

From: "Kavanaugh, Brett M."
To: "Kaplan, Joel"
Subject: FW: POOL REPORT #1, 2/8/06
Sent: Wed, 8 Feb 2006 11:35:11 -0500

[Kaplan unplugged.](#)

From: bounce-171435-115219@list.whitehouse.gov [mailto:bounce-171435-115219@list.whitehouse.gov] **On**
Behalf Of White House Press Releases
Sent: Wednesday, February 08, 2006 11:31 AM
To: Kavanaugh, Brett M.
Subject: POOL REPORT #1, 2/8/06

Pool Report #1
Feb. 8, 2006
Andrews-Manchester, N.H.

President, in top coat, strode to the steps, followed by McClellan, Rove, Card, and Joel Kaplan (deputy OMB director).

Wheels up 10:14 a.m. for 52-minute flight.

Card gave Kaplan a tour of the plane.

Gaggle stuff, from McClellan:

The president had a "very good visit" with King Abdullah of Jordan, with whom he also had dinner last night, joined by several members of Congress.

Summary of the speech today: low taxes are good, economic growth is good. Going after earmarks is good. The budget needs sunset provisions. The president needs a line-item veto. Government programs should get results.

Afternoon events-drop-by a staff-level meeting with CEOs from the Business Roundtable, deficit-reduction act signing, and a bicameral Republican leadership meeting on the 2006 agenda (GWOT, economy, budget).

Gaggle stuff, from Kaplan:

He defended the process of seeking cuts, year after year, saying that in the first year, Congress may not be receptive, but that it is "more receptive" the second time around. He cited examples: two years ago, 65 cuts were proposed, 7 were enacted. Last year, 154 proposed, 89 enacted. "You have to keep going back and explaining why these programs aren't working," he said. ".....In the budget world, that's how you make progress."

Asked about criticism of the budget in the Manchester Union-Leader (which your pooler hasn't seen), he said, "we think this is a very restrained budget."

Deficit estimates, too, are realistic he said (this in reference to

questions about Iraq spending and AMT future).

There was a lengthy defense of the performance assessment rating program.

Gaggle stuff, from McClellan (which your pooler now sees came up in the Oval transcript)

On the cartoons (you know which ones):

"We condemn the violence that has taken place. It's important for people to show tolerance and respect. We're also a society that respects freedom of the press (which comes with responsibilities)." In addition, he called on governments to respect expressions of dissent but to restrict the violence.

Coretta Scott King memorial (and the political tenor of the day):

"The president and Mrs. Bush were very honored to attend the celebration of Mrs. King's life....This was a time to pay tribute to her and all that she accomplished....The president expressed his views very clearly in the remarks that he made."

Were some of the comments inappropriate? He wouldn't express a judgment.

What about Rep. Heather Wilson's raising objections to the NSA monitoring?

"Terrorist surveillance program is a vital tool. This is a hot-pursuit effort"

For details, of course, see transcript.

Now in motorcade

Jim Gerstenzang
Los Angeles Times

C: b(6)