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From: Brett M. Kavanaugh (CN=Brett M. Kavanaugh/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
To: Helgard C. Walker (CN=Helgard C. Walker/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [WHO])
Subject: : POOL REPORT 07/11/01 #1

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)
CREATOR: Brett M. Kavanaugh (CN=Brett M. Kavanaugh/OU=WHO/O=EOP [WHO])
CREATION DATE/TIME: 11-JUL-2001 11:37:10.00
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P6/b(6)

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Dana Milbank
Washington Post

P6/b(6)

Our protagonist departed the White House near unto 9:20 this morning, bound for the Capitol in a determined effort to find Gary Condit. Actually, he was to meet with the House Republican caucus. Your pool watched as POTUS descended into the bowels of the Capitol's west side accompanied by Speaker Hastert at 9:30. "We're going to talk about a lot of things," the president informed the pool. "We're going to get a lot of things done for America." The president and the caucus got so many things done for America so quickly that the hour-long meeting lasted only 45 minutes: a 25 minute speech by the president and 20 minutes of schmoozing. No Q&A with members.

Here, according to Lawrence A. Fleischer, is what occurred behind closed doors. The president told the members he would "focus on the American people" and informed them about "how optimistic he is" and reminded them that "we're doing incredibly positive things for America." Fleischer disclosed that our subject viewed the tax cut as "timely and necessary" and he thanked the members for passing the supplemental appropriation, which "shows the American people we can address shortfalls without loading up

spending bills." He praised the GOP members as "good stewards of the people's money." On patients' rights, he said, controversially, that he favors a bill that "honors patients." "We're 90 percent there," quoth he. "I'm here to ask you to continue to work so I can be given a bill that I can sign." Bush praised the Fletcher bill as a "good compromise," which drew applause from most but not all members.

The big news of the day was made when our protagonist spoke about education. He declared that education is "a passion for me." In addition to this startling revelation, he made a case for free trade and his faith-based initiative. "I saw it work its magic," he told the members of his faith plan. Fleischer said Bush was advised the House may act on the patients and faith bills "as soon as next week." Bush reiterated his urging that education legislation conferees "need to go to conference."

Our hero worked a rope line in the rotunda of about 150 tourists, many with cameras and in shorts. He was accompanied by Card, Calio, Bolten and Fleischer. He emerged to applause in the sunny atrium, shaking Hastert's hand at the entrance and then spending a few minutes shaking hands and signing autographs on the rope line. Nothing audible. He gave a glance at the penned-in pool and left the scene.