

# Withdrawn/Redacted Material

## The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Report	[Robert Dechard Call]	5	N.D.	PRM;
002	Letter	[Correction] - To: Karl Rove - From: Renee Loth	1	09/02/2005	P6/b6;
003	Fax Cover Sheet	[Fax Cover Sheet with attachments] - To: Karl Rove - From: A.J. Pate	4	09/02/2005	PRM;
004	Letter	[Letter] - To: Karl Rove - From: Charles Colson	1	07/22/2005	P6/b6;
005	Speech	The Future of the Conservative Movement	18	12/03/2005	P5;
006	Handwritten Note	[Notes]	3	N.D.	P5;
007	Handwritten Note	[Note]	1	01/06/2006	P5;

**COLLECTION TITLE:**

Records Management, White House Office of

**SERIES:**

Subject Files - FG006-27 (Office of Senior Advisor - Karl Rove)

**FOLDER TITLE:**

683174 [2]

**FRC ID:**

9751

### RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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008	Memorandum	Supreme Court Nominee Outreach Calls - To: Karl Rove - From: Tim Goeglein	1	09/30/2005	P5; P6/b6;
009	Report	[King Immigration Bill]	3	N.D.	P5;
010	List	Immigration Legislative Proposals Status	1	11/04/2005	P5;
011	Email	FW: Polling Schedule - To: Taylor Hughes - From: Karl Rove	2	11/02/2005	PRM;
012	Resume	Jon Seaton [page 1]	1	N.D.	P6/b6;
013	Email	1-6-06 Surrogate Travel Tracking.xls [with attachment] - To: Karl Rove, et al. - From: Heidi Smith	6	01/03/2006	P5;
014	Spreadsheet	[Trip Planning Overview]	3	N.D.	P3/b3; P5; P6/b6; b7c; b7e; b7f;

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683174

F.

P

Mr Rove:

As promised, I have pored through "Bush'sBrain" and this (attached) appears to be the material you asked about that we referenced in the Aug 28 editorial. (The sentence in the editorial was in the 4th graph: "Later, in Texas, he gave testimony in court that was embarrassing to an opponent of one of Rove's clients, even though it was not true, according to the book 'Bush's Brain'...."etc.) This certainly appears to be what the author of the editorial was referencing, but I have not asked him directly yet, [redacted] (b)(6)

I have also located the section in the book about Moeller and McCrae, and just as you say, they were indicted and convicted in 1993. I would like to run a straight correction about our having noted there was "no charge," as soon as possible, but I do need to discuss it with the author of the editorial and hope to get to that next week [redacted] (b)(6)

Thank you for your continued patience. More to come

Renee Loth

*Renee*

Renee Loth  
Editor, editorial page  
The Boston Globe  
(617)929-3035

add her to the call list

conference. She showed that the office finances had actually saved the state money and that there was no political fund-raising in the office. In the end, the flurry of news stories had led to little evidence of wrongdoing, but the damage had been done. Questions had been raised publicly about a Richards operative in Washington mixing government and politics.

The issue of doing political business on state time was fresh in Rove's mind. A year earlier, Rove had defended one of his own clients against exactly the same charge. Kay Bailey Hutchison, newly elected to the U.S. Senate, was indicted by a Travis County grand jury in September 1993 on charges she misused her office as state treasurer. Specifically, prosecutors said workers on her payroll made campaign fund-raising calls on state time and used a state computer to keep track of contributions.

Republicans launched an assault on District Attorney Ronnie Earle's credibility, orchestrated by Rove. As Hutchison rode in the back of a van to the courthouse where the grand jury was meeting, Rove was on the cell phone reassuring her.

"He was constantly with the candidate and had people around her stay on the attack—either an attack on Ronnie Earle or a total denial of the charges," said an associate.

Attorneys for Hutchison were desperate to advance the idea that the district attorney was a publicity-hungry politico looking to higher office. Their best evidence was their insistence that reporters had been tipped in advance—assuring maximum publicity—of a raid on Hutchison's treasury office to rescue records. It was not true, but Rove took the stand in court and said it was.

"Do you have information about whether reporters were notified in advance about the June 10th Treasury raid?" defense lawyer Dick Deguerin asked Rove at a pretrial hearing.

"Yes."

Rove testified that he got a call from the *Dallas Morning News*. It was not true. In fact, *The News* did not get advance word, but learned about the raid from one of Hutchison's employees after it

was well underway. Rove testified that an Austin newspaper reporter, David Elliott, had been tipped in advance.

Not true, Elliott said years later. Elliott, like other reporters, got word of the raid long after it had begun.

"I specifically remember them telling me that the treasurer's office was being raided. It was not anything like advance knowledge. That, I'm absolutely certain."

Rove's testimony, however, reinforced the thesis: the district attorney was a publicity-hungry politico. The case never went to trial. The judge dismissed evidence important to prosecutors, the district attorney dropped the case, and Hutchison took her place in the U.S. Senate.

"They mounted a political defense," said Earle. "they wanted to portray the entire effort as a political prosecution. They played that defense both in the courtroom and outside. Their courtroom tactics and their public relations tactics were the same."

In a political endnote, the state Republican party issued a news release saying the district attorney's time would better be spent investigating Ann Richards. Whatever else Rove was doing, he never lost sight of his primary goal: putting George W. Bush in office. Richards was the obstacle, Richards was the enemy. The news release came two months before Bush formally announced his candidacy and was written by Karen Hughes, who eventually was to join Rove on the Bush political team.

Like Jane Hickie, Cathy Bonner found herself the subject of unfavorable publicity generated by Rove as part of the campaign against Ann Richards. Bonner resigned from the Texas Department of Commerce and returned to private business in order to join the Richards' 1994 re-election effort. Rove targeted her for years. His political investigators sought out information about her business, which Rove tried to get reporters to write. When her old firm got a state contract from the Texas Education Agency, stories questioning the deal popped up in Texas newspapers. Even after George W. Bush became governor and Bonner was no longer a political threat, Rove

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F: Princeton Speech 12/3/05

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Type up & save in KR's folder  
under "Speeches."

~~See file~~



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## The Future of the Conservative Movement

December 3, 2005

It's a pleasure to speak at an event hosted by Professor Robby George and the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions. I say that for several reasons. The first is that James Madison is one of my favorite founding fathers. He is often overshadowed by his great friend and contemporary, Thomas Jefferson, though I've found it easy to be overshadowed by a tall and sociable redhead. But of course it is Mr. Madison who was the key figure in shaping our governing charter. It was Madison, not Jefferson, who earned the appellation "Father of the Constitution."

A graduate of the College of New Jersey at Princeton, it was said of Madison that he was a rarity: an intellectual who understood, and loved, both politics and statecraft. Madison helped make Jefferson's grand political vision a grand political reality – and the "emanations from his mind" helped shape the American republic and the course of human events.

We would not be the nation we are – and perhaps we would not be a nation at all – if it had not been for that five feet four inch tall, one-hundred pound reader and thinker from King George County, Virginia. So count me as a fan of Mr. Madison. Lousy president, but great and grand constitutionalist. Like him so much, my son's middle name is Madison. But then again, so was my dog's.

The second reason I'm glad to be here today is because Robby George has developed a really impressive institution here at Princeton. It places a premium on intellectual integrity, human excellence, and authentic intellectual diversity – making it a necessary island in higher education's sea of political correctness.

I should add I'm not pleased to be here today following a galaxy of stars who have spoke at this conference – individuals like Midge Decter, Bill Rusher, David Brooks, Paul Weyrich, Michael Barone, George Will, Bill Bennett, Richard Land, Chris DeMuth and many other people whom I admire, read, and from whom I have learned.

I'm afraid everything I have to say this afternoon has been said by other, and said better, more eloquently, and with more erudition. So I wish I was going first instead of last – but sometimes in life you draw the short straw. I feel I'm like Liz Taylor's last husband, incapable of providing any new approaches.

The topic I was assigned is "The Future of the Conservative Movement." The future of the conservative movement cannot be understood without first understanding its recent past.

Consider just a few areas where conservative ideas have prevailed: crime, welfare, taxes, and spreading liberty abroad.

If this distinguished group had gathered in this place a decade ago and identified two of the most difficult – and even intractable – social problems in

America, it would have identified welfare and crime near the top of the list. It was thought by many intelligent people that these problems were beyond the reach of the public policy.

But rather than throw up their hands, conservatives advocated reversing 60 years of federal welfare policy by ending the legal entitlement to welfare benefits, mandating that recipients work, and imposing a five-year lifetime limit on the receipt of federally funded benefits.

In the aftermath of welfare reform we witnessed the largest welfare caseload decline in history. No state has reduced its caseloads by less than one-third – and some states reduced them by more than 90 percent. Overall, the caseload has declined by more than 60 percent since 1994.

Not only has the number of people on welfare plunged, in the wake of welfare reform overall poverty, child poverty, back child poverty, poverty of single mother, and child hunger declined. Employment of single mothers increased. The share of children living in single-mother families fell. And the share of children living in married-couples families grew, especially among African-American families.

- North Carolina visit
- Welfare reform – a deeply conservative and deeply compassionate idea – now ranks as one of the important social achievement of modern times.

In the 1980s and early 1990s it was said government can do little to decrease crime when confronted by certain demographic realities – primarily a surge in the number of young “at risk” males. But we know that government, in conjunction with other efforts, did quite a lot to reduce crime – and did it far more rapidly and effectively than almost anyone thought possible.

Part of the answer was to remove from civil societies those who committed crime. Funny how criminals cant commit more crimes while they’re in prison. And while the evidence may not be adequate for the ACLU, tougher penalties appear to have also discouraged many from lives of crime in the first place.

There were other innovative strategies. When he became mayor of New York City, Rudy Giuliani instituted important reforms, based in part on James Q. Wilson and George Kelling’s “broken windows” theory. As a result, Mayor Giuliani helped transform the city and decrease the number of murders by more than 70 percent in eight years.

Nationally, violent crime has reached the lowest level it has ever recorded – and the murder rate is near its lowest point since 1966. This is another stunning conservative and compassionate achievement.

Let me now turn to taxes. When Eisenhower became president, the top income tax rate was more than 90 percent – and when Ronald Reagan took office in January 1981, the top rate was 70 percent. Today the top income tax rate is 35

percent. Why is that? What accounts for this huge cut in the marginal tax rate?

The answer is an idea – supply side economics – which was considered on the economic fringe before Ronald Reagan took office but became the law of the land after Ronald Reagan took office.

The theory behind supply side economics is that cutting tax rates will lead to economic growth – and the revenues that would be created by a surging economy will help off-set the loss in revenues created by lower tax rates. The tax policies put in place by President Reagan led to what at that time was the longest economic expansion in history. Faced by stock market that peaked, recession, 9/11, corporate scandals, world wide slowdown, George W. Bush cut taxes three times. And today the American economy, in large measure because of tax cuts and supply side economics, is growing faster than any other major industrialized country.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter – Katrina and Rita – 4.3%
- Productivity high
- Unemployment rate lower than average of 70s, 80s, and 90s.
- 4.5 million new jobs in 2 years
- Home ownership highest level ever
- Small businesses starting up
- Self employed – all time modern high

We have put the other side in the position of arguing for a 15% increase in

income taxes, 33% hike on capital gains, 133% bump on dividends. The American economy is the strongest in the world, which was not the case when Jimmy Carter was president.

In foreign policy, the conservative conviction that American interests cannot be separated from American ideals has led to the swiftest advance of freedom in history. Regions of the world that were once fenced from freedom are now vibrant democracies. And for the first time we are seeing freedom take root in the broader Middle East.

In the span of 48 months America and her allies have liberated more than 50 million people from two of the most oppressive regimes in modern times. Once governed by dictatorships of the almost incomprehensible cruelty, the people of Afghanistan and Iraq are now liberated, governed by Constitutions, and participating in national elections.

The struggle against Islamic radicalism is longer and harder than any of us would wish – but by any standard or precedent of history, Afghanistan and Iraq have made incredible political progress. It is now clear that there is no way Islamic-Fascism can defeat us militarily. We will lose only if we lose our nerve and cut and run as we did in Somalia and Vietnam or if we respond with pinpricks and cruise missiles loosed into a sandpile, rather than striking with the full force and strength of the U.S. military.



Mr. Ibrahim originally opposed the invasion of Iraq. But in his word, the war “has unfrozen the Middle East, just as Napoleon’s 1798 expedition did. Elections in Iraq force the theocrats and autocrats to put democracy on the agenda, even if only to fight against us. Look, neither Napoleon nor President Bush could impregnate the region with political change. But they were able to be the midwives,” Ibrahim told the Washington Post columnist Jim Hoagland.

And think for a moment about some of the ideas that have been defeated and discredited in recent decades: forced busing, wage and price controls, and “comparable worth” ... the view that schools shouldn’t teach values... the belief that drugs and pornography are liberating, divorce is good for children, abortion is a morally insignificant act, and welfare is better than work. Today members of the military are respected instead of reviled – which was not the case in the early 1970s.

Socialists and Marxism didn’t transcend capitalism; they collapsed in the competition with it. And Soviet Communism was, as Ronald Reagan said, a sad, bizarre chapter in human history that would fail. And how it did. Soviet Communism is now on the dustbin of history.

If we lift our eyes from day-to-day events we see that conservatives are dominating almost every policy debate of consequence – and the most interesting intellectual debates are within conservatism.

Contemporary liberalism, on the other hand, is utterly exhausted, hollow, and burning out before our eyes. Today liberalism is characterized not by an attachment to ideas or ideals; rather, it is characterized by rage and resentment. Liberalism has nothing positive to offer these days – and its advocates and champions have yet to learn that anger is not an agenda.

These are good days for the conservative movement in America – but now is not the time to rest and relax, or grow complacent or weary in what we have achieved. Now is the time to make the most of our gains:

1. Greatest challenge is to adopt timeless principles to new circumstances

A.L. – as our case is new, so must we think and act anew

- Demography (older/aging and increasingly diverse) (others – faith, exurbs, higher percentage of college educated; manufacturing sector)
- 60 years of liberal welfare state
  - a) game changes

Margaret Thatcher – sell public housing

b) end 150 programs/ 90 – small savings/ Freeze non-security spending

c) Medicaid – HAS's (portable, low cost, market driven)

2. Connect polices to larger narrative

- Bill – issue – agenda – philosophy – value

- Roberts
  - ROTC on college campuses → patriotism, tone of country, service
  - Welfare reform → work
3. Replace Cold War conserves with new international paradigm
- Moralists and Realists found way to oppose communism (rejecting isolationists and big business accommodationists)
  - Promotion of Democracy/ Liberty/ Freedom
    - a) Skeptics
    - b) Tolerance of repressive or authoritarian or totalitarian regimes  
will put us on the wrong side (morally and realistically)
    - c) Freedom on march
4. Open architecture world
- Web
  - Talk radio
  - Cable
  - Return to America of 1830's or politics of the 1890's
    - a) lots of public discussion
    - b) clogged channels
5. Ideas matter, but so do people
- Who explain and popularize those ideas

- Nurture writers, bloggers, talk radio, on air personalities, journalists, teachers, scholars, opinion journals, elite opinion groups
- Ideas matter, but so do people who translate them into action
- Concern with state of broad base, member driven grassroots organizations

6. Take care not to become too Washington-centric

- State policy groups
- Regional legal foundations
- Think tanks located away from Washington
- National groups with local chapters/ state organizations (eg: Federalist Society)

7. Tolerance and diversity (mutual respect) within conservative movement is needed and should be encouraged

8. like Christianity, one generation away from extinction

- Cultivation of the young balanced with
- Cranks must be dealt with
- Buckley in 50s

9. Popular culture matters, for good or ill

- Cultivate opportunity to affect popular culture
- Mel Gibson

- Phil Anschutz
- Don't underestimate the power of public policy to change the culture

Esp. if it reinforces angels of our nature

- Welfare
- No child left behind- accountability

#### 10. Failure often leads to more failure, which results in success

- With many great causes, don't win first times
- We should be bold
- More likely to capture the imagination of the public
- Mark a string leadership
- If we concern ourselves with big important reforms, we concern ourselves with things people are concerned about
- Even if we fall short, we've been on offense and are likely to get incremental progress
- And by beginning the dialogue, if we're right, we'll prevail

#### 11. Periodic restructuring

- Term limits for CM institutions, like Olin
- Think long term/ think new
- Refreshed by new centers of energy

I know it is considered fashionable and stylish by some to be dour and pessimistic – and to then cloak that pessimism in the drapery of conservatism. And if you want to be downcast, go ahead: it's a free country. As for me, I identify more with what Oliver Edwards said to Samuel Johnson: "You are a philosopher; Dr. Johnson. I have tried too in my time to be a philosopher; but, I don't know how, cheerfulness was always breaking in." Cheerfulness is a good trait in general – and it is a particularly good trait when it is anchored in reality. And the reality is that we have reason to be upbeat. Conservatism has made stunning gains in recent decades. It is the dominate political philosophy in America. And we have reason to be confident and hopeful about its future.

# Withdrawal Marker

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Handwritten Note	[Note]	1	01/06/2006	P5;

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**COLLECTION:**

Records Management, White House Office of

**SERIES:**

Subject Files - FG006-27 (Office of Senior Advisor - Karl Rove)

**FOLDER TITLE:**

683174 [2]

**FRC ID:**

9751

**OA Num.:**

10775

**NARA Num.:**

10833

**FOIA IDs and Segments:**

2015-0037-F

**RESTRICTION CODES**

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Records Not Subject to FOIA

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**LifeCare Alliance**  
**Facsimile Transmission**

*ATTN: Susan [unclear] 6-1907  
7 pages*

TO: The White House FAX NUMBER: 202-456-2239  
Office of Media Affairs Att: Jeannie  
FROM: Sherry Bailey  
PHONE: 614-432-2804 FAX:  
EMAIL: SBailey@LIFECAREALLIANCE.ORG  
DATE: 12/29/05 1/3/06 TIME:  
TOTAL PAGES, INCLUDING COVER: 7

MESSAGE:

*Jeannie  
for additional information you can go  
to our web site WWW.Lifecarealliance.org  
Thank you for your help.*

*Sherry Bailey*

*Please send any communications to  
Sherry K Bailey, Dir. of Development  
LifeCare Alliance  
1699 W. Mound St.  
Columbus Ohio 43223*

NOTE: This facsimile document contains information that may be proprietary, privileged, confidential or exempt from disclosure under applicable law. Please forward documents to addressee immediately upon receipt. If this transmittal is illegible or incomplete, or if you have any questions concerning received documents, please contact LifeCare Alliance (614) 278-3130.

**LifeCare Alliance**  
1699 West Mound Street  
Columbus, OH 43223  
Phone: (614) 278-3130  
Fax: (614) 278-3143  
www.lifecarealliance.org





\* Nourishing The Human Spirit.



LIFECARE  
ALLIANCE

1000 North Street  
Columbus, OH 43224  
614-783-3130  
614-783-3133  
www.lifecarealliance.org

December 29, 2005

The White House  
Office of Media Affairs  
Fax 202-456-2239

Attention: Jeanie

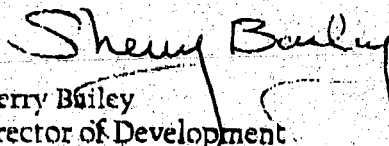
I am writing to request that our President George W. Bush would do us the honor of a short video taping of a 15 to 30 second message on encouraging support for our Meal-On-Wheels program that serves Columbus, Ohio and Madison County. Each year LifeCare Alliance (Meals-On-Wheels) puts on a large gala called Big Wheels, Big Night. This black tie event serves to raise the extra dollars that are needed to fill in the funding. These dollars insure our continued service to our elderly and chronically ill clients throughout Central Ohio that desperately need our assistance.

This event attracts the Presidents and CEO's from large corporations along with our political leaders such as Mayor Cheryl Grossman from Grove City, Ohio. This event will take place on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> at the Hyatt on Capitol Square Columbus, Ohio.

We would love to feature our great leader and President as our very special surprise guest via video. This 15 to 30 second video would be used to encourage our guests to continue to support this much needed service to our community. Chuck Gehring, our President & CEO along with Sherry Bailey, our Director of Development will host this yearly event. Having our President speak on the importance of this program would be the greatest honor that this Agency could ever hope for. This can be put into any format such as a video VHS or BATA or a CD etc. We would also like to extend an ongoing invitation to President Bush or anyone from his staff to visit us anytime that they are in the Columbus area for a tour. It would be our honor to show them how we accomplish preparing and deliver over 5,000 meals 365 days a year.

I have included information and statistics for talking points. If you have any questions, please contact me at 614-783-2425 or 614-437-2804. Thank you for this consideration and I will look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

  
Sherry Bailey  
Director of Development

# LifeCare Services

## For the year 2004

During its 106th year of service, LifeCare Alliance served more than 20,000 people on an operating budget of \$12,473,000. Regardless if the care was in the home or in the community, it was provided to enable the aged and chronically ill to remain independently and safely at home. Most, but by no means all, of those served are elderly. In 2004, nutrition for more than a thousand youngsters participating in after-school programs was instituted through a partnership with other United Way agencies.

---

### Home-based Care

▪ Meals-on-Wheels Delivered	1,043,107
▪ Skilled Nursing and Therapy Visits	8,341
▪ Home Health Aide Visits	13,993
▪ Homemaker Visits	18,265

### Community-based Care

▪ Senior Dining Center Lunches Served	182,447
▪ Rides to & from the Dining Centers Given	22,317
▪ Miles of Transportation Provided	159,166
▪ Visits at Senior Wellness Centers	6,403
▪ After-school Meals	209,826

---

### Every Day LifeCare Alliance Delivers:

▪ Hot Meals-on-Wheels Lunches	1,600
▪ Cold Meals-on-Wheels Suppers	327
▪ Frozen Meals-on-Wheels	1,830
▪ Senior Dining Center Lunches	793
▪ After-school and other contract Meals	1,700

Volunteers keep Meals-on-Wheels rolling. Nearly 4,233 individuals and organizations donated their time and talent as volunteers in 2004, contributing 115,671 hours and 320,344 miles to care for the people who count on them. Your help is needed too!

Immunizations – In 2004, LifeCare Alliance administered 9,800 dosages of flu, pneumonia and hepatitis shots. LifeCare Alliance visited 34 different clinics, including public, wellness centers, dining centers and corporate locations. We also acted as the clearinghouse for the Adult Immunization Coalition of Central Ohio with the hotline, the web site and the vaccine supply. LifeCare Alliance received cooperation and funding from the Franklin County Commissioners for the influenza immunization campaign.

Specialty Services
Medical Equipment
Medical Supplies
Medical Billing Systems
Medical Claims
Medical Records
Medical Data Service
Medical Service Plan
Medical Center for Rehabilitation & Nursing Care
Medical Center Place
Medical Equipment Industries

Corporation
American Electric Power (AEP) ✓
Ameritech ✓
Arbors of London
Arbors of West Jefferson
Archer-Meek-Weiler
Asset Strategies
Battelle Memorial ✓
Berwanger Overmeyer
BMW Financial Services
Borden ✓
Chase Home Finance
Chase Manhattan Mortgage ✓
Constellation New Energy
Cottingham Paper
Edgewood Manor
Federal Express
Grange Insurance ✓
Honda Wives
Huntington Mortgage
Huntington National Bank
Huntington National Bank
Hyatt on Capital Square ✓
Hyatt Regency ✓
Isabelle Ridgeway Care Center
Jefferson Industries Corp. ✓
Keller Williams Cap. Partners Realty
Kurtz Bros.
Lazarus-Macy's - Westland Mall ✓
Leibert Corporation ✓
Liebert Global Services ✓
LifeCare Alliance
MBNA, Sky Financial Service
MCI ✓
Mettler Toledo ✓

These are the companies that support our Corporate Routes by permitting their employees to take their lunch hours and deliver meals to the routes closest to their work locations.

I have checked several that are known nationally

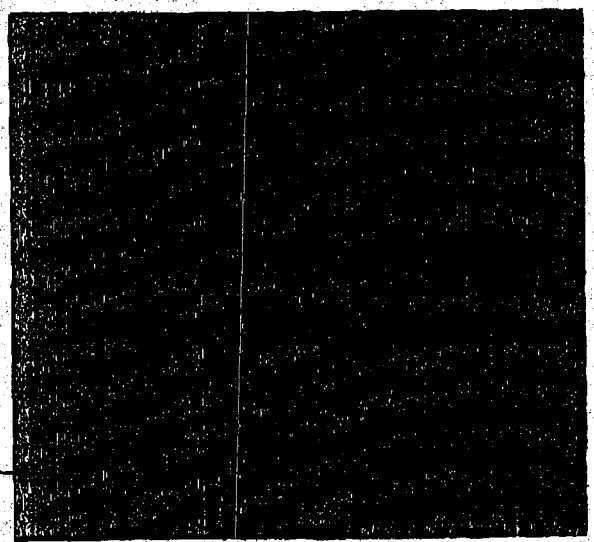
# In the Co



In recent years, LifeCare Alliance has begun to market our services to reach non-traditional populations. While our primary focus remains with older adults, LifeCare Alliance recognizes that the state of affairs in the community is changing. The spirit of entrepreneurship is among us, and other not-for-profit organizations! In order to compete in this environment, we understand we must broaden our base of services to include corporate stakeholders, school-age children and the wellness community. LifeCare Alliance expanded its services to address those needs through The Corporate Meal Route Volunteer Program, Meals-for-Kids, LifeCare Alliance Community Clinic sponsored by Huntington Bank, and L.A. Catering. All of these services are welcome additions and align with our mission, which is, **to lead our community in identifying and delivering health and nutrition services to meet the community's changing needs.**

and volunteers are marketing these "relatively new" services, we are dedicated to assisting the older adult with the same commitment and determination each day. We consistently strive to perfect our fundamental programs designed to reach mobile older adults. These programs include Senior Community Centers, the Wellness Centers, the Farmer's Market Distribution, and the Flu Clinics.

As a trend of new programs which are designed to enlist community involvement, our programming focus continues to be targeting the needs of our clients. In essence, these services strengthen our programs and the value of our core services.



Dear:

- 82,447 lunches were served at the**  
**28 Senior Community Centers**

---

- 6,403 visits were made to LifeCare**  
**Alliance's Wellness Centers**

---

- 209,826 meals were served via LifeCare**  
**Alliance's Meals-for-Kids Program**

Each day, the staff and volunteers of LifeCare Alliance support the independence of homebound older adults and chronically ill neighbors in Franklin and Madison counties through our in-home services. The services include Meals-on-Wheels, Help-at-Home, and the Visiting Nurse Program.

In many instances, the care recipients report that the workers of LifeCare Alliance are the only people they see on a regular basis henceforth, providing a connection to the outside world. The Meals-on-Wheels drivers' role is much more than delivering a hot nutritional meal. They also make certain that the care recipients are feeling well. There have been occasions when Meals-on-Wheels drivers found clients in distress; but, because of intense training, the emergency plan of action was set in motion. Last year, our drivers delivered more than 1.1 million meals in Franklin and Madison counties.

In addition to Meals-on-Wheels and the Visiting Nurse Program, our homemakers and home health aides help with activities of daily living that homebound individuals cannot accomplish alone. The Help-at-Home Program is celebrating 50 years of an invaluable service to the community.

The skilled team of Visiting Nurses works with the patient, their family, and their physician to develop a plan for skilled care designed specifically to meet each individual's unique health needs. Individuals who receive services are recovering from injuries or long-term health conditions like diabetes, heart disease or emphysema. Our caring team consists of registered nurses, therapists, home health aides, social workers, visiting pharmacists, and registered dietitians. LifeCare Alliance's Visiting Nurses have provided community nursing services to Central Ohio residents for more than a century.

#### Last Year LifeCare Alliance:

- \* Delivered **1.1 million** meals to the homebound in Franklin and Madison counties
- \* Provided **18,265** Homemaker visits
- \* Provided **13,993** Home Health Aide visits
- \* Resulting in **5,741** people remaining proudly independent and safe in their own homes

# Withdrawal Marker

## The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Memorandum	Supreme Court Nominee Outreach Calls - To: Karl Rove - From: Tim Goeglein	1	09/30/2005	P5; P6/b6;

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### COLLECTION:

Records Management, White House Office of

### SERIES:

Subject Files - FG006-27 (Office of Senior Advisor - Karl Rove)

### FOLDER TITLE:

683174 [2]

### FRC ID:

9751

### OA Num.:

10775

### NARA Num.:

10833

### FOIA IDs and Segments:

2015-0037-F

### RESTRICTION CODES

#### Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Report	[King Immigration Bill]	3	N.D.	P5;

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
List	Immigration Legislative Proposals Status	1	11/04/2005	P5;

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FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Email	FW: Polling Schedule - To: Taylor Hughes - From: Karl Rove	2	11/02/2005	PRM;

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**Records Not Subject to FOIA**

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

**Hughes, Taylor A.**

**From:** Karl Rove [KR@georgewbush.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 03, 2006 10:19 AM  
**To:** Hughes, Taylor A.  
**Subject:** FW: Bloomberg - Bush's 2006 Agenda Squeezed by Iraq War Costs, Lost Popularity

----- Forwarded Message

**From:** White House News Update <News.Update@WhiteHouse.Gov>  
**Reply-To:** White House News Update <News.Update@WhiteHouse.Gov>  
**Date:** Tue, 3 Jan 2006 09:21:50 -0500  
**To:** Karl Rove <kr@georgewbush.com>  
**Conversation:** Bloomberg - Bush's 2006 Agenda Squeezed by Iraq War Costs, Lost Popularity  
**Subject:** Bloomberg - Bush's 2006 Agenda Squeezed by Iraq War Costs, Lost Popularity

**Bush's 2006 Agenda Squeezed by Iraq War Costs, Lost Popularity**

By Richard Keil

Jan. 3 (Bloomberg) -- President George W. Bush began his second term a year ago with ambitious goals to create private Social Security accounts, overhaul the federal tax code and reshape the nation's immigration laws.

Bush enters 2006 with those grand plans unfulfilled, set aside for a modest agenda reminiscent of predecessor Bill Clinton. The political and financial costs of the Iraq war and Hurricane Katrina may limit him this year to adjustments of existing programs on job training, energy policy and grants to religious charities.

The president's shrinking agenda reflects job-approval ratings hovering at about 45 percent, federal budget deficits and the difficulty of winning congressional approval for bold plans in a year when lawmakers are running for re-election.

“He is on the defensive, answering charges about Iraq and struggling to come up with domestic policies he can turn into law,” says Bruce Buchanan, a professor of government at the University of Texas in Austin who has followed Bush's career. “He has squandered opportunities to build consensus and momentum.”

This year Bush will embrace a proposal by Representative Jack Kingston to promote energy independence through tax credits and breaks for the purchases of hybrid vehicles or the use of alternative energy sources, Republicans familiar with the administration's plans say. The plan probably will cost less than \$10 million, estimates David All, a spokesman for Kingston, a Georgia Republican.

**Job Training**

The president also wants to expand grants for job training by religious charities, at a cost of about \$5 billion, according to two Republicans familiar with the plan who spoke on condition of anonymity because the White House hasn't announced it. Religious charities received more than \$2 billion in federal money in fiscal 2004, according to the White House Web site.

Bush also will hold a one-day “summit” in Washington in March with corporate leaders and foundation executives to encourage them to give more money to churches or religious charities, says Jim Towey, director of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives. “This is really important to him; he doesn't convene that many summits,” Towey said in a Dec. 27 interview.

Bush will lay out his goals in his annual State of the Union address to Congress late this month and the fiscal 2007 budget plan he sends lawmakers in early February.

**War, Economy**

“The issues Americans care most about are the war in Iraq and the economy, and those are the priorities the president is acting on,” White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan says.

1/3/2006

Bush's ability to offer new initiatives is constrained by his goal of cutting the deficit in half as a percentage of gross domestic product by the time he leaves office in early 2009. Bush has ordered his administration to be "extraordinarily disciplined on spending" to pursue that goal, Treasury Secretary John Snow said in a Dec. 14 interview.

The official federal budget deficit was \$319 billion in fiscal 2005, down from \$412 billion the previous year. The administration's goal is a deficit of no more than \$260 billion by 2009.

The official budget numbers don't include spending for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which have been funded through "emergency spending" measures totaling \$326 billion since September 2001. The administration has projected \$50 billion for war costs this year. One critic, Democratic Representative John Murtha of Pennsylvania, says the real level will probably be double that.

#### Big Goals Fade

Bush, who in his first term had a higher proportion of his proposals passed by Congress than any president since Lyndon Johnson, began his second term heralding the appointment of a bipartisan panel to recommend changes to the tax code and setting out on a 60-day campaign to promote his Social Security plans.

Both goals have now been put off until at least 2007 after running up against public skepticism and concern about the conflict in Iraq. "Regardless of what we want to talk about, the thing we have to talk about is Iraq," says former Republican Representative Vin Weber, a lobbyist who is close to the administration. "That's not going to change."

Bush's situation parallels that of Clinton during his second term. Because of problems including the Monica Lewinsky scandal and his subsequent impeachment by the House of Representatives, Clinton was forced to forgo large initiatives and instead pursue smaller programs or expand on prior ones, such as adding police in urban areas.

#### Lost Capital

After a long slump, public approval of Bush's handling of the war recovered somewhat in the past month, buoyed by Iraqi elections on Dec. 15 and five presidential speeches on U.S. strategy. Even so, 53 percent of adults still said they disapproved of Bush's handling of Iraq in a Dec. 15-18 Washington Post/ABC News poll.

The president's job-approval rating stood at 43 percent in a poll released Dec. 23 by CNN, USA Today and the Gallup Organization, up from 38 percent earlier in the month.

Representative Gil Gutknecht, a Minnesota Republican, says Bush has done a "miserable job of helping the American people see the progress, for example, we're making in Iraq."

To recover some of the political capital he lost, Bush changed his tone in his five recent Iraq speeches, acknowledging missteps, warning Americans to expect "more testing and sacrifice" and telling the public to "not give in to despair."

#### Republicans Step Up

The administration plans speeches and other events this year to lay the groundwork for reintroducing proposals for Social Security, taxes and immigration in 2007. Bush will also spend time in 2006 pressing for congressional approval of some of his earlier plans still in limbo, such as making permanent his first-term income tax cuts and expanding job training and health-care savings accounts, McClellan says.

With all 435 House members and 33 senators up for election in November, congressional Republicans are stepping in with their own priorities. With Bush's backing, they will probably focus on "some significant tax issues," such as limiting the reach of the alternative minimum tax, says Charles Black, a Republican political consultant with ties to the administration.

Bush supports legislation to prevent the AMT from imposing a \$30 billion increase on about 15 million middle-income households next year. Dealing with the AMT is the one proposal from Bush's tax overhaul commission that Congress probably will debate this year.

#### Risk-Averse

Senator Jim DeMint, a South Carolina Republican, says the administration has become "risk-averse," which he says may threaten the party's majority in Congress. "If we don't go out with bold inspirational ideas and convince the American people that we're going to make the future better than today, I think we're going to lose big-time," he said in a Dec. 15 interview.

Republican lawmakers will push on their own for a tax-code overhaul, said Representative Scott Garrett, a Republican from New Jersey. "Congress is going to be taking the lead more this time than we did in the first administration," he says.

Minnesota's Gutknecht agrees, especially as lawmakers look ahead to the November election. "I'm going to run on my agenda," he said. "I'm not going to run on theirs."

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683179  
Regatta

December 14, 2005

Mr. Karl Rove  
Assistant to the President  
& Senior Advisor  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20500

REC. OFC. PRESIDENT  
WH STRATEGIC INITIATIVES  
2006 JAN - 4 AM 10: 34

Dear Mr. Rove:

It was great seeing you last week at the White House. I wanted to send this note to follow-up on our brief conversation. On Monday, January 16, 2005 at 6:30pm, CORE will be celebrating the 21st anniversary of its Martin Luther King Ambassadorial Reception and Awards Dinner at the New York Sheraton Hotel and Towers. Last year, we honored you with a Public Service Award, for your service to the nation. Regretfully, you were not able to personally receive the award due to a conflict in your schedule. I would like to extend a personal invitation for you to attend this year's MLK event and pick up your award.

This year, CORE's Ambassadorial Committee will be chaired by H.E. John Bolton, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. We are also very pleased to be honoring the Hon. Haley Barbour, Governor of the state of Mississippi and Mr. George Houser, a founder of CORE. I believe it would be an opportune time for you to make a "surprise" appearance at this year's MLK event. It would be of great significance for CORE's supporters and the country at large. We would encourage you to make remarks that you deem appropriate for the occasion.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Merry Christmas.

Niger Innis  
National Spokesman, CORE

Requested POTUS letter ~~to~~ (OPA did)

683174

DEC 29 2005  
5:55p



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

VITO J. FOSSELLA  
THIRTEENTH DISTRICT  
NEW YORK

December 29, 2005

Mr. Karl Rove  
Senior Advisor/Deputy Chief of Staff  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Karl:

I wanted to pass this article on to you.

Firefighter Matthew Long was severely injured last week in a bicycling accident. Matthew, who is New York State Conservative Party Chairman Mike Long's son, was extremely helpful with the internal discussions that led to the Uniformed Firefighter's Association endorsement of President Bush last year.

While it was initially unclear if Matthew would survive the accident, he is in critical condition and facing many long months of recovery and rehabilitation.

The Long family are constituents of mine and Matthew's mother Eileen headed up my Brooklyn office for over 7 years. Eileen has asked if the President could pass on a written note to Matthew giving his wishes for a speedy recovery.

If such a note could be sent, I would appreciate it greatly.

Sincerely,

Vito Fossella  
Member of Congress

# NEW YORK POST

ONLINE EDITION

## BIKING BRAVEST 'STRUCK' DOWN

By STEPHANIE GASKELL, JAMIE SCHRAM and LUKAS I. ALPERT

A firefighter riding his bicycle to work because of the transit strike was critically injured yesterday when he was hit by a bus that had been chartered to move stranded riders, police said.

Matthew Long, 39, broke both legs, an arm and his pelvis and suffered internal injuries after he was hit and dragged underneath the bus.

The bus was chartered by Bear Stearns to move office workers during the strike.

Long was rushed into emergency surgery at the New York Weill-Cornell Medical Center, police said.

He remained in critical condition last night.

The 12-year department veteran's terrific physical condition — he has competed in several triathlons and teaches physical fitness at the Fire Academy — likely helped him survive, his family said.

"He's a very strong individual. Over the last two years, he's trained extensively to prepare himself for triathlons and marathons, and that training is going to help him pull through this," said his brother, Jim Long, who is a Fire Department spokesman.

"We are praying and are hopeful he will pull through," he said.

Their father, Michael Long, is the head of the state Conservative Party. The two brothers own Third and Long, a Midtown bar popular with firefighters.

Mayor Bloomberg, who visited the hospital, asked all New Yorkers to "pray for him."

The accident happened at 5:18 a.m. at the corner of 52nd Street and Third Avenue when the bus turned right in front of him, from the avenue's middle lane onto the side street.

Long then slammed into the side of the bus.

He was wearing a helmet, which likely saved his life, a police source said.

The bus driver, Bryant Barr, 30, of Albany, was issued a summons for making an illegal turn.

"Our prayers are with the individual involved in this accident as well as with his entire family," Flake said in a statement.

Long was headed to work on Randalls Island and was riding the bike because of the transit strike, his family said.

"It was the easiest way for him to get around in the city with what was happening with the strike. Everyone was told to find other means to get to work, so he did," said his brother, Jim.



Fellow firefighters at Ladder Co. 43 in East Harlem, where Long was formally assigned, were stunned and praying for him to pull through.

"Matt's a great guy. Everybody's saying a prayer for him," said a firefighter at the house, who declined to give his name.

*Additional reporting by Peta Hellard, Brad Hamilton and Mark Bulliet*

*stephanie.gaskell@nypost.com*

**Home**

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683174

**JON SEATON**

(b)(6)

(b)(6)

**Government/Administration Experience**

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

*Director, Office of White House Liaison, March 2005 – Present*

- Political appointee in President George W. Bush's Administration
- Responsible for interviewing, vetting, and hiring all political personnel
- Insure that the Department and the Secretary are working to further the President's agenda
- Oversee Secretary's political travel on behalf of the President and the Administration
- Conduct regular political briefings for the Secretary and Senior Veterans Affairs Staff
- Primary White House contact for Vice President's participation in VA's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Lead Department staff for any event involving White House participation, including Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies
- Interface with a variety of White House offices and key Administration staff to keep them apprised of events and political opportunities within the Department

**Campaign Experience**

**BUSH CHENEY '04, INC.**

*Washington State Executive Director, March 2004 – December 2004*

- Statewide manager of President George W. Bush's re-election efforts in Washington State
- Planned and implemented a massive grassroots plan in Northwest swing state
- Hired and supervised staff, directed field operation and organized volunteer effort
- Authored an extensive communication plan and earned media strategy
- Recruited over 30,000 volunteers, including a campaign chair in each county
- Organized surrogate and principle events across the state
- Conducted multiple political trainings in each Congressional district and targeted county
- Created historic Get-Out-The-Vote mechanism greatly increasing GOP turnout
- Spent last two weeks of the campaign in Iowa, organizing Election Day strategy, integrating all aspects of Election Day activity into one seamless operation in a successful effort to carry Iowa
- Returned to Washington State to volunteer on Rossi for Governor recount effort, organizing volunteers to monitor recount officials, report changes, and track irregularities.

**NATIONAL REPUBLICAN CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE**

*Field Representative, August 2002 – December 2002*

- Monitored and coordinated efforts in targeted southeastern Congressional races
- Helped develop strategy and implementation of paid voter contact component
- Reviewed media schedules and drafted grassroots plans for campaigns
- Provided on-site fundraising and logistics direction for principle events
- Directed 72-hour program in AZ-01, carrying targeted open seat race

**REDWINE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE**

*Campaign Manager, September 2001 – June 2002*

- Managed day-to-day operations of 4-way primary campaign covering 32 counties in western Iowa
- Directed campaign staff, interns, and a volunteer effort including chairs in each targeted county
- Wrote and implemented campaign plan, managing voter contact through direct mail, radio, and telephone advocacy
- Handled extensive communications strategy, serving as on-the-record spokesman, organizing earned media opportunities and drafting candidate statements
- Raised over \$300,000, almost exclusively through in-house direct mail program and in-district events. Out-raised the sitting Speaker of the Iowa House
- Managed efforts at 535-delegate nominating convention.

**Grassroots/Association Experience**

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS**

*Field Representative, January 2003 – March 2004*

- Organized campaign activity and grassroots legislative advocacy in 7 western states
- Conducted political trainings for members and key state and local staff
- Spearheaded PAC fundraising to help all states meet goals
- Interviewed and vetted US House and Senate candidates and oversaw the endorsement process when appropriate

**NATIONAL FEDERATION OF INDEPENDENT BUSINESS**

*Regional Political Director, April 2000 – September 2001*

- Managed grassroots and campaign activity in the western and northeast regions
- Supervised political staff in targeted Congressional Districts
- Oversaw major donor fundraising in targeted states, including direct solicitations and events
- Kept members informed of candidates' positions on small business issues

**ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS**

*Field Representative, January 1999 – April 2000*

- Responsible for PAC fundraising, candidate selection, and campaign coordination in 13 states
- Managed grassroots activity for state and local chapters, conducting briefings and trainings
- Served as primary Government Affairs Liaison between local chapters and National office
- Organized grassroots lobbying efforts against local measures hostile to open-shop construction

**Education**

**UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER**

*Graduated May, 1997, Degree in Political Science and History, Magna cum Laude*

## Civic Entertainment Group

1/4/06 MB 487174  
I left a vmail but  
you can send a formal  
reply. We can't get this  
in in January.

SR

December 28, 2005

Ms. Susan Ralston  
Deputy Assistant to President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Susan,

I am writing at the suggestion of Blake Gottesman. I believe Israel Hernandez once introduced me to you when we met with him at The White House, but I'm sure the encounter was more memorable for me. When Israel worked in your office, we collaborated on several projects. The most significant was linking us with Mrs. Bush's Office and *Preserve America* for The History Channel *Save Our History* project. For the past two years, we have worked closely on this initiative with Sonya Medina, John Nau and Roxanne Neumann.

I am writing today to ask whether it might be possible to arrange a special screening at The White House for an upcoming A&E Network Original Movie, *Flight 93*, a moving tribute to the courageous passengers, on United Airlines Flight 93 on September 11, 2001, who fought back against the terrorists who had taken over their plane.

The script is fully annotated, based solely on what has been revealed in the public record, including the communications between the passengers and their loved ones on the ground, between the various flight control centers and other pilots in the sky, as well as the US Military and government officials who prepared to shoot the plane down if necessary. *Flight 93* is produced by Fox Television Studios, which has co-financed a number of A&E films. Copies of the rough cut version of the film have been sent to Blake, who will forward a copy for your review.

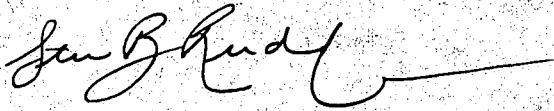
The producers have been in contact with several family members throughout the production. Family members, including Deena Burnett, widow of Thomas Burnett, an organizer of the passenger takeover and Alice Hogland, mother of passenger Mark Bingham, have reviewed the rough cut version of the film, and expressed their support.

Hamilton Peterson, President of the Families of Flight 93, is also supporting the film and will participate in press opportunities and in organizing a potential private screening at The White House. Mr. Peterson described to us how personally supportive President and Mrs. Bush were with the family members of Flight 93 directly after 9/11, noting the time they spent with each family member. Peterson also told us how President Bush pushed for federal legislation to create the parkland in Shanksville, where a monument will be built.

In light of this support, we are requesting a private screening of the film for all family members with President and Mrs. Bush. We fully understand how busy they are, and how hard it is to find time in their schedules. That said, we thought this screening might be of particular interest to them, and hoped the schedule might cooperate. The timing is somewhat flexible, though A&E requests that it take place prior to the broadcast premiere on January 30. The Families of Flight 93 are planning an unrelated meeting in Washington on January 15 so that would be an ideal date, but Mr. Peterson expressed their flexibility and willingness to return for a special screening anytime.

Thank you for thoughtful consideration of our request. I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stuart Ruderfer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stuart Ruderfer

cc: Blake Gottesman – The White House  
Michael Feeny – A&E

Civic Entertainment Group

Blake-

This is the letter we  
sent via fax to Susan.  
Enclosed please find 3  
copies of the rough cut  
version of the film.

Thank you for your help.

Lisa

1000

**FedEx** Express **US Airbill**

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Form 1B No.

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Sender's Name WALDE COHN Phone 212 496 2000

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Address 120 0TH AVE FL 22 Dept./Floor/Suite/Room

City NEW YORK State NY ZIP 10011-0001

**2 Your Internal Billing Reference**

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**3 To**

Recipient's Name BLAKE GOTTSCHMAN Phone 212 456-1414

Company THE WHITE HOUSE

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466

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Date: 1/2/06

To: Susan  
From: Oval Office Operations Cake

- FYI
- Appropriate Action *A defer entirely to you.*
- Direct Response
- Prepare Response For My Signature
- Per Our Conversation
- Let's Discuss
- Per Your Request
- Please Return
- Deadline
- Other

Comments: A sent to Sanyas  
Medina as well. A have no  
dog in the fight; they just  
used me as a messenger.



# Withdrawal Marker

## The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
Email	1-6-06 Surrogate Travel Tracking.xls [with attachment] - To: Karl Rove, et al. - From: Heidi Smith	6	01/03/2006	P5;

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**SERIES:**

Subject Files - FG006-27 (Office of Senior Advisor - Karl Rove)

**FOLDER TITLE:**

683174 [2]

**FRC ID:**

9751

**OA Num.:**

10775

**NARA Num.:**

10833

**FOIA IDs and Segments:**

2015-0037-F

**RESTRICTION CODES**

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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Records Not Subject to FOIA

Court Sealed - The document is withheld under a court seal and is not subject to the Freedom of Information Act.

# Withdrawal Marker

## The George W. Bush Library

FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)	(b)(3) STATUTE(S)
Spreadsheet	[Trip Planning Overview]	3	N.D.	P3/b3; P5; P6/b6; b7c; b7e; b7f;	10 USC 130b

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**Records Not Subject to FOIA**

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WH STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

2005 DEC 30 PM 7:42

*The U.S. Election Assistance Commission*

*requests the honor of your presence  
at the*

*2006 EAC Officer Installation Ceremony*

*Please join us as we install*

*The Honorable Paul DeGregorio,*

*2006 Chairman*

*The Honorable Ray Martinez III,*

*2006 Vice Chairman*

*Wednesday, the fourth of January*

*Two thousand and six*

*at three o'clock in the afternoon*

*U.S. Election Assistance Commission*

*1225 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 1100*

*Washington, D.C. 20005*

*R.S.V.P. by December 30, 2005*

*to Elle Collver*

*202-566-2256 or [ecollver@eac.gov](mailto:ecollver@eac.gov)*

*Reception immediately following*

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DEAR KARY,

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR TAKING  
TIME OUT OF YOUR BUSY DAY TO SPEAK  
TO OUR HARDWORKING VOLUNTEERS  
DURING THE ADVANCE SEMINAR. YOUR  
WORDS MOTIVATED THEM AND YOUR  
MERE PRESENCE MADE THEM REALIZE  
HOW MUCH THEY ARE APPRECIATED.  
THIS GOES A LONG WAY IN KEEPING  
OUR OPERATION STRONG.  
THANKS, AGAIN, FOR ALL YOU DO.  
RESPECTFUL YOUNG,  
TODD

Todd Bever

WH Advance



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SR, STAFF

BY JAMES C. COOPER & KATHLEEN MADIGAN

# Why Economic Growth Is Galloping

Consumers and businesses have lots to spend as they get financially stronger

## U.S. ECONOMY

The economy is proving as unstoppable as the 11-0 Indianapolis Colts. Consumers have kept spending even in the wake of sharply higher energy prices and after their confidence was pummeled by this summer's hurricanes. And despite initial worries over demand generated by the storms and oil hikes, businesses

continue to invest in new equipment and add to their payrolls.

The economy's resilience is especially evident in the latest update on growth from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. The BEA's second look at third-quarter gross domestic product showed that the economy grew by a robust 4.3% annual rate, even with the business shutdowns caused by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. And real GDP in the fourth quarter appears to be increasing at a healthy pace of greater than 3%. For all of 2005, real GDP is on track to expand by 3.7%.

That's a bit higher than the 3.5% projected by the economists surveyed by *BusinessWeek* at the end of 2004. But what's more revealing is that the consensus forecast was predicated on oil prices slipping back to \$39 per barrel by now and the Federal Reserve hiking its target for the federal funds rate to only 3.4% by yearend. Instead, oil remains well above \$55 and fed funds have already reached 4%, with more hikes on the way.

So why has the economy performed above expectations amid unexpected developments? The main explanation seems to be that, despite the Fed's desire to tighten monetary conditions, consumers and businesses, on average, still have access to cash, whether through cheap borrowing, better income and profit growth, or rising housing and stock market wealth. Accommodative financial conditions are proving to be the economy's Peyton Manning, quarterbacking the steady forward movement in demand.

Attractive bond yields, a rising stock market, robust profit growth, and, thanks to the recent fall in oil prices, more household buying power are allowing consumers and businesses to spend. Since nothing in the outlook suggests any sharp reversal in these stimulative trends, the economy should enter 2006 with much more momentum than seemed likely only a few months ago.

**MUCH OF THAT STRENGTH**, surprisingly enough, will be concentrated in the consumer sector, which has weathered the shocks of 2005. The GDP revisions show real consumer spending increased at an annual rate of 4.2% in the third quarter. That's better than the 3.9% pace previously estimated, and it occurred during a

quarter when gasoline prices hit more than \$3 per gallon.

Fourth-quarter spending did get off to a weak start, but the major reason was that domestic auto makers removed the generous financing deals that had propped up sales over the summer, causing a huge drop in car buying from an exaggerated level. Consumers are out again shopping, as indicated by the generally upbeat sales reports from

Black Friday and Cyber Monday.

One reason consumers may be willing to spend is because they are feeling more optimistic about the economy. The Conference Board's index of consumer confidence jumped to 98.9 in November from 85.2 in October (chart). The nearly 14-point gain was the biggest increase in

### A PRE-HOLIDAY BOUNCE IN CONFIDENCE



2½ years. The indexes covering current economic conditions and consumers' assessment for the next six months both rose sharply.

The board attributed the upbeat sentiments to a more than 40¢ drop in the price of a gallon of gas and better job growth. Fewer households rated jobs as "hard to get" in November. By the end of the month, regular gasoline had dropped to an average of \$2.15 nationally, and it had dipped below \$2 in some parts of the country.

**BESIDES THE GAIN IN INCOME** resulting from better job growth, households are also benefiting from the recent rally in the bond market. Bond traders have defied Fed policymakers this year by keeping long-term rates low even as the Fed was hiking short rates. Long yields began to edge up in the fall, when inflation worries cropped up, but yields have since fallen back. Cheap bond yields have been one key financial condition that has stimulated this economy, especially via housing.

Make no mistake, the housing sector is cooling, but activity will slow in fits and starts. Look at what occurred in October. Sales of existing homes fell off as expected,

CHARTS BY ERIC HOFFMANN/BW



dipping 2.7% to a still impressive annual rate of 7.1 million. But new home sales jumped by 13%, to a record annual rate of 1.42 million.

Buyers, worried that rates would continue to rise, may have rushed to close a sale. But if bond yields remain low, mortgage rates could stay close to 6% in coming weeks. That would provide continued support for housing demand. More important, the dip in rates will encourage some additional refinancing activity that will bolster consumer spending as homeowners extract extra cash from their homes.

**CONSUMERS AREN'T CARRYING** this economy alone, though. Businesses are also contributing more to growth than they did in previous years. According to the new GDP data, inventories fell by the biggest amount since the 2001 recession. Rebuilding stockpiles will require more gains in production in coming months. And business investment in plant and equipment remains strong.

In particular, equipment outlays grew at a 10.8% rate in the third quarter, up from the original estimate of 8.9%. The pace could be even faster this quarter, based on the October rebound in capital-goods orders and shipments, after being depressed in September by the hurricanes and the strike at Boeing Co. Even excluding aircraft, equipment orders continue their steady uptrend.

Easy access to money, whether from good profits growth, abundant cash flow, or cheap borrowing costs, has enabled companies to boost their capital spending budgets. The BEA's tally of third-quarter corporate

profits, which accompanied its GDP update, showed that economywide earnings fell by \$45 billion from the second quarter. However, that included \$151.2 billion in hurricane-related losses. Adjusting for the BEA's estimates of storm losses incurred both this year and in last year's third quarter, profits from current production

are up 21.4% from a year ago, the strongest showing in three years (chart).

But the really interesting feature of last quarter's earnings is the way profit margins held up despite the hurricanes and surging energy costs. Profits of nonfinancial corporations remained at an exceptionally high 13.2% of the sector's GDP.

#### HOW THE STORMS AFFECTED EARNINGS



That was down only slightly from the record 13.3% hit in the second quarter, and it continues to surpass the previous record reached back in 1997.

With strong earnings fueling capital spending, and with improving confidence and better job markets powering consumer outlays, overall demand will be strong enough to energize the economy heading into 2006. And while only time will tell if the Colts will remain unbeaten, little in the data suggests that the economy will be thrown for a loss anytime soon. ■

## EXCHANGE RATES

# The Dollar Is Still Defying Gravity

**ONE BIG SURPRISE** of 2005 has been the rise of the dollar. Higher interest rates in the U.S. vis-à-vis the rest of the world have partially bolstered the currency. But now that other central banks are set to begin raising rates, the question becomes whether the greenback will retain its value in 2006 given the huge U.S. current-account deficit.

So far this year the dollar is up 3% on a trade-weighted basis and it has jumped 13% against the euro and 15% against the yen. Foreign companies and investors still have confidence in the American economy. It's their investments that are lifting the dollar and could offset any weakness resulting from higher

interest rates in Europe and Japan (page 84).

A good sign of that confidence is foreign direct investment (FDI), which flows into hard assets such as equipment and structures. In the first half, FDI in the U.S. totaled \$47.8 billion, and for all of 2005 it should equal or exceed last year's total of \$95.9 billion. What's more important, says Joseph Quinlan, chief market

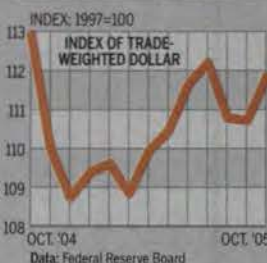
strategist at Bank of America Corp.'s Investment Strategies Group, is that the data refute the notion that China and the U.S. are fighting for funds. FDI into China should total about \$55 billion in 2005, down from \$60.6 billion in 2004.

Global investors also continue to snap up U.S.-issued

securities such as Treasury bonds and corporate equities. In September, net foreign buying of U.S. securities hit a record \$101.9 billion. Treasury data show that Britain has been a big purchaser of U.S. securities, but analysts at Capital Economics in London think that these inflows might be the result of excess oil revenues from the Middle East and Russia being channeled through Britain and into U.S. markets. If so, a reversal in oil prices could result in a dip in foreign purchases of U.S. securities.

The falloff, however, may not be enough to cause any sudden drop in the dollar. That has been a fear in 2005, given the growing U.S. current-account deficit, the broadest measure of America's IOUs to the rest of the world. The day of reckoning over its huge imbalance looks likely to be postponed as long as foreign investors are content to park their cash in the U.S. ■

#### THE U.S. DOLLAR: 2005'S COMEBACK KID





# OH, THAT MISERABLE ECONOMY!

The strong data on jobs, growth, and even house prices belie the naysayers

By Matthew Benjamin

To paraphrase Bob Dylan, you don't need a Wall Street economist to know which way the economy is blowing. For weeks, the experts have worked themselves into a cold sweat worrying about inflation, aftereffects of the killer hurricanes, oil prices, avian flu, and the prospect of the red-hot housing market turning white cold. Rest easy. Things are nowhere near as bad as the worrywarts would have you believe, if recent bountiful economic data are any indication. Indeed, firms added a rock-solid 215,000 jobs in November, the government reported last week. And estimates of third-quarter growth of gross domestic product were revised up from a healthy 3.8 percent to a blistering 4.3 percent. Improved figures on residential housing, business investment, and personal spending fueled the new number. So, what else is there to worry about?

## Golden Times for Metals

Gold, that favorite of inflation-phobes and doomsdayers everywhere, is on a roll, topping \$500 an ounce, a level it last reached in 1987. The bullion bull market is 4½ years old, which also coincides with a period of benign inflation and a recovering economy.

"Gold is a safe-haven hedge against global imbalances," like the trade deficit, a low savings rate, and high household debt levels, says Joe Foster, portfolio manager of the Van Eck International Investors Gold fund. Other metals are soaring, too—have you checked out platinum at \$1,000 an ounce and counting? That's a 25-year high for the white metal; less-than-glitzy copper is also at record highs. "People are seeking some way of protecting their wealth in the event that some economic catastrophe does happen," says Foster. Ah, those doomsdayers.

But maybe there's another explanation. Growing wealth in regions of the world

where consumers have long lusted after the metal—Asia and the Middle East, most prominently—is also bolstering gold's price. Also helping, perhaps, is a strong economy in America, where lovebirds still woo one another with fancy baubles.

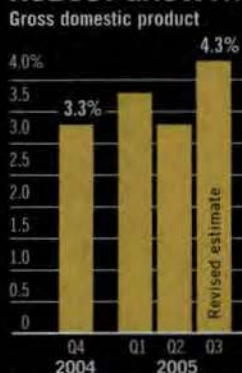
## Fewer Homes Sold, but at Higher Prices

Now here's something to really fret about. After all, you can sell the SUV if oil hits \$100 a barrel or pawn the gold bracelet if you are laid off. But you still need a roof over your head, and lately

## More Paychecks and Rising Confidence

Job growth in November proved strong, with big gains in construction and services. Even manufacturing, long the weak link in the U.S. economy, added a net 11,000 jobs, and monthly job growth returned to its pre-Hurricane Katrina trend, a sign of the economy's resilience. The unemployment rate remained unchanged at 5 percent, though wages are still growing slowly. All in all, it was a solid report that did little to rattle the inflation-ob-

### ROBUST GROWTH



L.L. Bean workers fill online orders at its shipping center in Maine.

it's been looking as if the roof may be springing a leak. Yet no sooner had the ink dried on the housing-boom-is-over stories when up popped a report showing a 13 percent jump in new-home sales in October. True, there was a slight 2.7 percent dip in sales of previously owned homes, and the supply of available houses rose to 4.9 months, from 4.3 months a year ago. As for prices, they are still rising: The median national price of an existing home is \$218,000, 16.6 percent higher than a year ago. If there is still a dark cloud out there, it is that homes are becoming less affordable with the 30-year-fixed mortgage rate at 6.28 percent, more than a half percentage point above rates at the beginning of 2005. Add a rising price to a costlier loan, and home affordability is sinking like a rock. Maybe the gold bugs are on to something after all.

essed on Wall Street. Indeed, the Dow Jones industrial average has been flirting with 11,000 in recent days. Still, says Joseph Ellis, author of *Ahead of the Curve: A Commonsense Guide to Forecasting Business and Market Cycles*, "the employment rate shows you where we've been, not where we're going." He looks instead at growth in consumer spending as the primary indicator of the economy's health. Unfortunately, the profligate consumer of the summer months seems to have disappeared, with spending up a meager 0.2 percent in October.

Consumer confidence, however, rose briskly in November, amid falling gas prices. Some investors say that augurs a healthy return to the mall this winter by consumers. Bet the first place you'll find them is in all those jewelry stores. ●

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