

Sent: 2 APR 2004 18:12:59
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To: Desiree T. Sayle (CN=Desiree T. Sayle/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Kristen Silverberg (CN=Kristen Silverberg/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Joshua B. Bolten (CN=Joshua B. Bolten/OU=OMB/O=EOP@Exchange [OMB]), Israel Hernandez (CN=Israel Hernandez/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Joseph W Hagin (CN=Joseph W Hagin/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [UNKNOWN]), Peter H. Wehner (CN=Peter H. Wehner/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Eric C. Pelletier (CN=Eric C. Pelletier/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Michael H. Miller (CN=Michael H. Miller/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Gregory J. Jenkins (CN=Gregory J. Jenkins/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), John Gordon (CN=John Gordon/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), John P. Walters (CN=John P. Walters/OU=ONDCP/O=EOP@Exchange [ONDCP]), Karl C. Rove (CN=Karl C. Rove/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Linda M. Gambatesa (CN=Linda M. Gambatesa/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Clay Johnson III (CN=Clay Johnson III/OU=OMB/O=EOP@Exchange [OMB]), Ruben S. Barrales (CN=Ruben S. Barrales/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Margaret M. Spellings (CN=Margaret M. Spellings/OU=OPD/O=EOP@Exchange [OPD]), Andrea G. Ball (CN=Andrea G. Ball/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Lezlee J. Westine (CN=Lezlee J. Westine/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), David G. Leitch (CN=David G. Leitch/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Scott McClellan (CN=Scott McClellan/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Suzy DeFrancis (CN=Suzy DeFrancis/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Melissa S. Bennett (CN=Melissa S. Bennett/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Harriet Miers (CN=Harriet Miers/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Condoleezza Rice (CN=Condoleezza Rice/OU=NSC/O=EOP@EOP [NSC]), Andrew H. Card (CN=Andrew H. Card/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Brett M. Kavanaugh (CN=Brett M. Kavanaugh/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Jim Towey (CN=Jim Towey/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Brian D. Montgomery (CN=Brian D. Montgomery/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), John P. McConnell (CN=John P. McConnell/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Keith Hennessey (CN=Keith Hennessey/OU=OPD/O=EOP@Exchange [OPD]), Gary R. Edson (CN=Gary R. Edson/OU=NSC/O=EOP@EOP [NSC]), John H. Marburger (CN=John H. Marburger/OU=OSTP/O=EOP@Exchange [OSTP]), Stephen J. Hadley (CN=Stephen J. Hadley/OU=NSC/O=EOP@EOP [NSC]), James Connaughton (CN=James Connaughton/OU=CEQ/O=EOP@Exchange [CEQ]), Barry S. Jackson (CN=Barry S. Jackson/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Stephen Friedman (CN=Stephen Friedman/OU=OPD/O=EOP@Exchange [OPD]), Lewis Libby (CN=Lewis Libby/OU=OVP/O=EOP@Exchange [OVP]), Dina Powell (CN=Dina Powell/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), David W. Hobbs (CN=David W. Hobbs/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Alberto R. Gonzales (CN=Alberto R. Gonzales/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Michael J. Gerson (CN=Michael J. Gerson/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO]), Daniel J. Bartlett (CN=Daniel J. Bartlett/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO])
Bcc: Jennifer G. Newstead (CN=Jennifer G. Newstead/OU=OMB/O=EOP [OMB])
Subject: : Cabinet Report for the Week of April 5, 2004
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CREATOR: Taylor A. Hughes (CN=Taylor A. Hughes/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO])

CREATION DATE/TIME: 2-APR-2004 18:12:59.00

SUBJECT: : Cabinet Report for the Week of April 5, 2004

TO: Desiree T. Sayle (CN=Desiree T. Sayle/OU=WHO/O=EOP@Exchange [WHO])

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Cabinet Report

For the Week of April 5, 2004

Office of Cabinet Affairs

April 2, 2004

456-2572 (EEOB)

456-0165 (WW)

**TOP ITEMS
FOR THE WEEK OF APRIL 5, 2004**

- ***U.S.-Canada Task Force Release Final Report on August Blackout.***
On April 5, Secretary Abraham and John Efford, Minister of Natural Resources Canada, will release the Final Report of the Task Force investigating the August 14, 2003 blackout. The final report outlines the four causes of the power outage and why the outage was not contained. It also presents comprehensive policy recommendations to minimize the likelihood of future blackouts. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) chaired the Task Force's Security Working Group, which included state homeland security advisors, Federal representatives, and Governor-selected representatives from the states affected by the power outage. DHS also participated in various subcommittees that were responsible for investigating the causes of the power outage and developing recommendations.
- ***Secretary Thompson to Promote Polio Eradication.***
Secretary Thompson will travel to Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India this week to promote polio eradication efforts in three of the six countries worldwide that still have endemic cases of polio. Secretary Thompson will also use this opportunity to visit HHS assets and programs, and to promote the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, in his role as Chairman of the Board of the Global Fund.
- ***Secretary Evans to Address Manufacturers in Minneapolis, Minnesota.***
On April 5, Secretary Evans will address executives from small- and medium-sized Minnesota manufacturers gathered in Minneapolis. The Secretary will discuss your manufacturing agenda and progress in implementing the recommendations from Commerce's recent manufacturing report.
- ***Senate Expected to Act on Judicial Nominations.***
The Department of Justice expects that a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing originally scheduled for March 31 will be rescheduled for April 8. The hearing will be on the nominations of William Duane Benton to be a U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; Robert Bryan Harwell to be a U.S. District Judge for the District of South Carolina, and George P. Schiavelli to be a U.S. District Judge for the Central District of California.
- ***Secretary Mineta to Unveil Traffic Safety Report at World Health Day Conference.***
On April 7, Secretary Mineta will lead the U.S. delegation to the World Health Organization's observation of World Health Day in Paris. The WHO will emphasize road safety as a critical international public health issue and Secretary Mineta will participate in the unveiling of the new *World Health Report on Road Traffic Injury Prevention*.
- ***New Zealand Foreign Minister Visit to Washington from April 6 to 8.***
New Zealand Foreign Minister Philip Goff will visit Washington from April 6 to 8. He will meet separately with Secretary Powell and Dr. Rice to discuss New Zealand's contributions in Iraq and Afghanistan; counter-terrorism; and New Zealand's desire to begin negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement.

PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATIONS

- **State of North Dakota: Severe Winter Storms.**
Issued April 2. Emergency Declaration for Public Assistance.
- **State of Mississippi: Failure of Big Bay Lake Dam.**
Denied April 2. Individual Assistance and Hazard Mitigation requested.

KEY SPEAKING AND TRAVEL ENGAGEMENTS

Date	Location	Audience / Event	Speech
<i>Secretary Abraham</i>			
05 Apr	Orlando, FL	School Energy Announcement	Announcement of School's Energy Efficient Improvements/ Launching of Utility Report Card
<i>Secretary Chao</i>			
06 Apr	Washington, D.C.	Skilled Trades Initiative Launch	Shortage of Skilled Trades People in Economy
07 Apr	Columbus, OH and Milwaukee, WI	Economic Travel	In-sourcing
08 Apr	New York, NY	Meeting with Labor Leaders	Outreach to Unions
08 Apr	New York, NY	<i>Good Housekeeping</i> Magazine Editorial Board and Advertisers Lunch	President's Economic Agenda
09 Apr	New York, NY	National Association of Asian American Professionals	Administration Accomplishments on Asian Pacific American Issues

<i>Secretary Evans</i>			
05 Apr	Minneapolis, MN	Manufacturing Tomorrow: A Call to Action	Supporting Engagement and Rejecting Economic Isolationism
<i>Secretary Jackson</i>			
06 Apr	Washington, D.C.	Black America's Political Action Committee	Opening Remarks: African American Outreach
<i>Administrator Leavitt</i>			
05 Apr	Albuquerque, NM	National Hispanic Sustainable Energy and Environment Conference	Bush Clean Air Rules for 2004
<i>Secretary Mineta</i>			
03 - 09 Apr	Rotterdam, Netherlands; Brussels, Belgium; Paris, France	Official Travel	TBD
07 Apr	Paris, France	Representative of U.S.A. for Road Safety Health Issue on World Health Day for the World Health Organization (United Nations)	TBD

<i>Secretary Paige</i>			
06 Apr	Washington, D.C.	Italian Minister of Education Working Lunch and Meetings	N/A
06 Apr	Washington, D.C.	Black America's Political Action Committee	TBD
07 Apr	Las Vegas, NV	School Visit; Business Roundtable	No Child Left Behind
08 Apr	Albuquerque, NM	Chamber of Commerce Lunch	No Child Left Behind
<i>Secretary Powell</i>			
09 Apr	Washington, D.C.	Meet with French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte	N/A
<i>Secretary Principi</i>			
07 Apr	Denver, CO	Town Hall with Rep. Beauprez (R – CO, 7 th District)	Veterans Issues
08 - 09	Aspen, CO	Disabled Winter Sports Clinic Events and Ceremonies	Encouraging Message to Veterans
<i>Secretary Ridge</i>			
05 Apr	Portland, Oregon	Visit Governor Kulongoski; Speak at Port; Grant Announcement; First Responders Roundtable	Homeland Security
06 Apr	Seattle, Washington	Meet with Seattle Times Editorial Board; Interviews with Networks; Council of Excellence in Government Meeting; Speak with Microsoft Corporation Employees and Senior Leadership	Homeland Security

<i>Secretary Thompson</i>			
05 - 06 Apr	Saudi Arabia; Afghanistan	Official Travel	TBD
07 Apr	Pakistan	Official Travel; Polio Event	TBD
08 Apr	India	Official Travel	TBD
b(6)			
<i>Secretary Veneman</i>			
06 Apr	Washington, D. C.	National Press Club Luncheon	Agriculture and the 21 st Century
08 Apr	Washington, D. C.	Sign USDA Crop Report	TBD

SCHEDULED CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

Date	Hearing
<i>Secretary Principi</i>	
06 Apr	Senate Appropriations Committee
<i>Secretary Powell</i>	
08 Apr	Senate Appropriations Committee on Foreign Operations on the President's FY 2005 Budget Request

CABINET REPORT

For the Week of April 5, 2004

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- ***Secretary Veneman to speak at National Press Club.***

On April 6, Secretary Veneman will be the luncheon speaker at the National Press Club. The speech will cover "Agriculture and the 21st Century." Secretary Veneman will discuss your vision for agriculture as outlined in USDA's policy book "Food and Agricultural Policy – Taking Stock for a New Century." She will also outline the many agriculture-related accomplishments of your Administration.

- ***USDA and USAID to Host Export Food Aid Conference.***

From April 20 to 22, USDA and USAID will host the annual Export Food Aid Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. The conference will highlight the 50th Anniversary of the Agricultural Trade and Development Assistance Act, which has been a key component of USDA's commitment to providing international agricultural assistance.

Press Activity:

- ***The Des Moines Register on the Conservation Security Program.***

The Des Moines Register is developing a story on the Conservation Security Program. USDA is coordinating an interview between the reporter and Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Bruce Knight. The piece is expected to run the week of April 5.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

- ***Secretary Evans to Meet with Russian Defense Minister Ivanov.***

On April 6, Secretary Evans will meet with Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov. Secretary Evans will discuss priorities for U.S.- Russia commercial relations, export controls, and cooperation in energy including the Commercial Energy Dialogue.

- ***Upcoming Economic Indicator Releases from Commerce.***

April 5: Quarterly Financial Report for Manufacturing, Mining, Wholesale Trade, Q4 2003

April 5: Quarterly Financial Report for Retail Sales, Q4 2003

April 8: Monthly Wholesale Trade, Sales and Inventories, February 2004

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

- ***Italian Minister of Education to Meet with Secretary Paige.***
On April 6, Secretary Paige will host a luncheon for Minister Letizia Brichetto Arnaboldi Moratti, Italy's Minister of Education. Among other topics, Minister Moratti will discuss changes to a current discriminatory practice in Italy that denies American literature majors the option of becoming teachers of English.
- ***Paige to Address Black America's Political Action Committee.***
On April 6, Secretary Paige will deliver remarks at the Black America's Political Action Committee Conference in Washington, D.C. Secretary Paige will discuss No Child Left Behind and your Administration's achievements in education.
- ***Secretary Paige to Visit Las Vegas.***
On April 7, Secretary Paige will be in Las Vegas to visit a local school and participate in a business roundtable with community and business leaders on No Child Left Behind.
- ***Secretary Paige to Visit Albuquerque, New Mexico.***
On April 8, Secretary Paige will be in Albuquerque to participate in an Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, visit a Tribal College, and host a minority roundtable on No Child Left Behind.

Press Activity:

- ***Interview with Associated Press on No Child Left Behind.***
On April 6, Secretary Paige will conduct an interview with the national education reporter for the Associated Press to discuss No Child Left Behind.
- ***Media Availabilities on No Child Left Behind.***
Secretary Paige will hold media availabilities on April 7 in Las Vegas on April 8 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- ***Secretary Paige Submits Letters to the Editor on No Child Left Behind.***
Secretary Paige submitted letters to the editor of *The Boston Globe* and *The Kalamazoo (MI) Gazette* in response to the editorial, "A Law Left Behind," on March 26. A publication date has not yet been confirmed.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- ***Secretary Abraham Unveils the Nation's First On-Line "Utility Report Card."***
On April 5, Secretary Abraham will join officials from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Orange County Public Schools and Walt Disney World Co., to launch an initiative that helps schools reduce utility bills and save millions of dollars. This initiative is the Nation's first on-line "Utility Report Card" which tracks, evaluates, and charts energy consumption in schools.

- ***Energy Department Advances Your Hydrogen Fuel Initiative in Florida.***
On April 8, Assistant Secretary of Energy David Garman will participate in an event marking the installation of a fuel cell at North Point High School in Sarasota, Florida – the first such installation at a Florida school. Hydrogen education is a key component of your Hydrogen Fuel Initiative.
- ***Energy Science Director to Meet with Prime Minister Blair’s Science Advisor.***
On April 8 and 9, Raymond Orbach, Director of the Department of Energy’s Office of Science, will meet with Dr. David King, Science Advisor to Prime Minister Blair. They will discuss the international negotiations for a site for the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project.

Press Activity:

- ***U.S. Russia Work on Iran.***
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors have returned to Iran. One location of particular interest is the Isfahan site, where Iran began operating a uranium conversion facility the week of March 28. This development was reported to the IAEA in February and, according to an IAEA spokeswoman, was not subject to the suspension of Iranian enrichment activities put in place last month.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

- ***Oral Argument in Challenge to Clean Air Act Standards for Snowmobiles.***
On April 12, the D.C. Circuit will hear oral arguments in an industry and environmental group challenge to EPA’s emission standards for snowmobiles. The industry petitioners are arguing that EPA has not made certain findings under the Clean Air Act that are a prerequisite to regulating snowmobiles or certain emissions from snowmobiles.

Press Activity:

- ***Administrator Leavitt to Speak in New Mexico.***
Administrator Leavitt’s April 5 speech to the National Hispanic Sustainable Energy and Environmental Conference in Albuquerque, NM may attract press interest.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

- ***CMS to Host Medicare Drug Card National Conference.***
On April 7-8, The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a national conference in Washington, D.C. entitled “Medicare – Approved Drug Discount Card: The First Step.”

- ***New Evidence Report/Technology Assessment on Literacy and Health Outcomes.***
On April 8, the Agency for Health Care Research Quality will release the findings of a new evidence report on literacy and health outcomes that was requested by the American Medical Association. The report indicates that more than 90 million adults in the United States have poor literacy, which would cause them to have trouble understanding pieces of health-related information. Those with poor reading skills are believed to have greater difficulty navigating the health care system and to be at risk of experiencing worse health outcomes than those with better reading skills.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

- ***Secretary Ridge to Travel to Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington.***
From April 5 to 6, Secretary Ridge will be in Portland, Oregon and Seattle, Washington. While in Oregon, he will participate in an informal meeting with Oregon Governor Ted Kulongoski. He will also participate in a roundtable on First Responder grant awards.

Press Activity:

- ***Secretary Ridge to Meet with the Seattle Times Editorial Board.***
On April 6, Secretary Ridge will meet with the *Seattle Times* Editorial Board about DHS successes in its first year and priorities for the year ahead.
- ***Assistant Secretary Garcia to Interview with Lou Dobbs of CNN.***
On April 6, Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement Mike Garcia will be interviewed by Lou Dobbs of CNN about immigration and customs enforcement issues.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

- ***American Dream Downpayment Initiative Rule Published.***
The American Dream Downpayment Initiative interim rule was published in the *Federal Register* on March 30 and will be effective on April 29. Funds will be distributed to the more than 400 participating jurisdictions immediately afterward. It is estimated that this initiative will provide downpayment and closing costs assistance to 40,000 low-income families a year from FY 2004 to FY 2007.
- ***HUD Increases Maximum Limits on Multifamily Mortgages.***
On April 2, a final rule will take effect that will enable more multifamily properties to become eligible for FHA mortgage insurance. Currently, the Secretary is authorized to increase the maximum mortgage amounts in certain multifamily housing insurance programs, by up to a 110-percent increase of the limit on a geographical basis and up to a 140-percent increase on a project-by-project basis. Once the rule takes effect, those exceptions will be up to a 140-percent geographical increase and up to a 170-percent project-by-project increase.

Press Activity:

- ***HUD to Kick Off Fair Housing Month.***
On April 1, HUD will kick off Fair Housing Month in Mobile, Alabama, and will release a statement to national and local media.
- ***U.S. Banker on Trends in Emerging Markets.***
U.S. Banker reporter Matthew de Paula interviewed Assistant Secretary John Weicher on the demand for mortgages/homes among emerging markets for the May issue. Economists and bankers have said this segment represents a major business opportunity for mortgages and residential real estate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

- ***National Park Service Visitor Screening at Independence National Historical Park.***
The National Park Service is implementing a pilot program for visitor screening at the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. Under the pilot plan, visitors now pass through one screening area and are escorted from one section of the park to the other. The park is requesting changes in traffic patterns from the City of Philadelphia to ensure visitor safety and provide for a more efficient operation.
- ***The Bureau of Reclamation to Close Davis Dam.***
Due to security concerns, the Bureau of Reclamation plans to close indefinitely the roadway across the top of Davis Dam to all vehicle traffic beginning April 12. The dam is located on the Colorado River about one mile north of Bullhead City, Arizona and Laughlin, Nevada. Since 1987, the road has primarily been used as an alternate route to a bridge that connects the two communities. Letters have been received from both Senator John Ensign (R-NV) and Congressman Jon Porter (R-NV) expressing concern about the closure of the road.

Press Activity:

- ***Secretary Norton to Tour Gulf Coast States.***
From April 5 to 9, the Secretary will tour various coastal and wetlands related venues in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. She will highlight your commitment to protecting coastal environments. Media outreach is planned at most stops.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

- ***Partial-Birth Abortion Trials Continue in New York, Nebraska, and California.***
Trials in all three constitutional challenges to the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act started on March 29 are set for four weeks in New York, two weeks in Nebraska, and three weeks in California.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

- ***Secretary Chao to Launch Skilled Trades Initiative.***

On April 6, Secretary Chao will launch DOL's Skilled Trades Initiative, which will highlight job opportunities for workers in the skilled trades. Partners participating in the initiative include industry and labor union leadership from the National Heavy and Highway Alliance and their affiliated labor unions, the Construction Industry Roundtable, representing the 100 largest construction firms in the Nation, and the National Association of Home Builders.

- ***DOL to Kick Off "Stay Out-Stay Alive" National Safety Campaign.***

On April 7, Mine Safety and Health Administration Assistant Secretary Dave Lauriski will speak to students at the Wyman Elementary School in Rolla, Missouri, where he will formally kick off the 2004 national public awareness campaign of "Stay Out-Stay Alive." This effort is aimed at educating and warning children about the dangers of playing on mine property.

- ***Coal Mine Belt Air Final Rule to be Published.***

On April 2, the Mine Safety and Health Administration will publish its Coal Mine Belt Air final rule in the *Federal Register*. The rule will allow the use of conveyor belt air in coal mines to ventilate the mines' working areas or areas where mining equipment is being installed or removed. Previously, coal mine operators needed to secure approval of a petition for modification before they could use belt air for such purposes.

Press Activity:

- ***Expected Media Coverage on Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics.***

April 7: U.S. Import and Export Price Indexes, March 2004

April 9: Metropolitan Area Employment and Unemployment, February 2004

April 14: Consumer Price Index, March 2004

April 14: Real Earnings, March 2004

- ***Good Housekeeping Magazine to Host Secretary Chao.***

On April 8, Secretary Chao will address *Good Housekeeping* Magazine's Luncheon in New York City. Guests at the lunch include key members of the national media, *Good Housekeeping* editors, and advertisers.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY

- ***Director Walters to Visit Chicago for 25-Cities Initiative.***

On April 7 as a part of the 25-Cities Initiative, Director Walters will meet with Mayor Richard Daley and Chicago-area government and non-profit anti-drug leaders to develop a plan to reduce drug abuse in Chicago. Following the meeting, the group will hold a press conference to discuss Chicago's local action plan.

- ***Walters to Host Bi-National Demand Reduction Conference.***
Director Walters will host a U.S.-Mexico Bi-National Demand Reduction Conference in Phoenix, Arizona on May 6 and 7. Mexican Health Minister Frenk will lead the Mexican delegation. Leading experts in substance abuse prevention and treatment are expected to share best practices.

OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

- ***Director James Kicking Off Presidential Management Fellows Job Fair.***
On April 5, OPM Director James will speak to Presidential Management Fellows finalists at the April 5 to 7 job fair at the Washington Convention Center, as well as current fellows from the Washington, D.C. area.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

- ***Oman Foreign Minister Visit to Washington from April 7 to 9.***
Oman Foreign Minister Yousuf bin Alawi will visit Washington from April 7 to 9. He will meet with Secretary Powell and top aides, Deputy National Security Advisor Hadley, and either Secretary Rumsfeld or Deputy Secretary of Defense Wolfowitz. Topics for discussion will include Iraq and Article 98 agreement status.
- ***Parliamentary Elections in Indonesia on April 5.***
Parliamentary elections will take place in Indonesia on April 5 for over 16,000 national, provincial, and district seats. The election results will determine which parties may nominate candidates for the first round presidential election on July 5. The opposition party appears poised to recapture a plurality in the national parliament at the expense of President Megawati's party. For the first time, the new national parliament will no longer allocate appointed seats for the military. Voter turnout is expected to be above 90 percent.

Press Activity:

- ***Senate Testimony on FY 2005 Budget Request.***
On April 8, Secretary Powell will testify before the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations regarding your FY 2005 budget request for the Department of State.
- ***Op-Ed Entitled "Open Doors, Secure Borders" Pitched to International Herald Tribune.***
On March 31, the State Department pitched an op-ed entitled "Open Doors, Secure Borders" to the *International Herald Tribune*. No publication date has been set.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

- ***Secretary Mineta to Meet E.U. Counterpart on U.S./E.U. Aviation Agreement.***
On April 5 and 6, Secretary Mineta will be in Brussels, Belgium to meet with European Commission Vice President and Commissioner for Transport and Energy Loyola de Palacio and Commissioner for Competition Policy Mario Monti. Among other items, Secretary Mineta will discuss the ongoing aviation negotiations between the U.S. and the E.U. The goal of the negotiations is to replace U.S. aviation treaties with individual E.U. member states with one uniform U.S.-E.U. Aviation Agreement.
- ***DOT Officials to Set Stage for Aviation Talks at U.S./China Aviation Symposium.***
Key DOT officials will participate in a U.S./China Aviation Symposium, to be held in Beijing from April 2 to 9, in advance of the third round of negotiations on an aviation services liberalization agreement with China. The negotiations on the agreement, aimed at substantially increasing passenger and cargo service opportunities for U.S. airlines, are scheduled for April 27 to 29 in Beijing.

Press Activity:

- ***Broadcast/Print Interviews Stress Administration's Rapid Response to I-95 Accident.***
During the week of April 5, DOT's Federal Highway Administration will continue press outreach efforts relating to the temporary shutdown of a segment of I-95 in Connecticut, and Administration efforts to support speedy repairs. Federal Highway Administrator Mary Peters has conducted three interviews regarding the I-95 accident in Bridgeport, Connecticut: WTHN (ABC) in Hartford/New Haven, Connecticut; WNPR, National Public Radio in Connecticut; and the Connecticut Radio News Network.
- ***Federal Highway Administrator Peters Interviewed on Highway Tolls.***
On March 26, Federal Highway Administrator Mary Peters was interviewed by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* on the use of tolls and congestion relief, and the Administration's provisions on tolling in its surface transportation reauthorization proposal (SAFETEA). Administrator Peters was interviewed the previous week by *The New York Times* on the same topic. Publication dates are not known.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

- ***Secretary Snow to Travel to Missouri and Iowa.***
On April 12, Secretary Snow will travel to Kansas City, Missouri, where he will meet with the Small Business Roundtable and attend a luncheon with regional business leaders. On April 15, Secretary Snow will visit Des Moines, Iowa, and make remarks at the Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines Dinner. Secretary Snow will meet with local press throughout the trips.

- ***Deputy Secretary Bodman Travels to Florida.***
On April 7, Deputy Secretary Bodman will travel to Orlando, Florida, where he will tour an Internal Revenue Service facility and meet with IRS workers. The Deputy Secretary will speak with local press throughout the day.
- ***Upcoming Economic Indicator Releases from Treasury.***
April 5: Purchasing Managers' Non-Manufacturing Index (March)
April 7: Import/Export Price Indexes (March)
April 7: Consumer Credit (February)
April 8: Producer Price Index (March)
April 8: Wholesale Trade (February)
April 8: Chain Store Sales (March)
April 10: Blue Chip Forecast

Press Activity:

- ***Secretary Snow to Participate in a Wall Street Journal Radio Interview.***
On April 6, *Wall Street Journal Radio* will interview Secretary Snow on the economy.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

- ***VA Reaches Out to Former POWs.***
On April 9, National Former POW Recognition Day, Secretary Principi will launch a national outreach campaign to inform former POW veterans who are not receiving VA benefits or health care services that they may be eligible for special benefits and services legislated for former POWs. Former POWs receiving VA benefits will be reminded that they should check with VA on their eligibility for additional benefits authorized under recent legislation.
- ***Annual Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic to be Held.***
From April 4 through 11, the Grand Junction, Colorado VA Medical Center and VA's Rocky Mountain Network, in conjunction with the Disabled American Veterans, will host the 18th Annual Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic in Aspen. Approximately 350 disabled military veterans will learn adaptive Alpine and Nordic skiing and will be introduced to a variety of other adaptive activities and sports, such as rock climbing, scuba diving, handcycling, horseback riding, snowmobiling, and sled hockey.

Press Activity:

- ***AP on Returning Veterans.***
Larry Margasak, an investigative reporter in the *Associated Press's* Washington Bureau, has begun researching a multi-part series about the problems and experiences of combat veterans returning home. The series is expected to begin in early April with a story based upon interviews with Secretary Principi and Under Secretary for Health Robert Roswell.

- ***CNN on Returning Veterans.***

CNN reporter Beth Nissen, who has done extensive coverage of the military medical system's treatment of returning combat veterans, is shifting her focus to VA's health care system and its rehabilitative programs. VA officials have tentatively identified Palo Alto, California, as the VA medical center where Nissen can interview patients and staff. No broadcast date has been established.