Herndon, Virginia, a small-town suburb of Washington, DC, the mayor and two council members who supported the building of a shelter for those seeking work as day laborers were voted out of office. The shelter is used mainly by Hispanic immigrants, many of them thought to be illegal. The pro-shelter mayor lost 47% to 53%. Trailing the ballot was a Salvadorian immigrant seeking to become Herndon's first Hispanic council member. The result has been interpreted as a plus for national groups opposing illegal immigration.

● **Georgia: Another Switch.** One more Democratic lawmaker, state Rep. **Johnny**

Floyd of the Macon area, changed from the Democratic to the Republican Party. The move gives the GOP a majority of 104R-75D-1Ind and appears to cement the party's control of the lower chamber through this fall's elections.

● **Louisiana: Jefferson on Hotter Seat.** With a second lobbyist pleading guilty to charges that he bribed US Rep. **William Jefferson** (D-LA), the prospect that Jefferson himself will face charges grows stronger. In his district, the congressman is popular. Moreover, there is a truism in Louisiana politics that merely getting indicted doesn't count; you have to actually be convicted before you're in serious trouble. In any case, it seems likely that if Jefferson does get serious opposition, it will be in the

Democratic primary. While Katrina did some serious redistricting in this area, the 2nd District (New Orleans) gave Democrat **John Kerry** 75% in 2004. That doesn't mean there's no partisan benefit to Jefferson's problems, however. As a Democrat having ethics trouble, he may help the GOP undercut the effects of the **Jack Abramoff** scandal, which concerned mainly Republicans.

● **Frist Pushes Higher Indecency Fines.** Watch out, **Janet Jackson!** If Senate Majority Leader **Bill Frist** (R-TN) gets his way, and he's in a good position to get his way, the fines on television networks for broadcasting obscene materials would increase substantially. Frist is urging his colleagues to pass a House bill that increases the fines from \$32,500 to as much as \$500,000. This is the latest in a series of actions taken by Frist, a contender for the GOP presidential nomination that would enhance his appeal among conservative Christians. In 2004, Frist was the first GOP leader to endorse a constitutional amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

From: Karl Rove <KR@georgewbush.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2006 4:31 AM
To: 'mike_allen@timemagazine.com'
Subject: Re:

He will win

-----Original Message-----

From: mike_allen@timemagazine.com <mike_allen@timemagazine.com>

To: Karl Rove

Sent: Tue Jun 06 23:46:21 2006

Subject:

sounding promising for Bilbray--that would be huge psychological blow to Ds
Riley, Baxley win in Alabama as 8 states hold primaries

BC-Primaries Rdp, 9th Ld,630

Eds: UPDATES with Baxley win in Alabama, early numbers from California.

With BC-Primary-Glance, BC-Primary Briefs

By ROBERT TANNER

AP National Writer

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley easily beat back a GOP primary challenge from Ten Commandments judge Roy Moore on Tuesday, while Democratic former Gov. Don Siegelman lost his comeback fight against the state's first female lieutenant governor. As eight states held primaries, New Jersey Republicans chose Tom Kean Jr., the son of a popular former governor, to challenge Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez in the fall. Also in Alabama, voters passed a ban on gay marriage by a 4-to-1 margin. Early returns in California showed a tight race between the two Democrats hoping to challenge GOP Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. With just 2 percent of precincts reporting, state Treasurer Phil Angelides had 44 percent and Controller Steve Westly had 45 percent of the votes.

Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico and South Dakota also held primaries, as many states reported low turnout.

The biggest race was the special election in Southern California to fill the House seat of imprisoned former Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, with the political world hoping for clues to the public mood ahead of this fall's midterm elections.

Money and attention from around the country poured into the San Diego-area election, with the Democrats seeing a rich opportunity to capture a solidly Republican district. Cunningham, a Republican, was sent to prison for eight years for taking bribes on a scale unparalleled in the history of Congress.

In New Jersey, Kean — who critics said needed a convincing win to be a real challenger in the fall — easily defeated a more conservative candidate, winning three of every four votes. Menendez, appointed to his seat after former Sen. Jon Corzine became governor, beat a little-known challenger.

In the weeks leading up to Alabama's gubernatorial primary, polls showed Riley with a growing lead on Moore, the former state chief justice who became a hero to the religious right in 2003 when he was ousted over his refusal to remove the Commandments monument from the state judicial building.

That same year, Riley saw his popularity plummet when he unsuccessfully sought a \$1.2 billion tax increase. But his standing rose with the state economy, and this year he helped pass a tax cut for the working poor.

Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley fashioned an "I Love Lucy" campaign, while Siegelman had to campaign at night while on trial on corruption charges during the day.

With 70 percent of precincts reporting, Riley won with 205,324 votes, or 64 percent, to Moore's 116,227 votes, or 36 percent. Among the Democrats, Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley won with 214,234 votes, or 60 percent, against Siegelman with 127,275 votes, or 36 percent.

Siegelman spent Election Day standing trial on corruption charges stemming from his single term as governor.

AP-ES-06-06-06 2343EDT

From: Karl Rove <KR@georgewbush.com>
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 6:03 PM
To: 'Taylor_A._Hughes@who.eop.gov'
Subject: Fw: Southern Political Report
Attach: spr679.doc;image001.jpg;image002.gif

-----Original Message-----

From: Tricia Ruggiero <tricia@insideradvantage.com>

Sent: Fri Jun 16 16:22:28 2006

Subject: Southern Political Report

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Number 679, June 19, 2006

Trends in the Primaries

Four Southern states held primaries in the past two weeks, Alabama and Mississippi on June 6, and South Carolina and Virginia on June 13. In addition, Arkansas had June 13 runoffs in down-ballot contests. Highly competitive races in some of the primaries give some clues to the views of Dixie voters, as well as to the outcomes in the Nov. 7 General Election. Unless otherwise noted, all vote totals are complete but unofficial.

Virginia: A Victory for Pragmatism

James Webb, a former Secretary of the Navy under **President Reagan**, a medal winner in Vietnam and a best-selling novelist, defeated Northern Virginia lobbyist **Harris Miller** in yesterday's Democratic Primary to choose a nominee to oppose freshman US Sen. **George Allen** (R). Webb had 83,176 (53%) to Miller's 72,336 (47%). The turnout was low – only 3.4% of the state's registered voters.

Webb won Northern Virginia, Charlottesville and the Piedmont, as well as Virginia Beach, where ex-Navy Secretary Webb could help Democrat **Phil Kellam** with military voters in his 2nd District challenge to freshman **Thelma Drake** (R). Miller carried the rest of the state, especially those areas where African

Americans account for a large share of the Democratic electorate. Miller's appeal to black voters stemmed largely from doubts about Webb's stand on affirmative action (he says poverty, not just race, should be a factor).

Miller outspent Webb about two to one and had support among Democratic constituency groups, including black legislators and gay-rights groups. Webb garnered high-profile backing from US Senate Minority Leader **Harry Reid** (NV), Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee (DSCC) Chair "**Chuck**" **Schumer** (NY) and 2004 Democratic presidential nominee **John Kerry**, who see the former Reagan official as a way to appeal to voters who normally vote Republican, but are unhappy with the Bush Administration.

Although Miller was recruited by former Gov. **Mark Warner** (D), an extremely popular figure in the state, especially among Democrats, Warner declined to take sides in the primary and after Webb's victory, promptly endorsed him, as did Miller.

In his televised victory statement Tuesday night, Webb made a strong pitch for the more liberal Democrats who voted for Miller, attacking the Bush Administration for



economic policies that help the rich and hurt the middle class and poor, for trade policies that encourage outsourcing of American jobs to foreign countries, and for high gasoline prices. He also attacked the “divisive amendment” to ban gay marriage, referring to it as representing “the worst instincts of bigotry and fear mongering.”

However, Webb closed his remarks with a pitch that it was “time to welcome home” the Reagan Democrats and conservatives who have left the party, but are ready for a change.

Whether Webb can make a race of it with Allen remains to be seen, but most analysts agree that his past right-of-center credentials make him a far more formidable opponent for Allen in conservative Virginia than Miller would have been.

South Carolina: A Shock for Sanford

Gov. **Mark Sanford** (R-SC) won the June 13 gubernatorial primary, but by a much lower percentage than he needed to look strong going into the General Election in November. Sanford had 159,670 votes (65%) to 86,777 (35%) for his relatively unknown, under-funded opponent, Dr. **Oscar Lovelace**.

Lovelace’s 35% compares to the 28% of Republicans in 1998 who voted for an under funded political activist against Gov. **David Beasley** (R). Then in November, 20% of GOPers voted for Democrat **Jim Hodges** for governor, who beat Beasley 53% to 45%.

With little funding or major political backing, Lovelace benefited from Sanford’s lack of political and governing skills, which resulted in constant conflicts between the governor and the Republican legislature. Lovelace has not said whether or not he will endorse Sanford.

In the Democratic primary, Sen. **Tommy Moore** won an easy victory over Florence Mayor **Frank Willis** and pro-casino gambling **Dennis Aughtry**. Moore had 87,741 (64%), Willis 40,916 (30%) and Aughtry 7,895 (6%).

In the GOP primary for lieutenant governor, **Mike Campbell**, son of popular former Gov. **Carroll Campbell**, is in a runoff with incumbent **Andre Bauer**. Campbell led with 110,697 (45%) to 90,341 (37%) for Bauer and 43,366 (18%) for longtime conservative activist Dr. **Henry Jordan**. The runoff will be on June 27. The winner of the Campbell-Bauer runoff will face Democrat ex-state Rep. **Robert Barber** of Charleston in November.

Alabama: “Moderates” Win Big

For the second time now, the “moderate,” or mainstream, wing of the Alabama Republican Party has enjoyed a substantial victory over its Christian conservative faction. In the Republican primary on June 6, Gov. **Bob Riley** (R) sailed to an easy victory over ex-state Supreme Court Chief Justice **Roy Moore**, best known for placing a two-and-half-ton monument to the Ten Commandments in the court lobby. Riley had 306,383 (67%), Moore 153,376 (33%).

It is necessary to put “moderate” in quotation marks, for neither Riley nor his backers could be termed anything but conservative, even on social issues. In 1999 and 2000, for example, Riley’s congressional votes were 89% conservative, 1% liberal, on social issues, according to the *National Journal*. But the Riley wing of the state party places its main emphasis on economic issues and does not seek confrontation with the federal government over social issues. In addition, Moore has been allied with trial lawyers, while Riley and his backers in the legislature were



successful in passing tort reform legislation that limited business liability in damage suits.

This less socially conservative trend was also apparent in other races. In the hotly contested races for the state Supreme Court, four incumbents – all whom had voted to oust Moore from the Court after he defied a higher court ruling – overwhelmingly defeated four challengers associated with Moore. The challengers contended the state court did not have to obey the decisions of the US Supreme Court. The anti-Moore incumbents averaged 66%, the pro-Moore challengers 34%.

In the GOP race for lieutenant governor, **Luther Strange**, a wealthy Mountain Brook attorney and lobbyist, and former Tulane basketball player (he's 6'9"), stressed his support for Riley. In the primary, Strange barely missed getting a majority against Public Service Commissioner **George C. Wallace Jr.**, son of the man who rode the twin horses of social conservatism (albeit on race) and economic populism to victory in the 1960s, and two other candidates who claimed the socially conservative mantle. Wallace, Jr., as a Public Service Commissioner, took a populist tact on such issues as rate hikes by power companies. Strange had 208,147 votes (48%), Wallace 144,742 (33%). The other two contenders, both self-identified social conservatives, were Madison County Commissioner and ex-state Rep. **Mo Brooks** with 67,684 (16%) and **Hilbun Adams** with 12,409 (3%). Both have endorsed Wallace.

The implications of the runoff June 27 runoff are complex. If Strange wins, it will solidify the control of the Alabama GOP by its more centrist wing. However, without the strong support of the one-third of the Republicans who voted for the more conservative candidates – Moore, Wallace and the Supreme Court challengers – Riley and other GOP

candidates could face a tougher time in November. Conversely, were Wallace on the ticket with Riley, he would be a natural bridge to Moore supporters.

In the Democratic primary, Lt. Gov. **Lucy Baxley** won an impressive victory over former Gov. **Don Siegelman**, currently on trial in Montgomery on federal corruption charges. Siegelman had been expected to run well among African-Americans, who comprise as much as half of the Democratic turnout, but toward the end of the campaign, several influential African-American political groups endorsed Baxley. Baxley had 278,417 (60%) to Siegelman's 169,253 (36%). Five other candidates each received 1%.

In Alabama, voters do not designate a party affiliation. They may vote in either party's primary, but not in both. To some extent, their choice of a primary is an indication of the relative strength of the two parties, although local races, which are often hotly contested and motivate turnout, are more prevalent on the Democratic side. The 2006 turnout in the two primaries in the governor's race was almost identical: 465,023 people voted in the Democratic Primary, or 50.3% of the total turnout; 459,759 voted in the Republican Primary, or 49.7%. Four years ago, 432,854 (55% of the turnout) voted in the Democratic primary, to 354,585 (45%) in the Republican primary. This represents a gain of 105,174 votes in the GOP primary, to 32,769 in the Democratic primary, a significant improvement for the GOP.

Despite the Republican voters' two-to-one preference for economic conservatives over religious right candidates, voters in the two primaries combined overwhelmingly supported – 81% to 19% – an amendment to the state's constitution defining marriage as between a man and a woman.



Mississippi: Thompson on Top

In Mississippi's 2nd District (the Delta, etc.) Democratic Primary, 14-year veteran US Rep. **Bennie Thompson** easily won renomination over "**Chuck**" **Espy**, a three-term state representative and member of a prominent African-American professional and political family. Thompson received 56,174 votes (65%) to Espy's 30,151 (35%) and frequent contender **Dorothy Benford**'s 643 (1%).

In November, Thompson will face **Yvonne Brown**, African-American, Republican mayor of Tchula, but he is a heavy favorite. There is little to suggest that the 35% of primary voters who supported Espy will be a major problem for Thompson in the General Election. The Espy voters who are white are not critical to Thompson's success in a district that is 63% black, with a 59% black voting age population. The Espy backers who are African-American are also Democrats, and – like Espy himself, who promptly endorsed Thompson – are likely to stick with their party in the fall, especially in a Democratic year. In 2004 Thompson won by 58% to 41% against another black GOPer and **John Kerry** carried the district with 59%.

In the statewide primary to nominate a Democratic candidate to challenge US Sen. **Trent Lott** (R), in 99% complete returns, three-term state Rep. **Erik Fleming** came in first with 44,317 votes (44%), farm equipment salesman **Bill Bowlin** was second with 22,599 (22%), followed by **James O'Keefe** with 19,954 (20%) and **Catherine Starr** with 14,056 (14%). Fleming and Bowlin will meet in a June 27 runoff. Neither is likely to run a strong race against Lott, the influential former Senate Majority Leader and possible future member of the US Senate leadership.

Arkansas: Down-Ballot Runoff Results

In the June 13 Democratic runoffs for three statewide offices, **Bill Halter**, a former Social Security official in **President Clinton**'s administration, won the race for lieutenant governor. With 100% of precincts reporting, Halter had 97,026 (56%) to 74,752 (44%) for state Sen. **Tim Wooldridge**. In November, Halter will face GOP state Sen. **Jim Holt**.

In the Democratic contest for attorney general, there was a very close race between state Rep. **Dustin McDaniel**, who won with 86,721 (51%) to 84,137 (49%) for North Little Rock city attorney **Paul Suskie**. The Republican nominee is ex-state Sen. **Gunner DeLay**.

In the Democratic race for state treasurer, ex-state Rep. **Martha Shoffner** defeated funeral home director **Mac Campbell** by 90,921 (54%) to 76,999 (46%). If Shoffner defeats the GOP's **Chris Morris**, a former aide to Gov. **Mike Huckabee**, in November, she will become the state's only female state official.

NRCC Touts Dixie Races

Last week, Congressman **Tom Reynolds** (R-NY), chairman of the National Republican Congressional Committee (NRCC), held a briefing for Washington media. When asked about challenger races that he felt good about, Reynolds was quick to note a number of races in the South:

"I'm still energized in Georgia about the two seats there," referring to ex-US Rep.'s **Mac Collins** (R) race against two-term incumbent **Jim Marshall** (D) in Georgia 3 (Macon, etc.) and ex-US Rep. **Max Burns** (R) challenge to US Rep. **John Barrows** (D in the 12th (Augusta to Savannah)).

"I really like **Ralph Norman** in the Spratt seat," a reference to South Carolina's 5th



District (Rock Hill, etc.) now held by 12-term **John Spratt** (D). Reynolds added, “It’s very rare that you get both senators and a governor standing behind him as they did for Norman” at his announcement.

On Kentucky 4 (Ashland, etc.), “I think **Geoff Davis** is doing fabulously well. I spent a day there,” said Reynolds. And he contrasted the recent activities of the two contenders: Ex-US Rep. **Ken Lucas** (D) “is currently on a two-week safari in Africa, while Davis is in the street everyday. You’ll never out-work him.”

Asked about the GOP’s prospects in Louisiana, he said, “I don’t know yet. They are the exception to all rules in all states. We’ll just have to wait until they tell us” – a perceptive observation.

When asked about Mississippi’s 2nd District (the Delta, etc.), where 35% of voters in the Democratic Primary supported the challenger in his unsuccessful effort to defeat six-term incumbent **Bennie Thompson** (D), who will now face Tchula Mayor **Yvonne Brown**. Reynolds gave no hint that the GOP considers this a prime target: “We’ll have to watch that one,” he said; “We will make the tough calls in September and October.”

We asked Reynolds about the Democratic lawsuit in Texas, which earlier in the week resulted in an injunction against listing the Republican candidate on the ballot in Texas 22 (Sugarland, etc.). The NRCC chairman noted that the Lone Star GOP had been expecting the suit. He added, “In New York, when the Democrats go judge-shopping, they go to Brooklyn. In Texas, it’s my understanding they go to Travis County (Austin).” He concluded that it would “be fought out in the courts.”

Reynolds’ briefing was on the day that former House Majority Leader **Tom DeLay** (R-TX)

left Congress. In a tribute to DeLay, Reynolds called him “the best vote counter I have ever been around” and praised him as “one of the founding fathers of the Republican majority of 1995.”

When asked, now that DeLay has left the Congress, is US Rep. **William Jefferson** (D) “the new face of congressional corruption,” Reynolds said that Jefferson’s problems “won’t have an effect on other seats,” a stance he’s taken with Republican members of Congress having legal problems.

The Southern races, aside, Reynolds’ major purpose, understandably, was to crow over the GOP’s victory in the special election in California’s 50th District (San Diego), where **Brian Bilbray** (R) defeated **Francine Busby** (D) by 49% to 45%. It was special for several reasons. First, it showed Republicans could still win congressional races in a climate hostile to the Bush Administration. Second, since the previous incumbent, ex-US Rep. **Randy “Duke” Cunningham** (R), resigned to serve a jail term for bribery, the results emphasized that the “culture of corruption” issue is not as potent against Republican candidates as many Democrats had hoped. Rather, Bilbray’s skillful use of issues – mainly immigration and taxes – obscured other factors. And finally, he was not defensive about the major money his committee funneled into the Bilbray campaign. When a reporter asked about “the \$5 million,” Reynolds quickly corrected him: “\$4.5 million. I didn’t buy a landslide, I bought a win.”

Reynolds also credited the White House for its support of GOP congressional efforts, noting that Vice President **Dick Cheney** had been in nearly 40 districts – many of them in the South – raising money for Republican candidates.



Grits

● **Gingrich in the Running?** Former House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** (R-GA) announced last week that if the Republican presidential contest is still fluid by the end of 2007, he may run for the nation's top job. While we can just see the Democratic ads, "The man who shut down the government wants you to put him in charge of it," several straws in the wind – fueled by lots of television appearance – suggest that the former speaker's presidential ambitions may not be that far-fetched. In the *Cook Report's* June national poll of Republican's 2008 presidential preferences, taken by RT Strategies, when first- and second-place preferences were combined, Gingrich came in third, with 15%, behind **Rudy Giuliani's** 47% and **John McCain's** 43%. When Giuliani was not included and his second-place choices folded in, Gingrich came in second – yes, second – to McCain, 37% to 14%. In a straw ballot at the recent Minnesota state GOP convention, Gingrich came in first, with 40%, ahead of **George Allen** (15%), McCain (15%) and **Condoleezza Rice** (10%). And in InsiderAdvantage's latest survey in Georgia – Gingrich's home state – Gingrich came in second, with 16% to McCain's 23%, Rice's 14% and Giuliani's 12%.

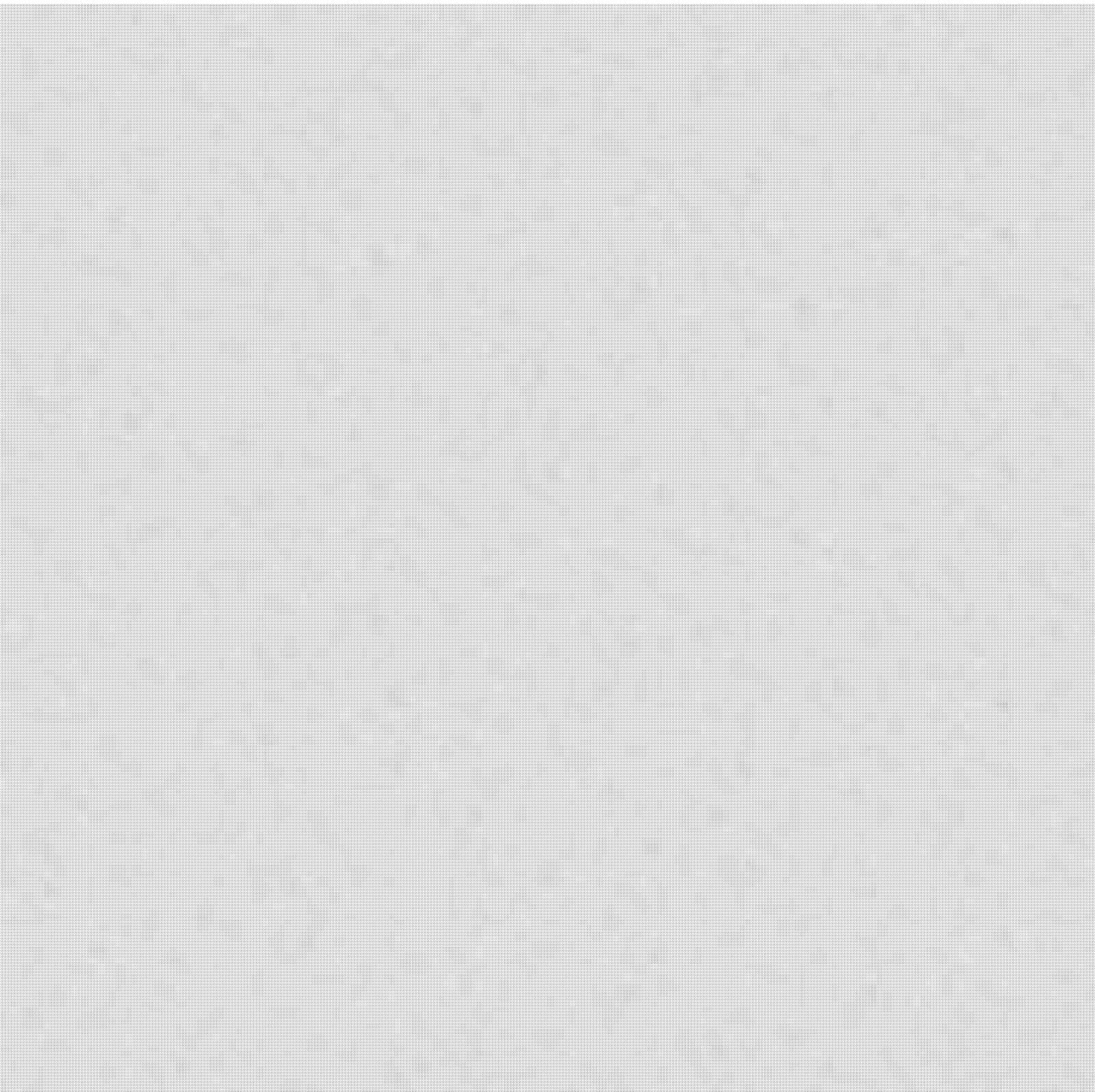
● **The Big Caveat.** In March, in InsiderAdvantage's Southwide poll, various Republican contenders were matched against **Hillary Clinton**, the Democrat GOPers love to hate. The only Republican Hillary beat was – you guessed it – **Newt Gingrich**, albeit by a slim 42% to 41%.

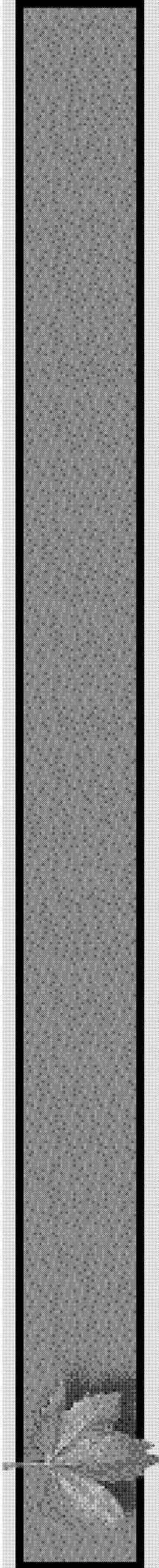
● **Edwards Travels, Leads in Iowa.** Former US Sen. **John Edwards** (D-NC), his party's 2004 vice-presidential nominee, has been making speeches and media appearances all over the country, especially Iowa and most

recently South Carolina, where he addressed the NAACP. This was an especially important audience for Edwards, who won the 2004 primary, but trailed Kerry among African-American voters, who make up at least half of the Palmetto State's Democratic Primary turnout. His Iowa effort, of course, paid off big time, with Edwards coming in first in the *Des Moines Register's* poll of Democratic presidential preferences, with 30% to **Hillary Clinton's** 26% and **John Kerry's** 12%. Edwards has been hitting themes that fit his economic populism – universal health coverage, raising the minimum wage and fighting poverty.

● **Rice Speaks to Baptists.** Secretary of State **Condoleezza Rice**, often mentioned as a 2008 presidential contender, addressed the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) at its national convention in Greensboro, NC. In her June 14 speech, Rice defended the Bush Administration's policies in Iraq. The daughter and grand-daughter of Presbyterian ministers, Rice also referred several times to her own faith and the role of prayer in her life. During her remarks, she received numerous standing ovations. The SBC is the nation's largest Protestant denomination and its members are considered a major component of the GOP's base. *Nota bene:* Rice also makes a significant showing in the polls – see above.

● **Another District in Play?** Although four-term US Rep. **Robin Hayes** (R-NC) has an inexperienced, unknown and un-funded Democratic opponent in ex-textile manager **Larry Kissell**, don't be surprised to see the Democrats putting more muscle into the 8th District (Concord, etc.) race. A poll taken in May by Anzalone-Liszt, albeit for Kissell, showed Hays leading his challenger by 46% to 38%, a weak lead, all things considered.





From: Jordan, Myriah L. <Myriah_L._Jordan@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Monday, March 20, 2006 8:35 PM
To: Karl Rove <KR@georgewbush.com>
Cc: Hughes, Taylor A. <Taylor_A._Hughes@who.eop.gov>; McMillin, Stephen S. <Stephen_S._McMillin@who.eop.gov>
Subject: FW:
Attach: KR ATRA Speech.doc

Karl –

Attached, please find a revised outline for your ATRA speech. Please let me know if you need anything else on this.

Thanks,
Myriah

ATRA Talking Points

I. Economic Impact

- The tort system has a considerable impact on our economy, leading to lower spending on research and development, higher health care costs, and job losses.
- Resources that are wasted in the tort system or that are used to avoid tort liability could instead be directed toward more productive uses. The tort system generates a large excess burden because it forces individuals to change the way in which they do business. For example, doctors order extra tests and procedures that are unnecessary, and are discouraged from engaging in high-risk practices. Firms choose not to develop new products in order to avoid potential liability.
- Why the tort system is ineffective:
 - Market incentives already induce firms to produce safe products.
 - Several products and services already face government regulation (the tort system may not provide incremental benefits).
- In 2004, tort costs amounted to \$260.1 billion, about \$886 per person and 2.22% of GDP. This is an increase of \$14.4 billion, or 5.9%, from the 2003 estimate of \$245.7 billion. The 5.9% rate of growth exceeded overall economic growth.
- Tort costs have increased more than a hundredfold over the past 50 years.
- The lawsuit industry earns approximately \$40 billion annually, 50% more than Microsoft and twice the revenues of Coca-Cola.
- The United States continues to have the highest tort costs of any developed nation (tort costs as a percent of GDP in 2003):
 - France: 0.74%
 - Japan: 0.80%
 - Italy: 1.70%
 - UK: 0.69%
 - Germany: 1.14%
- Asbestos-related litigation has clogged the courts, depriving those with injuries of a meaningful remedy and resulting in the bankruptcy of at least 70 companies, the loss of tens of thousands of jobs, and costs to the U.S. economy estimated at over \$300 billion.
- But we are making progress. February 18th marked the one-year anniversary of the Class Action Fairness Act. The Act has already made inroads toward the President's goal of reforming the litigation system. For example, in notorious Madison County, Illinois, there were 82 class actions filed in 2004, and 36 in the first month-and-a-half of 2005 (before the Act became law). Between Feb. 18, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2005, however, just 10 class actions have been filed in Madison County, a decline of 87% from the 77 suits filed during the same period in 2004.

II. Impact on Health Care

Mississippi

- Rural obstetric care is in serious jeopardy. Cleveland has lost three of six Ob-Gyns, Greenwood has lost two of four, and Yazoo City-with 14,550 residents, has no one practicing obstetrics. (Associated Press, November 19, 2003)

- Fifty-one of Mississippi's 82 counties face doctor shortages, according to a report by the Mississippi Health Policy Research Center. Starkville physician Steve Parvin, president-elect of the Mississippi State Medical Association, said a major reason for Mississippi's depleting work force of physicians is the high cost and scarcity of medical liability insurance. (Health & Medicine Week, December 29, 2003)
- Pediatric specialist Kurt Kooyer, MD, left the small town of Rolling Fork after getting fed up with a legal system that allowed lawyers to file suit against him without the patients knowledge they were suing their physician. Dr. Kooyer, the only pediatrician among three physicians in town, arrived in 1994 and was responsible for the infant mortality decreasing from an average of 10 deaths per 1,000 live births to 3.4. Dr. Kooyer now lives in North Dakota. (Clarion Ledger, August 23, 2003)
- Donald Palmisano, MD, Immediate Past-President of the AMA recently learned from a young surgeon that he "understood the crisis all too well because he recently lost his son because there was no neurosurgeon available." Mississippi surgeon John Lucas, III, MD, related that his son was in a car accident and needed immediate neurosurgical intervention, but the area's neurosurgeons had already either quit doing head trauma cases or had moved away. His son had a correctible problem if immediate attention by a neurosurgeon could be given. Dr. Lucas did everything he could to expedite the transfer and find a neurosurgeon. Unfortunately, the transfer came too late and his son John Lucas, IV died.

Pennsylvania

- Pennsylvania faces a shortfall of as many as 13,000 physicians by 2020 if present trends continue, according to the Pennsylvania Medical Society. ("Doctors: Shortfall looms if no malpractice reform," *The Morning Call*, 02/04/04)
- Many of the "disappearing doctors" are neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons, and their increasing withdrawal from practices in Pennsylvania has resulted in reduced access to emergency surgery services, particularly in rural locations, according to the Pennsylvania Medical Society Alliance. ("Sen. Santorum visits Pittsburgh hospital to discuss Pennsylvania's 'disappearing doctors' crisis," *States News Service*, 3/12/04)
- One in four Pennsylvania Ob/Gyns has dropped or is planning to drop obstetrics due to high liability costs, according to a survey by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. ("Will you still have an ob-gyn when you need one?" Pennsylvania Section, ACOG, available at [online](#).)
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From: Jordan, Myriah L. <Myriah_L._Jordan@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 5:24 PM
To: Karl Rove <KR@georgewbush.com>
Cc: Hughes, Taylor A. <Taylor_A._Hughes@who.eop.gov>; McMillin, Stephen S. <Stephen_S._McMillin@who.eop.gov>
Subject: ATRA Speech
Attach: ATRA Speech.doc

Karl –

Attached, please find the latest draft of talking points for your ATRA speech. As you requested, I added a couple of bullets regarding costs of litigation to the Impact on Competitiveness section.

Thanks,
Myriah

ATRA Talking Points

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- The tort system has a considerable impact on our economy, leading to lower spending on research and development, higher health care costs, and job losses.
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Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 7:10 PM
To: Karl Rove <KR@georgewbush.com>
Subject: ATRA Outline
Attach: American Tort Reform Association - Outline 3.22.06.doc

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- A package of tort reform measures was passed by the Alabama legislature in 1999 and signed into law by Gov. Don Siegelman. These reforms included: a cap of \$500,000 on punitive damages, or three times compensatory damages, whichever is greater, if no physical injury is involved; a cap of \$1.5 million, or three times compensatory damages, in cases involving a physical injury; a separate cap for small businesses of \$50,000 or 10 percent of the business’s net worth up to \$200,000, whichever is greater; a clarification of the law on venue which determines where a case can be filed.

Michigan

- Under Governor John Engler, Michigan succeeded in passing sweeping reforms to a legal climate that was once hostile to business. Today, Michigan is a better place to start a business or find a doctor because of the many legal reforms enacted by Governor Engler and upheld by the Michigan Supreme Court, which has refused to let trial lawyers trump legislation passed by the Michigan Legislature.

CONCLUSION

Tort reform needs to be understood in a larger context. The restoration of American government as a true expression of American values is vital. As George Washington put it in his Farewell Address:

“This government, the offspring of our own choice uninfluenced and unawed, ... has a just claim to your confidence and your support. Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measure are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of true liberty.”

In a fundamental sense, the government remains what it was during the time of General Washington: the “offspring of our own choice.” Our duty is to make sure it exercises “a just claim on [our] confidence and [our] support.” Tort reform, if done right, can help return balance and fairness to the system – and in so doing, it can deepen the public’s confidence that our laws reflect common sense and what is right and wise in American governance.

From: Hughes, Taylor A. <Taylor_A._Hughes@who.eop.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 8:33 PM
To: Karl Rove <kr@georgewbush.com>
Subject: RE: ATRA Outline

Here's the text.

ATRA Talking Points

I. Economic Impact

- The tort system has a considerable impact on our economy, leading to lower spending on research and development, higher health care costs, and job losses.
- Resources that are wasted in the tort system or that are used to avoid tort liability could instead be directed toward more productive uses. The tort system generates a large excess burden because it forces individuals to change the way in which they do business. For example, doctors order extra tests and procedures that are unnecessary, and are discouraged from engaging in high-risk practices. Firms choose not to develop new products in order to avoid potential liability.
- Why the tort system is ineffective:
 - Market incentives already induce firms to produce safe products.
 - Several products and services already face government regulation (the tort system may not provide incremental benefits).
- In 2004, tort costs amounted to \$260.1 billion, about \$886 per person and 2.22% of GDP. This is an increase of \$14.4 billion, or 5.9%, from the 2003 estimate of \$245.7 billion. The 5.9% rate of growth exceeded overall economic growth.
- Tort costs have increased more than a hundredfold over the past 50 years.
- The lawsuit industry earns approximately \$40 billion annually, 50% more than Microsoft and twice the revenues of Coca-Cola.

- The United States continues to have the highest tort costs of any developed nation (tort costs as a percent of GDP in 2003):
 - France: 0.74%
 - Japan: 0.80%
 - Italy: 1.70%
 - UK: 0.69%
 - Germany: 1.14%

- Asbestos-related litigation has clogged the courts, depriving those with injuries of a meaningful remedy and resulting in the bankruptcy of at least 70 companies, the loss of tens of thousands of jobs, and costs to the U.S. economy estimated at over \$300 billion.

- But we are making progress. February 18th marked the one-year anniversary of the Class Action Fairness Act. The Act has already made inroads toward the President's goal of reforming the litigation system. For example, in notorious Madison County, Illinois, there were 82 class actions filed in 2004, and 36 in the first month-and-a-half of 2005 (before the Act became law). Between Feb. 18, 2005 and Dec. 31, 2005, however, just 10 class actions have been filed in Madison County, a decline of 87% from the 77 suits filed during the same period in 2004.

II. Impact on Competitiveness

- How tort costs diverge between the U.S. and other countries:
 - Noneconomic damages are much higher in the U.S., accounting for half of all compensation awarded in the U.S. These damages are capped or restricted in other countries.
 - Judges typically decide the outcome of tort claims in a number of other countries, while in the U.S. the jury system plays an important part.
 - In several other nations, the loser in a tort case is responsible for both sides' legal fees, whereas in the U.S. each side pays its respective costs. The "loser pay-all" method is effective in averting low-quality (nuisance) cases.
 - The U.S. tort system cost \$260 billion in 2004 (\$886 per person, or \$41 per person more than in 2003). *Source: Tillinghast.*
 - The United States has over 6.35 times as many lawyers as France, 3.84 times Italy, 3.07 times Japan, 2.33 times Great Britain, 1.85 times Canada, and 1.64 times Germany. *Source: The Economist.*
 - According to the National Academy of Sciences, in 2001, US industry spent more on tort litigation than on R&D.

III. Impact on Health Care

Mississippi

- Rural obstetric care is in serious jeopardy. Cleveland has lost three of six Ob-Gyns,

Greenwood has lost two of four, and Yazoo City-with 14,550 residents, has no one practicing obstetrics. (Associated Press, November 19, 2003)

- Fifty-one of Mississippi's 82 counties face doctor shortages, according to a report by the Mississippi Health Policy Research Center. Starkville physician Steve Parvin, president-elect of the Mississippi State Medical Association, said a major reason for Mississippi's depleting work force of physicians is the high cost and scarcity of medical liability insurance. (Health & Medicine Week, December 29, 2003)
- Pediatric specialist Kurt Kooyer, MD, left the small town of Rolling Fork after getting fed up with a legal system that allowed lawyers to file suit against him without the patients knowledge they were suing their physician. Dr. Kooyer, the only pediatrician among three physicians in town, arrived in 1994 and was responsible for the infant mortality decreasing from an average of 10 deaths per 1,000 live births to 3.4. Dr. Kooyer now lives in North Dakota. (Clarion Ledger, August 23, 2003)
- Donald Palmisano, MD, Immediate Past-President of the AMA recently learned from a young surgeon that he "understood the crisis all too well because he recently lost his son because there was no neurosurgeon available." Mississippi surgeon John Lucas, III, MD, related that his son was in a car accident and needed immediate neurosurgical intervention, but the area's neurosurgeons had already either quit doing head trauma cases or had moved away. His son had a correctible problem if immediate attention by a neurosurgeon could be given. Dr. Lucas did everything he could to expedite the transfer and find a neurosurgeon. Unfortunately, the transfer came too late and his son John Lucas, IV died.

Pennsylvania

- Pennsylvania faces a shortfall of as many as 13,000 physicians by 2020 if present trends continue, according to the Pennsylvania Medical Society. ("Doctors: Shortfall looms if no malpractice reform," *The Morning Call*, 02/04/04)
- Many of the "disappearing doctors" are neurosurgeons and orthopedic surgeons, and their increasing withdrawal from practices in Pennsylvania has resulted in reduced access to emergency surgery services, particularly in rural locations, according to the Pennsylvania Medical Society Alliance. ("Sen. Santorum visits Pittsburgh hospital to discuss Pennsylvania's 'disappearing doctors' crisis," *States News Service*, 3/12/04)
- One in four Pennsylvania Ob/Gyns has dropped or is planning to drop obstetrics due to high liability costs, according to a survey by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. ("Will you still have an ob-gyn when you need one?" Pennsylvania Section, ACOG, available at [online](#).)
- Out-of-control medical liability lawsuits have driven up insurance rates by double and

triple digits for hospitals and physicians. The situation is so bad that Lloyd's of London informed hospitals in southeastern Pennsylvania that the region is one of the three most difficult places in the world to write medical liability coverage. ("A medical emergency," *The Baltimore Sun*, 03/24/04)

- Young Ob-Gyn Dr. Christine Larson decided to move her family to Minnesota and start over because of Pennsylvania's worsening medical liability crisis. Dr. Daniel Kegel, president of OB-GYN of Lancaster -- Dr. Larson's former group -- said "most (young doctors) are going to make the same decision (to leave Pennsylvania)." Dr. Kegel emphasized that losing a young doctor "exacerbates the difficulty we have with a limited number of appointment slots and an increasing demand for them. It is difficult to accommodate everyone who wants and needs us." (Lancaster Sunday News, September 14, 2003)
- More than two out of three medical residents in six medical specialties chose to leave Pennsylvania after completing their training, according to the Philadelphia Daily News, which examined data from the city's major teaching hospitals between 1998-2002. "The resident brain drain is greatest among doctors going into high-risk specialties: Ob-Gyns, orthopedic surgeons and neurosurgeons. These doctors, not surprisingly, are most likely to be sued for malpractice -- and pay some of the highest malpractice insurance premiums." (Philadelphia Daily News, May 28, 2003)
- According to Grand View Hospital President Stuart Fine, the medical liability crisis is a main reason why patient access problems are occurring throughout the state and "has caused experienced doctors to leave the area, especially neurosurgeons, orthopedic and general surgeons, obstetricians and cardiologists. Few young doctors are coming in to take their place, and the result is a shortage of doctors." (Morning Call (Allentown, PA), January 23, 2004)

California Model

- California's 1975 Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act (MICRA) reduced the cost of insurance premiums and provided that truly injured people get properly compensated for their injuries. This bi-partisan reform has saved California residents billions of dollars in lower health care costs and saved federal taxpayers billions of dollars in the Medicare and Medicaid programs.
 - The law caps medical malpractice liability awards for non-economic damages at \$250,000.
 - MICRA also limits the percentage that plaintiffs' lawyers receive from awarded judgments, setting their contingency fees according to a sliding scale that goes down as awards go up.
 - MICRA's results have been dramatic.
 - In the law's first 27 years, California's medical malpractice insurance premiums increased 245 percent, compared with 750 percent for the rest of the nation.
 - A recent study by the RAND Institute examined a database of 257 California jury verdicts in medical malpractice cases between 1995 and 1999 in which the plaintiffs

won, and found that MICRA reduced total payouts 30 percent on average.

- Moreover, due to the attorney-fee restrictions, the average plaintiff recovery fell by only half as much as payouts, *i.e.*, patients kept a higher percentage of the smaller judgments.
- For the average non-economic damage award, the typical plaintiff recovery actually increased 7 percent, and for 97 percent of all verdicts, the patient's payout fell by 7.5 percent or less.
- The average attorney award fell by 60 percent.
- The percentage of claims resolved through settlement and arbitration has increased in California, saving money for injured patients. Cases in California settle 23% faster than in States without caps on non-economic damages.

IV. Moral Dimension

- Fairness
 - Asbestos: Approximately 600,000 claimants—fewer than a quarter of potential plaintiffs—have filed suit. But non-malignant claims comprise almost 90% of the claims and almost 2/3 of asbestos compensation awards.
- Confidence in Legal System

Texas

- In 1995, the Texas Legislature passed a series of bills to reform the state's civil justice system. These bills addressed limits on punitive damages, joint and several liability, sanctions for filing frivolous suits, limits on venue shopping and out-of-state filings, modifications to deceptive trade practices and medical malpractice reform. In 2003, the Texas state Legislature passed H.B. 4 to further reform the state's civil justice system. Voters also approved a constitutional amendment in 2003 that eliminates potential court challenges to the law that limited non-economic damages to \$750,000.
 - According to the Perryman Group ("The Impact of Judicial Reforms on Economic Activity in Texas," August 2000), the total cost of the Texas tort system in 2000 was \$15.482 billion. Without reforms, it is estimated that the total cost would have been \$25.889 billion. Of the \$10.407 billion in total direct savings, approximately \$2.777 billion may be attributed to improvements at the national level while \$7.630 billion in savings were from reforms in Texas. Of the total savings, \$2.542 billion went directly to benefit consumers.
 - The American Medical Association dropped Texas from its list of states in medical liability crisis (Houston Chronicle, 5/17/05).
 - Malpractice claims are down and physician recruitment and retention are up, particularly in high risk specialties (Houston Chronicle, 5/17/05).
 - The five largest Texas insurers cut rates, which will save doctors about \$50 million, according to the AMA (Houston Chronicle, 5/17/05).

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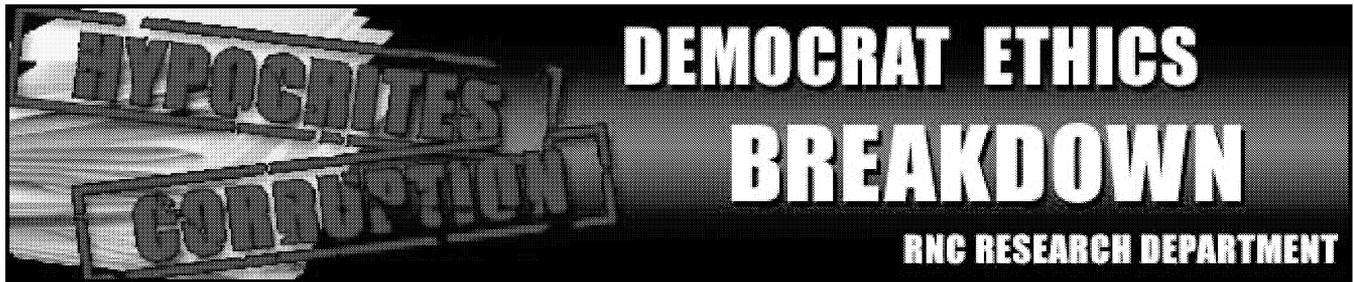
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From: Karl Rove [mailto:kr@georgewbush.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 21, 2006 7:54 PM
To: Hughes, Taylor A.
Subject: Re: ATRA Outline

Can't read this. Will mark up my copy and bring in tomorrow. If you are still at office, email to me as text in an email.

From: "Hughes, Taylor A." <Taylor_A._Hughes@who.eop.gov>
Date: Tue, 21 Mar 2006 19:09:36 -0500
To: Karl Rove <KR@georgewbush.com>
Conversation: ATRA Outline
Subject: ATRA Outline

From: RNC Research <RNCResearch@gop.com>
Sent: Friday, May 5, 2006 11:57 AM
To: Karl Rove <kr@georgewbush.com>
Subject: Democrat Ethics Breakdown: News For The Week Of May 1, 2006



NEWS FOR THE WEEK OF MAY 1, 2006

[PDF Version](#)



Vernon L. Jackson, Chairman Of iGate, Inc., Pled Guilty To Bribing Rep. William Jefferson (D-LA). (Philip Shenon, "Businessman Pleads Guilty To Bribing A Representative," *The New York Times*, 5/4/06)

- **Jackson Admitted Paying \$367,500 To A Company Run By Rep. Jefferson's Family In Exchange For Jefferson Promoting His Products To Federal Agencies, African Governments, And African Companies.** (Philip Shenon, "Businessman Pleads Guilty To Bribing A Representative," *The New York Times*, 5/4/06)
- **In January, Brett Pfeffer, A Former Aide To Rep. Jefferson, Pled Guilty And "[Said Rep. Jefferson] Sought Bribes, Jobs For His Children And Other Favors In Exchange For Official Acts ..."** (Philip Shenon, "Businessman Pleads Guilty To Bribing A Representative," *The New York Times*, 5/4/06)

"[B]y Far, The Most Serious [Ethics] Allegations Are Currently Against ... [Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV), Who Is] Accused Of Steering Federal Money - Up To \$250 Million Dollars Worth - To His Own Nonprofit Organizations." (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)



NPR's Andrea Seabrook: "[O]ne of the Democrats' big problems right now: convincing voters that the so called 'culture of corruption' is a Republican thing. There's a growing list of ethics allegations against Democrats in ... Congress." (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)

- **Melanie Sloan, Executive Director Of Citizens For Responsibility And Ethics In Washington:** "I do think the Democrats are being a little disingenuous about [ethics] when they want to say We're going to give [Rep. Jefferson] a pass." (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)

192 Democrats Voted Against Lobbying Reform Bill That Would Increase Transparency And Disclosure. (H.R. 4975, CQ Vote #119: Passed 217-213; R 209-20; D 8-192; I 0-1, 5/3/06)

- **The Bill Would Temporarily Ban Privately Funded Travel, Deny Pension Benefits To Members Convicted Of Crimes, Force Disclosure Of Earmarks, Increase Reporting From Lobbyists, And Stiffen Penalties For Noncompliance.** (H.R. 4975, CQ Vote #119: Passed 217-213; R 209-20; D 8-192; I 0-1, 5/3/06)

- **"[Mollohan] Also Failed To List Real Estate Deals On His Financial Disclosure Forms ... [Which Show His Net Worth Jumping From] About \$575,000 To Between \$6 And \$24 Million Dollars In Just 4 Short Years."** (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)
- **Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA):** "[I] was proud to attend the fundraiser [at the DNC headquarters] for Mr. Mollohan. I will work hard in any way he wants me to make sure he is reelected to the Congress." (NPR's "Morning Edition," 5/4/06)

"Former Gov. Don Siegelman [D-AL] Went On Trial ... In A Federal Criminal Case Accusing Him Of Bribery And Extortion In Political Deals ..." (Bob Johnson, "Trial Opens For Ex-Alabama Governor In Bribery, Corruption Case," *The Associated Press*, 5/1/06)

- **Charges Against Siegelman Include "[S]wapping Political Favors For Gifts And Campaign Donations ... [R]acketeering And Obstruction Of Justice ..."** (Bob Johnson, "Trial Opens For Ex-Alabama Governor In Bribery, Corruption Case," *The Associated Press*, 5/1/06)



On April 27th, Liberal Mega-Donor George Soros Hosted A Cocktail Reception Fundraiser At His Home For Ret. Gen. Wesley Clark's PAC, WESPAC, ("Soros Raises Money For WESPAC," *National Journal's Hotline*, 5/1/06)

Soros Will Also Host A Fundraiser At His Home For Judy Aydelott (D-NY), Who Is Running Against Rep. Sue Kelly (R-NY). (Josh Kurtz, "Soros Hosts Star-Studded Fundraiser For Kelly Foe," *Roll Call*, 5/2/06)

- **Soros Contributed The Most Money (\$27,030,105) Of Any Individual Donor To 527s In The 2004 Cycle.** (Political Money Line Website, www.tray.com, Accessed 12/2/05)
- **Former Carter Cabinet Member Joseph Califano Called Soros: "[T]he Daddy Warbucks Of Drug Legalization."** (Joseph A. Califano Jr., Op-Ed, "Devious Efforts To Legalize Drugs," *The Washington Post*, 12/4/96)

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Committee - www.gop.com

From: Jason Huntsberry <JHuntsberry@gwb43.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2006 11:43 PM
To: Karl Rove <KR@georgewbush.com>; Sara Taylor <st@gwb43.com>; Scott Jennings <SJennings@gwb43.com>
Cc: Natalie Vernon <nvernon@gwb43.com>
Subject: AL Primary Update

1717 of 3240 Precincts Reporting (53%)

Governor (GOP)	Votes	Percent
Bob Riley	171,383	63.69%
Roy Moore	97,696	36.31%

Note: AP declared Riley the winner.

1523 of 3240 Precincts Reporting (47%)

Governor (DEM)	Votes	Percent
Lucy Baxley	157,337	60.21%
Don Siegelman	94,524	36.17%
Joe Copeland	2,258	0.86%
Nathan Mathis	2,001	0.77%
James Potts	1,977	0.76%
Katherine Mack	1,830	0.70%
Harry Lyon	1,395	0.53%

1,270 of 3,240 Precincts Reporting (39%)

Constitutional Amendment (Gay Marriage Ban)

Decision	Votes	Percent
Yes	349,218	80.96%
No	82,139	19.04%

Note: AP declared the State Constitutional Amendment passed.

314 of 597 Precincts Reporting (53%)

AL-02 (DEM)	Votes	Percent
Chuck James	20,802	71.10%
John Morykwas	8,455	28.90%

Note: AP declared James the winner.

From: mike_allen@timemagazine.com
Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2006 11:46 PM
To: Karl Rove <kr@georgewbush.com>
Subject:

sounding promising for Bilbray--that would be huge psychological blow to Ds
Riley, Baxley win in Alabama as 8 states hold primaries

BC-Primaries Rdp, 9th Ld,630

Eds: UPDATES with Baxley win in Alabama, early numbers from California.

With BC-Primary-Glance, BC-Primary Briefs

By ROBERT TANNER

AP National Writer

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley easily beat back a GOP primary challenge from Ten
Commandments judge Roy Moore on Tuesday, while Democratic former Gov. Don
Siegelman lost his comeback fight against the state's first female lieutenant governor.

As eight states held primaries, New Jersey Republicans chose Tom Kean Jr., the son of a
popular former governor, to challenge Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez in the fall. Also in
Alabama, voters passed a ban on gay marriage by a 4-to-1 margin.

Early returns in California showed a tight race between the two Democrats hoping to
challenge GOP Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. With just 2 percent of precincts reporting, state
Treasurer Phil Angelides had 44 percent and Controller Steve Westly had 45 percent of the
votes.

Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, New Mexico and South Dakota also held primaries, as many
states reported low turnout.

The biggest race was the special election in Southern California to fill the House seat of
imprisoned former Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, with the political world hoping for clues
to the public mood ahead of this fall's midterm elections.

Money and attention from around the country poured into the San Diego-area election, with
the Democrats seeing a rich opportunity to capture a solidly Republican district. Cunningham,
a Republican, was sent to prison for eight years for taking bribes on a scale unparalleled in
the history of Congress.

In New Jersey, Kean — who critics said needed a convincing win to be a real challenger in
the fall — easily defeated a more conservative candidate, winning three of every four votes.
Menendez, appointed to his seat after former Sen. Jon Corzine became governor, beat a
little-known challenger.

In the weeks leading up to Alabama's gubernatorial primary, polls showed Riley with a
growing lead on Moore, the former state chief justice who became a hero to the religious right
in 2003 when he was ousted over his refusal to remove the Commandments monument from
the state judicial building.

That same year, Riley saw his popularity plummet when he unsuccessfully sought a \$1.2
billion tax increase. But his standing rose with the state economy, and this year he helped
pass a tax cut for the working poor.

Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley fashioned an "I Love Lucy" campaign, while Siegelman had to campaign
at night while on trial on corruption charges during the day.

With 70 percent of precincts reporting, Riley won with 205,324 votes, or 64 percent, to
Moore's 116,227 votes, or 36 percent. Among the Democrats, Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley won with
214,234 votes, or 60 percent, against Siegelman with 127,275 votes, or 36 percent.

Siegelman spent Election Day standing trial on corruption charges stemming from his single

term as governor.
AP-ES-06-06-06 2343EDT

From: Sara Taylor <st@gwb43.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2006 7:06 AM
To: Karl Rove <KR@georgewbush.com>; Hughes, Taylor A.
<Taylor_A._Hughes@who.eop.gov>; mraines@ovp.eop.gov
Subject: FW: Primary Tracker
Attach: Primary Tracking Master_06-06-06.xls

Some analysis coming soon...

From: AJ Casale
Sent: Wednesday, June 07, 2006 6:57 AM
To: Sara Taylor
Cc: Scott Jennings; Paris Dennard; Steven Soper; Jon Seaton; Natalie Vernon; Jason Huntsberry; Raul Damas; Bridget Elliott; Jonathan Felts
Subject: Primary Tracker

June 6, 2006 Key Race Primary Tracking

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
1	Alabama Primary Tracking						
2	GOVERNOR	Party	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts
3		R	Bob Riley (I)	R	306,373	66.64%	99.2% Reporting
4			Roy Moore	R	153,373	33.36%	
5			TOTAL			459,746	
6		D	Lucy Baxley	D	278,292	59.93%	99.2% Reporting
7			Don Siegelman	D	168,733	36.34%	
8			Joe Copeland	D	4,132	0.89%	
9			Nathan Mathis	D	3,983	0.86%	
10			Katherine Mack	D	3,387	0.73%	
11			James Potts	D	3,363	0.72%	
12			Harry Lyon	D	2,488	0.54%	
13		TOTAL			464,378	100.00%	
14							
15	LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR	Party	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts
16		R	Luther Strange	R	208,143	48.07%	99.2% Reporting
17			George C. Wallace	R	144,734	33.43%	
18			Mo Brooks	R	67,684	15.63%	
19			Hilbun Adams	R	12,409	2.87%	
20	TOTAL			432,970	100.00%		
21							
22	U.S. HOUSE	District	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts
23			Chuck Dean James	D	35,763	70.58%	98% Reporting
24			John Morykwas	D	14,908	29.42%	
25	TOTAL			50,671	100.00%		
26							
27	BALLOT INITIATIVE	Amendment	Decision		Votes	Results	Precincts
28		Gay Marriage Ban	Yes		734,746	81.17%	99.2% Reporting
29			No		170,399	18.83%	
30	TOTAL			905,145	100.00%		
31							
32							
33	California Primary Tracking						
34	SE L	District	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts
35			Brian Bilbray	R	56,016	49.49%	

Last Updated 6/7/2006 6:55 AM

RNC-HJC-003654

June 6, 2006 Key Race Primary Tracking

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
36	U.S. HOUSE SPECIAL	CA-50	Francine Busby	D	51,202	45.24%	90% Reporting	
37			William Griffith	Ind	4,212	3.72%		
38			Paul King	Lib	1,753	1.55%		
39			TOTAL			113,183		100.00%
40								
41	GOVERNOR	Party	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts	
42		R	Arnold Schwarzenegger (I)		R	1,205,393	89.72%	84% Reporting
43			Robert Newman		R	48,783	3.63%	
44			Bill Chambers		R	47,356	3.52%	
45			Jeffrey Burns		R	42,021	3.13%	
46			TOTAL			1,343,553	100.00%	
47		D	Phil Angelides		D	867,095	47.61%	84% Reporting
48			Steve Westly		D	795,191	43.66%	
49			Barbara Becnel		D	47,144	2.59%	
50			Joseph Brouillette		D	30,131	1.65%	
51			Michael Strimling		D	24,838	1.36%	
52			Frank Macaluso		D	22,770	1.25%	
53			Vibert Greene		D	18,683	1.03%	
54			Jerald Gerst		D	15,496	0.85%	
55		TOTAL			1,821,348	100.00%		

June 6, 2006 Key Race Primary Tracking

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
56	California Primary Tracking						
57	U.S. HOUSE	District	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts
58		CA-04	John Doolittle (I)	R	51,953	66.85%	99% Reporting
59			J.M. "Mike" Holmes	R	25,762	33.15%	
60			TOTAL			77,715	
61		CA-04	Charles Brown	D	21,927	46.53%	99% Reporting
62			Michael Hamersley	D	9,603	20.38%	
63			Lisa Rea	D	15,590	33.09%	
64		TOTAL			47,120	100.00%	
65		CA-11	Richard Pombo (I)	R	23,750	61.61%	66% Reporting
66			Pete McCloskey	R	12,564	32.59%	
67			Tom Benigno	R	2,234	5.80%	
68		TOTAL			38,548	100.00%	
69		CA-11	Jerry McNerney	D	15,977	53.11%	66% Reporting
70			Steve Filson	D	8,631	28.69%	
71			Steve Thomas	D	5,475	18.20%	
72		TOTAL			30,083	100.00%	
73		CA-22	Kevin McCarthy	R	36,796	85.55%	63% Reporting
74			Steve Nichols	R	3,372	7.84%	
75			David Evans	R	2,843	6.61%	
76		TOTAL			43,011	100.00%	
77		CA-24	Elton Gallegly (I)	R	29,032	80.17%	78% Reporting
78			Michael Tenenbaum	R	7,181	19.83%	
79			TOTAL			36,213	
80		CA-36	Jane Harman (I)	D	26,670	62.47%	99% Reporting
81	Marcy Winograd		D	16,024	37.53%		
82	TOTAL			42,694	100.00%		
83	CA-50	Brian Bilbray	R	29,818	54.18%	90% Reporting	
84		Eric Roach	R	7,719	14.03%		
85		Bill Hauf	R	6,936	12.60%		
86		Bill Morrow	R	3,410	6.20%		
87		Howard Kaloogian	R	2,639	4.79%		
88		Alan Uke	R	1,355	2.46%		
89		Victor Ramirez	R	1,014	1.84%		
90		Richard Earnest	R	776	1.41%		
91		Scott Orren	R	702	1.28%		

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June 6, 2006 Key Race Primary Tracking

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
92			Victor Ramirez	R	668	1.21%		
93			TOTAL			55,037		100.00%
94			Francine Busby	D	37,872	89.54%		
95			Chris Young	D	4,422	10.46%		
96			TOTAL			42,294		100.00%
97								
98	BALLOT INITIATIVE	Proposition	Candidate		Votes	Results	Precincts	
99		Prop 82 Preschool	No		2,126,896	60.29%	83% Reporting	
100			Yes		1,401,048	39.71%		
101			TOTAL		3,527,944	100.00%		
102	Prop. 82 would have raised the taxes of higher-income families to subsidize pre-school education for all CA students.							
103								

June 6, 2006 Key Race Primary Tracking

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
104	Iowa Primary Tracking							
105	GOVERNOR	Party	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts	
106		R	Jim Nussle	R	70,389	100.00%	97.76% Reporting	
107		D	Chet Culver	D	57,513	38.90%		
108			Mike Blouin	D	50,278	34.01%		
109			Ed Fallon	D	38,224	25.85%		
110			Sal Mohamed	D	1,828	1.24%		
111		TOTAL			147,843	100.00%		
112								
113	U.S. HOUSE	District	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts	
114		IA-01	Mike Whalen	R	10,985	48.47%	100% Reporting	
115			Bill Dix	R	8,504	37.53%		
116			Brian Kennedy	R	3,173	14.00%		
117			TOTAL			22,662		100.00%
118			Bruce Braley	D	10,797	36.74%		
119			Rick Dickinson	D	9,937	33.82%		
120			Bill Gluba	D	7,496	25.51%		
121		Denny Heath	D	1,156	3.93%			
122		TOTAL			29,386	100.00%		
123								
124								
125	Mississippi Primary Tracking							
126	U.S. SENATE	Party	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts	
127		D	Erik Fleming*	D	43,899	44.06%	96.15% Reporting	
128			Bill Bowlin*	D	22,103	22.18%		
129			James O'Keefe	D	19,778	19.85%		
130			Catherine Starr	D	13,859	13.91%		
131			TOTAL			99,639		100.00%
132								
133	U.S. HOUSE	District	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts	
134		MS-01	James Hurt**	D	4,345	38.66%	93.51% Reporting	
135			William Bambach**	D	2,684	23.88%		
136			Ron Shapiro**	D	2,541	22.61%		
137			Joe Forsythe	D	1,669	14.85%		
138			TOTAL			11,239		100.00%

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June 6, 2006 Key Race Primary Tracking

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
139	S	MS-02	Bennie Thompson (I)	D	56,174	64.59%	100% Reporting
140			Chuck Espy	D	30,151	34.67%	
141			Dorothy Benford	D	643	0.74%	
142			TOTAL			86,968	
143	*US SEN -- Fleming and Bowlin will face each other in a runoff on June 27.			**MS-01 -- Hurt will face either Bambach or			
144	Shapiro in a runoff; it is too close to call for second place.						

June 6, 2006 Key Race Primary Tracking

A	B	C	D	E	F	G		
145	Montana Primary Tracking							
146	U.S. SENATE	Party	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts	
147		R	Conrad Burns (I)		R	53,827	72.36%	80% Reporting
148			Bob Keenan		R	16,500	22.18%	
149			Bob Kelleher		R	3,180	4.27%	
150			Daniel Neste-Huffman		R	879	1.18%	
151			TOTAL			74,386	100.00%	
152		D	Jon Tester		D	50,850	60.18%	
153			John Morrison		D	30,654	36.28%	
154			Paul Richards		D	1,180	1.40%	
155			Bob Candee		D	1,165	1.38%	
156			Ken Marcure		D	654	0.77%	
157		TOTAL			84,503	0.00%		
158								
159								
160	New Jersey Primary Tracking							
161	U.S. SENATE	Party	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts	
162		R	Thomas Kean, Jr.		R	126,551	75.54%	97.3% Reporting
163			John Ginty		R	40,981	24.46%	
164			TOTAL			167,532	100.00%	
165		D	Robert Menendez (I)		D	144,930	84.05%	91.6% Reporting
166			James Kelly, Jr.		D	27,500	15.95%	
167			TOTAL			172,430	100.00%	
168								
169								
170	New Mexico Primary Tracking							
171	GOVERNOR	Party	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts	
172		R	J.R. Damron		R	52,429	99.31%	90% Reporting
173			George Brent Bailey (Write-In)		R	362	0.69%	
174			TOTAL			52,791	100.00%	
175		D	Bill Richardson (I)		D	112,547	99.40%	90% Reporting
176			Anselmo Chavez (Write-In)		D	677	0.60%	
177			TOTAL			113,224	0.00%	
178								
179	TE	Party	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts	

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June 6, 2006 Key Race Primary Tracking

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
180	U.S. SENA	R	Allen McCulloch	R	29,140	61.09%	90% Reporting
181			Joe Carraro	R	18,561	38.91%	
182			Dave Pfeffer	R	9,801	20.55%	
183			TOTAL			47,701	
184							
185							
186	South Dakota Primary Tracking						
187	GOVERNOR	Party	Candidate	Party	Votes	Results	Precincts
188		D	Jack Billion	D	22,519	61.91%	100% Reporting
189			Dennis Wiese	D	13,857	38.09%	
190			TOTAL			36,376	
191	<p>Four incumbent Republican State Senators lost to primary challengers last night. All four voted against the abortion ban passed by the South Dakota Legislature in 2006. The highest profile primary involved GOP state vice chair Ellie Schwiesow, who defeated incumbent Sen. Stan Adelstein, 52% to 48%.</p>						
192							
193							

mike_allen@timemagazine.com

From: mike_allen@timemagazine.com
Sent: 6/7/2006 9:03:41 PM
To: Karl Rove
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW:

-----Original Message-----

From: Allen, Mike - Time U.S.
Sent: Wed Jun 07 20:46:19 2006
To: Allen, Mike - Time U.S.
Subject:

GOP Heartened by Calif. Congressional Win// (Washn)
By Dan Balz and Jonathan Weisman
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WASHINGTON — A special election for a House district in California left Republicans with control of the seat, while offering scant evidence of the highly energized Democratic electorate that analysts say would be needed to dislodge the GOP from power on Capitol Hill in November.

Fearing humiliation in a race that drew national attention, the National Republican Congressional Committee pumped roughly \$5 million into the race to replace jailed former representative Randy "Duke" Cunningham. But by late Tuesday night on the West Coast it proved to be money well-spent, after former representative Brian Bilbray won with 49 percent of the vote in the traditionally Republican district. Democrat Francine Busby's 45 percent total barely improved on John Kerry's margin there in the 2004 presidential election.

The results settled Republican nerves, which have been set on edge by months of nearly relentless bad omens, from corruption scandals to dismal poll ratings for President Bush and the GOP leadership in Congress.

For Democrats, it highlighted how difficult it could be to translate generally favorable national trends into tangible victories on the ground. Democratic congressional leaders and operatives said they were heartened at least by the amount of money that Republicans spent — roughly twice the Democratic total — to protect a seat they have previously won with ease.

Even some Republicans privately agreed. But with their side flying into headwinds this fall, the San Diego results showed they have means at their disposal — money, skilled candidates, and a well-oiled voter turnout machine — that can be effective in minimizing the impact of an unfavorable environment. The Republican National Committee (RNC) helped organize a voter turnout operation staffed by 150 to 200 volunteers for Bilbray.

"From the beginning, Democrats said this would be bellwether of what would happen in November," said RNC Chairman Ken Mehlman. "You see a lot of things that are bellwethers and they indicate Republicans are in position to hold Congress."

Republicans were so nervous about Bilbray late last week that they were already offering reasons to discount the significance of a Democratic victory. Wednesday it was Democrats who were explaining why a defeat still gave them hope for November.

Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman Rep. Rahm Emanuel, D-Ill., said Bilbray's narrow victory in a safe district proved that Democratic hopes for substantial gains remain very much alive. "The message of change is still filled with a lot of jet fuel," he said. "My only hope and prayer is that Republicans take solace in this election so they continue to sleepwalk through it."

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NRCC Chairman Rep. Thomas Reynolds, R-N.Y., claimed the results undermined the Democrats' assertions of a tidal wave in the making. "The results in San Diego show that nothing has happened to alter the notion that House elections are about a choice between local personalities focused on local issues," he said.

The San Diego contest came on a day when eight states picked candidates for November races. In California, Democrats nominated state Treasurer Phil Angelides as their candidate to challenge embattled Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. In Montana, state Senate president Jon Tester won an unexpectedly easy victory to claim the Democratic nomination for Senate and the right to challenge Republican Sen. Conrad Burns, who is dogged by ties to convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

In Iowa, secretary of state Chet Culver, son of former senator John Culver, won a three-way battle for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination. He will face House Budget Committee Chairman Jim Nussle, who was unopposed, in the tight race to succeed outgoing Gov. Tom Vilsack.

In New Jersey, Tom Kean Jr., son of the former governor, won the GOP Senate nomination and will challenge newly appointed Democratic Sen. Bob Menendez in what could be a competitive contest in November.

In Alabama, Republican Gov. Bob Riley easily dispatched Roy Moore, the former chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, who was removed from office for placing the Ten Commandments in the court building. Riley will face Lt. Gov. Lucy Baxley, who trumped former governor Don Siegelman.

But it was the California special election that attracted most attention in Washington, as an early test of whether immigration, corruption, and other issues may affect the balance of power on Capitol Hill. Busby's late gaffe on illegal immigrants — she made comments in which she seemed to invite them to help her campaign — in a district highly sensitive to the issue seemed to halt her momentum over the campaign's final weekend and brought private criticism from top Democratic strategists. To take back the House, Democrats will have to defeat a substantial number of experienced Republican incumbents.

More worrisome to Democrats was the fact that Busby's total hardly budged the 44 percent that Kerry won in the district in 2004. "If we can't improve upon Kerry's numbers in these congressional districts in this climate, we've got a big problem," said one strategist, who asked not to be identified in order to give a candid assessment of the results.

For Republicans, Tuesday brought a brief respite from bad news. Had the San Diego race gone the other way, it would have triggered near-panic inside a party that has grown increasingly nervous about the voters' sour mood. But Democrats insisted there is no way Republicans can devote similar resources to all the other competitive races in November.

Amy Walter, who charts House races for the Cook Report, said that, at a minimum, Tuesday's outcome denied Democrats a major psychological boost. "This just took what would have been on the front page of every newspaper — 'Democratic tsunami heading for Washington' — off the front pages," she said. "You can't overstate how important that is."

Independent analyst Stuart Rothenberg called the results in California "a bit of a downer" for the Democrats because Busby could not woo more independents and Republicans to vote for her. But he said the lessons from California may not apply to districts where House Republicans depend on Democratic votes to win.

Saying that Republicans "can't be naive about what happened," he added, "The Democrats are still searching for evidence the wave is going to hit."

Rhodes Cook, another independent analyst, said special elections sometimes forecast future trends but not always and said he was cautious about reading too much into Tuesday's California results.

Cook said he saw conflicting signs in Tuesday's results in California. Low turnout, he said, was a possible sign that Democratic voters are not as mobilized as party leaders hope. But the fact that a number of House incumbents in California won their primaries with reduced margins against weak opposition provided additional evidence of an anti-

incumbent mood in the electorate, which could hurt the party in power more.