

**Subject:** Night Note 12/7  
**Sent:** Wed, 7 Dec 2005 21:13:05 -0500  
**From:** "Langdon, James C." <James\_C.\_Langdon@who.eop.gov>  
**To:** <kr@georgewbush.com>, "Rove, Karl C." <K\_Rove@who.eop.gov>, "Hughes, Taylor A." <Taylor\_A.\_Hughes@who.eop.gov>, "Jackson, Barry S." <Barry\_S.\_Jackson@who.eop.gov>, "Smith, Heidi M." <Heidi\_M.\_Smith@who.eop.gov>, "Kavanaugh, Brett M." <Brett\_M.\_Kavanaugh@who.eop.gov>, "West, Christal R." <Christal\_R.\_West@who.eop.gov>, "Weinstein, Jared B." <Jared\_B.\_Weinstein@who.eop.gov>, "Boyer, Matthew W." <Matthew\_W.\_Boyer@who.eop.gov>, "Kropp, Emily L." <Emily\_L.\_Kropp@who.eop.gov>, "Katz, Jeremy L." <Jeremy\_L.\_Katz@who.eop.gov>, "Ralston, Susan B." <Susan\_B.\_Ralston@who.eop.gov>, "Kane, M. Lauren" <Mary\_L.\_Kane@who.eop.gov>, "Hoare, Thomas H." <Thomas\_H.\_Hoare@who.eop.gov>, "Hook, Brian H." <Brian\_H.\_Hook@who.eop.gov>, "Langdon, James C." <James\_C.\_Langdon@who.eop.gov>  
**Cc:** "McMillin, Stephen S." <Stephen\_S.\_McMillin@who.eop.gov>  
[Pending Issues 12-7.doc](#)  
[Policy Time Calendar 12-7.doc](#)  
[Working Group Calendar 12-7.doc](#)  
[Cabinet Member Schedule 12-7.doc](#)

**Pls note- this information is sensitive; eyes only**

Attached are the Pending Issues, the Policy Time Calendar for this month, the Working Group Calendar for this week and next, and the Cabinet Member Schedule for the following week.

Thanks,  
James  
x61475

December 7, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR ANDY CARD, KARL ROVE, JOE HAGIN, and MIKE GERSON

FROM: STEVE MCMILLIN, BRIAN HOOK, and JEREMY KATZ

RE: NIGHT NOTE

**Competitiveness.** Karl spoke to Al today about DPC taking over the policy process from NEC on the National Academy of Sciences "Gathering Storm" recommendations. DPC has outlined a policy process over the next two weeks that will culminate in policy time with the President on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. DPC participated today in a math & science meeting with OSTP, CEA and OMB. The meeting reviewed DPC's proposals for a math & science initiative which includes immigration, education, and workforce components. Based on suggestions from OMB, DPC is working to expand and enhance the proposals to ensure they are an effective use of resources, are not duplicative of already existing programs, fit into the overall strategy, and have measurable goals.

**National Assessment of Adult Literacy Numbers.** The Department of Education hosted a briefing to discuss the upcoming December 15th release of results from the National Assessment of Adult Literacy. The assessment was administered in 2003, the first time since 1992. Summary of the results: 1) 11 million adults are functionally illiterate; 2) Looking at overall literacy levels, the only area that has increased since 1992 is in mathematical literacy; 3) African American scores are up; 4) Hispanic scores are significantly lower; and 5) Adults with a college or graduate degree had lower literacy scores than in 1992. At this point, OMB's FY2007 budget passback zeroes out Adult Education State Grants, which serves the needs of adults who lack basic literacy or a high school diploma.

**Bahrain FTA.** Today the House passed the agreement by a vote of 327-95, with 115 Democrats voting for the bill. We expect the Senate to vote for the agreement next week. If the Senate passes the agreement it is possible the agreement will enter into force on January 1, 2006.

**OFHEO.** NEC has spoken to OMB/OIRA about a proposed OFHEO rule on corporate governance. This rule would propose further restrictions to the circumstances under which Fannie and Freddie could indemnify their directors and officers. OMB/OIRA believe it is proper to send the rule back to OFHEO for reconsideration because it does not meet two key provisions of Executive Order 12866: 1) Identification and Assessment of Alternatives to Direct Regulation; and, 2) Consider Information on the Consequences of the Intended Regulation. The letter was sent this afternoon with NEC and WHC agreement on the language of the return letter.



## Other Issues

- Agriculture Disaster Package (Sommers/NEC; Katz) – Senator Martinez introduced an agriculture disaster package on 11/17 that CBO scores at \$2.1 billion. The bill would provide disaster money for production losses that have occurred as a consequence of five hurricanes (Dennis, Katrina, Rita, Ophelia and Wilma). The bill would assist with losses to program crops, nurseries, citrus, livestock, sugar, timber, and fisheries. This proposal does not address damages incurred as a consequence of other natural disasters (drought, flood, etc). It is likely that any agriculture disaster bill will be attached to the last appropriations bill moving before Congress leaves for the year -- probably the Defense Appropriations bill. Senator Cochran is working on a spending package for ag disasters that have occurred throughout 2005. This package will spend approximately \$4 billion. All producers who have incurred a 35% loss and are in a USDA-designated disaster county will be eligible for payment. He will attempt to attach this package to the DOD Approps bill before Congress adjourns and will likely be successful. The package will be partially, but not fully, offset by cuts in other programs, potentially using some of our Katrina reallocation package as offsets. At a staff level, we have expressed our concern with this package. USDA will spend a record amount on farm programs this year and this approach is certainly excessive based on the payments being made.
- Air Traffic Control Commercialization (Sharp/DPC; Hook) – On 11/28 FAA Administrator Marion Blakey requested Federal mediation to bring the air traffic controller contract negotiations to a close. The union must agree to mediation and has not yet done so. If mediation fails (could be weeks or months), the FAA can declare an impasse and notify Congress of its intent to enforce its contract. If Congress does not act to alter the contract in 60 days, FAA can impose its terms.
- Amtrak Reform (Sharp/DPC; Hook)
- Asbestos (Ho/DPC; Hook)
- Associated Health Plans (Leggitt/DPC; Katz)
- *Avian Flu (Venkaya/HSC; Katz) – Tomorrow, HSC will hold a murder board session in preparation for Saturday's table top exercise with the Cabinet. Scott announced in today's press gaggle that the Cabinet would be here on Saturday.*
- Bahrain FTA (Daly/NSC; Katz)
- Beef (Sommers/NEC; Katz) – On 11/29, South Korea delayed an announcement on its probe into the safety of US beef, which likely delays the reopening of the Korean market to our beef products. The delay came right after a Korean agriculture group threatened to stage rallies if the government removes the ban on beef from North America. Korea is widely believed to be waiting for the Japanese market to open to US beef in mid-December before opening their market. Korea was the third largest market for US beef prior to its closure 2 years ago because of BSE concerns.
- Boeing Advocacy (Daly/NSC; Katz)
- Brazil Compulsory Licensing of HIV/AIDS Drugs (Hunter/NSC; Katz) – U.S. pharmaceutical companies Abbott, Merck, and Gilead have been in separate negotiations for months with the Brazilian Ministry of Health to reach an agreement on the supply of three AIDS drugs. On 10/10, Abbott signed an agreement with Brazil. Gilead met with the Brazilian authorities last week and Gilead tells NSC the meeting was constructive. The Brazilians agreed to continue from Gilead proposal presented on 5/24. The Brazilian government had comments on the proposal primarily related to their desire to not link price reductions to set consumption levels. Gilead agreed to consider the request and provided immediately a counterproposal which is under evaluation at this time by the Brazilian government. The Ministry of Health has pledged



to reply by this Wednesday (not yet happened) to the Gilead counter proposal, but indicated in an initial meeting that it seemed reasonable. Gilead is cautiously optimistic.

- BSE (Sommers/NEC; Katz)
- CAFE (Sharp/DPC; Hook)
- Campaign Finance Reform (Taylor/OPA; Hook)
- Canadian Corn Dispute (Sommers/NEC; Katz) – On 11/15 Canadian Border Services ruled against the United States for dumping subsidized corn on the Canadian market. The Ontario Corn Growers Association says the U.S. subsidies are driving down the price of corn around the world, making it difficult for Canadian farmers to survive. The Ontario group filed a complaint with Canadian Border Services in September about the impact of American subsidies on Canadian farmers. The Canadian corn farmers want duties imposed to raise the price of corn in Canada, and for Ottawa to file a complaint with the WTO to force the U.S. to get rid of its subsidies. The amount of the resulting duties will be released Dec. 15, about midway into the meeting of the WTO in Hong Kong. Many view this as an effort by the Canadian government to secure rural support for their potential upcoming elections.
- Canadian Lumber (Hunter/NSC; Katz) – The final antidumping and anti-subsidy margins on Canadian lumber announced by Commerce on 12/6 were virtually unchanged from the preliminary margins issued in June. The average combined final margin is 10.81 percent, while the preliminary figure was 10.62 percent. The U.S. industry issued a statement applauding the results and highlighting the inconsistency between Commerce's subsidy findings and the NAFTA panel's recent directive to Commerce to calculate a de minimis subsidy rate. Canada's International Trade Department issued a statement stressing that the rate announced today is significantly lower than the 20 percent rate presently collected by Customs, and asserted that prior NAFTA decisions obligate Commerce to revoke these orders. Canada will likely challenge this determination through the NAFTA panel process or in U.S. court.
- *Cement (Shirzad/NSC; Katz) – In discussions on Monday and Tuesday, Commerce and Mexican officials continued to make progress on an agreement to end this long-standing dispute. The discussions focused on increasing the three million metric ton quota figure proposed by the U.S. by an additional 250-500,000 tons, including a provision to allow for the importation of 250,000 tons of cement above the quota if the U.S. government determines additional supply is needed to respond to a natural disaster; the duration of the agreement; and the duty rate on cement imported under the agreement. Commerce will be sending a revised proposal to the Mexicans on Thursday. Both sides will now consult with their respective industries on these issues, and talks will continue on the margins of the Hong Kong ministerial next week. Commerce hopes to be in a position to announce an agreement in early January.*
- CFIUS (Daly/NSC; Katz) – On 11/25, Check Point Ltd. (the Israeli computer security company) notified Treasury that, based on unresolved compliance issues from an earlier CFIUS filing, it was withdrawing its request for a CFIUS review of its proposed acquisition of Sourcefire (a U.S. internet security company maker of anti-spyware software). Therefore, this review will did not go to investigation today. Check Point is still intent on going through with the acquisition of Sourcefire and a CFIUS review following an expedited resolution of their compliance issues. However, even if Check Point and CFIUS agencies work through the unresolved compliance issues from the earlier CFIUS filing, serious national security issues remain a challenge for their proposed acquisition of Sourcefire.
- Clear Skies (Stolpe/CEQ; Hook)
- Conflict-of Interest-Reporting (Sharp/DPC; Hook)
- Drug Reimportation (Leggitt/DPC; Katz) – OLA reports that the House Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Oversight is attempting to schedule a hearing on drug importation on Tuesday,



December 13th at 1:00 pm. Apparently, Congressman Whitfield has scheduled the hearing in order to highlight the safety problems with drug importation, which includes illegal internet pharmacies. While acknowledging the friendly intent, OLA was able to convince Committee staff to change the topic of the hearing to internet sales of controlled substances that will allow us to avoid the drug reimportation issue.

- Education (Wilson/DPC; Katz)
- EEO-1 (Sharp/DPC; Hook) – On 11/17 the EEOC voted 3-1 to approve minor changes to the EEO-1 form. Employers use EEO-1 to report the race and ethnicity of their workforce. OMB will review the new form before it becomes final.
- Endangered Species Act (CEQ; Hook) – Interior has drafted a revision of the ESA regulations and is beginning the process of vetting the draft with EOP and engaging Commerce, which also has ESA authorities. CEQ will need to referee the interagency struggle for a common approach to regulations, and CEQ may also need to harmonize the content of the rules with the Congressional debate.
- Energy (Hannegan/NEC; Katz)
- *Faith Based (Towey/OFB; Hook) – DPC and OFBCI met with Sen. Santorum's staff on Tuesday evening to discuss the charitable giving incentives included in the Senate tax bill (S. 2020) that passed on Nov. 18th. Sen. Santorum would like more enthusiastic Administration support of the charitable provisions. The House is expected to take up the legislation before the end of the year, but will likely not include any charitable giving provisions. In conference, the Senate is expected to push for the inclusion of the charitable provisions in the final bill and would like Administration support. Many of the provisions included are supported in the FY06 budget except for the non-itemizer deduction, which is a priority for Sen. Santorum.*
- Farm Bill (Sommers/NEC; Katz) – Hubbard/NEC hosted a meeting on 11/30 with Johanns, Wolff, and other EOP staff to discuss the provision in the Senate reconciliation bill extending the current Farm Bill through 2011 (as a budgetary baseline gimmick). The House continues to strongly oppose this provision, with our support. In case that support wanes, alternatives were discussed including persuading the Senate Budget Committee to provide budget baseline relief to Chambliss, pursuing non-Farm Bill savings (many already rejected by Congress), or even forgoing ag-related savings in reconciliation to avoid what Johanns considers the greater harm of extending the current Farm Bill.
- Federal Sentencing Guidelines (Ho/DPC; Hook) – The Supreme Court has declined to confront the question of retroactive application of its decision in *Booker v. U.S.* limiting federal sentence enhancements based on facts not found by a jury. The Court denied review in 11 cases on the issue, including one case in which it had sought the Solicitor General's views. As usual, there was no explanation for the denials. The Solicitor General had argued that *Booker* should not be applied retroactively, because it failed the "new rule" test of the Supreme Court's 1989 decision in *Teague v. Lane*.
- Flood Insurance (Warsh/NEC; Katz)
- Florida Everglades (Hannegan/CEQ; Hook)
- FMLA (Sharp/DPC; Hook)
- GSEs (Warsh/NEC; Katz)
- Great Lakes Outreach (Kathy/Khary) – Connaughton and Maggie met with Chicago Mayor Daley to discuss the Great Lakes Collaboration. The Mayor is requesting new federal money for the Great Lakes region as a new announcement. We shared the list of federal commitments with him and are continuing to work with his staff and EPA on the announcement of near term actions for the Great Lakes.
- Health Care Big Ideas (Ramthun/NEC; Katz)



- Health IT (Leggitt/DPC; Katz) – DPC plans to meet with OMB and HHS early next week to discuss a “checklist” mapping out deliverables over the next year to ensure we continue forward progress on achieving the HIT goals for CY 2006 and beyond.
- Indian Trust/Cobell (Ho/DPC; Hook) – On 11/15 the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit ruled that the district court owes substantial deference to Interior's proposed \$335 million accounting plan (and may not impose Judge Lamberth's \$12 billion substitute).
- Katrina Reallocation Package (Kaplan/OMB; McMillin) – Hubbard, Bolten, Wolff, and Powell met to discuss Cochran's proposed add-on to the Administration's reallocation package. Cochran seeks to add \$18.4 billion to the \$17.1 billion request. The extra money consists of \$11.5 billion for CDBG (for uninsured homeowners relief); \$3.9 billion for agriculture; and smaller amounts for levees, education, SSBG, etc. On CDBG, Powell believes some assistance to uninsured homeowners may be necessary to jumpstart the rebuilding effort in certain communities, though he expressed concern about the overall size of the request and that it would overcompensate many individuals. Candi assumed some compromise on this issue will be necessary in order to get a bill this year, so all parties agreed that at the appropriate time (after more Hill reconnaissance) we should engage the Hill in order to improve, rather than block, this provision. All parties agreed that the agriculture request (not tied to the hurricanes, on top of record farm program payouts) is unacceptable and should be resisted. In addition, Cochran proposed politically awkward offsets from Iraq reconstruction and MCA.
- Katrina/Governor Barbour (McMillin/COS) - Haley met with Hubbard, Powell, McMillin, and Grant. The Governor reported growing frustration and uncertainty about the future among coastal residents, driven in part by continued congressional inaction on funding and a perception that FEMA thinks it is “wrapping up” long before the job is done. Powell and Barbour discussed the uninsured homeowner issue at length, with Powell striking a good balance between skepticism and sympathy.
- MCC (Shirzad/NSC; Katz)
- Medicaid Clawback (Ramthun/NEC; Katz)
- Medicaid Commission (Ramthun/NEC; Katz)
- Medicare Prescription Drugs (Ramthun/NEC; Katz)
- Medical Liability (Ho/DPC; Hook)
- Methamphetamine (Leggitt/DPC; Katz)
- *Microsoft (Altbach/NSC; Katz) – Today the Korean Fair Trade Commission (KFTC) issued a finding on the Microsoft case and reached an E.U. style decision, finding that Microsoft had violated Korean competition laws. Microsoft expected a favorable decision, and was very disappointed by the KFTC's findings, which could require it to sell two different versions of windows in Korea. Microsoft will likely appeal this decision. Microsoft was very complimentary of Administration assistance in this investigation.*
- Municipal Finance (Warsh/NEC; Katz)
- NASA (Russell/NEC; Katz) – NEC convened an EOP-only meeting on 12/2 to clarify options with Hubbard, Hadley, Bolten and Marburger. Hadley will meet privately with Griffin later this week, followed by one more principals meeting to reach a common understanding on options to present to the President.
- Native Hawaiian (Ho/DPC; Hook)
- NCLB (Medina/DPC; Hook)
- Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Split (Ho/DPC; Hook) – DOJ has sent a views letter to Chairman Sensenbrenner expressing support for splitting the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. In its letter, DOJ explains that "dividing the 9th Circuit would improve the



administration of justice," as the "sheer size of the 9th Circuit has led to serious administrative difficulties that have adversely affected its ability to render justice efficiently."

- OMB Risk Assessment Plan (Kaplan/OMB; Katz) – OMB is preparing to issue a bulletin for comment on 12/12 that will require agencies to provide more accurate and transparent risk assessments. OMB-OIRA is concerned that agencies sometimes deem a substance a risk (famous recent examples include levels of arsenic in drinking water or mercury in tuna) without providing the underlying assumptions about the level of acceptable risk such that the risk then becomes overstated. There will likely be agency and/or environmental-lobby resistance to the bulletin under the view that the White House is interfering with the agencies' scientific expertise.
- OPM (Ramthun/NEC; Katz) – Today, OPM issued a notice of intent to withdraw approval of the Postmasters Benefit Plan for participation in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, effective January 1, 2006. Recently OPM became aware of issues concerning the Plan's ability to fulfill claims obligations and manage resources prudently and appropriately. OPM has determined that the risk to participants covered by this carrier exceeds the standards established to protect the interests of federal employees and retirees. The Plan covers 1,245 active federal and postal employees and 6,950 retirees. Thus, current enrollees of this plan will have to change to a new plan for 2006.
- Patriot Act (Mitnick/HSC; Hook)
- Pensions (Blahous/NEC; Katz) – OLA has indicated that, while it is still most probable that the pension vote will be put off until January, Boehner is making a run at whether he can get enough support for a vote this month. OLA isn't predicting he will succeed, but advised us to keep our ears open.
- Peru FTA (Shirzad/NSC; Katz) – Today, USTR successfully closed the FTA negotiations w/Peru. NSC reports that Portman began outreach to the Hill at the same time. NSC believes this to be an encouraging step as we go into the week of WTO talks in Hong Kong that start Monday. On sugar, the amount in the agreement is small -- total of 11,000 tons (2,000 tons of which are organic, which apparently we do not grow).
- Postal Reform (Sharp/DPC; Hook) – USPS reported on 12/6 it concluded FY 05 with a net income of \$1.4 billion on record revenues of \$70 billion and record volume of 212 billion pieces of mail. Standard Mail, which businesses use to reach consumers, outpaced First-Class Mail for the first time in history with 101 billion pieces of Standard Mail compared to 98 billion in First-Class Mail. First-Class Mail grew slightly in 2005 after three years of decline. On 11/15 Deputies met to discuss postal reform legislation. The House passed an expensive bill in July, but the Senate bill has stalled because of a disagreement between Senators Collins and Bond over a rate-setting provision. The Administration has supported reform, but does not particularly like either bill and included a senior advisors' veto threat in the House SAP against the bill's price tag. The Administration has been assured that these and other objectionable provisions will be removed in conference, but there is no clear plan for making these corrections. Deputies agreed that we should not intervene to settle the Senate dispute at this time, given the lack of urgency to move the postal bill and other pressing issues that Senator Bond is associated with.
- Physician Payments (Ramthun/NEC; Katz)
- Prison Industries (Ho/DPC; Hook)
- Rice (Shirzad/NSC; Katz) – The WTO Appellate Body on 11/29 affirmed a panel decision that found the Mexican antidumping investigation on U.S. rice exports, as well as portions of Mexico's antidumping and countervailing duty laws, are WTO inconsistent. Mexico is an important and growing market for U.S. rice, with exports of approximately \$183 million in



2004. Mexico cannot appeal the decision announced today and must now implement the Appellate Body decision or face possible retaliation by the United States.

- Saudi Arabia WTO (Hunter/NSC; Katz)
- SBA Loans (Warsh/NEC; Katz)
- Social Security (Blahous/NEC; Katz)
- Steel (Shirzad/NSC; Katz) – The Commerce Department announced on 12/1 that they will initiate three antidumping cases on imports of carbon steel wire rod from China, Germany, and Turkey. The value of imports from these three countries in 2004 was approximately \$304 million, \$111 million, and \$302 million, respectively. Assuming the U.S. International Trade Commission preliminarily finds that the U.S. domestic industry is injured, these cases will likely take about a year to complete.
- Steroids (Ho/DPC; Hook) – On 11/14 Major League Baseball and its player's union announced a tough new steroids policy. The new plan is essentially what Commissioner Selig proposed earlier this year: a 50-game suspension for a first offense, a 100-game suspension for a second offense, and a lifetime ban for a third offense. After a two-year period, players could appeal a lifetime ban. Although discussions on the Hill between Commissioners and Members are ongoing, the agreement may preempt the passage of any steroid bills.
- Stem Cells (Levin/DPC; Hook)
- Strengthening America's Community Initiative (Streeter/DPC; Hook)
- TANF (Streeter/DPC; Hook)
- Tax Reform (Hennessey/NEC; Katz)
- Telecom (Russell/NEC; Katz)
- TRIA (Warsh/NEC; Katz)
- *Tricare Rx (Leggitt/DPC; Katz)* – OMB has indicated that it appears DOD will present a discretionary 2007 proposal to align Tricare benefits for retirees ages 38-65 with copays and deductibles for retired FEHBP participants. Currently, these individuals pay on average \$680 a year versus \$3,700 for civilian and other private plans. *In addition, OMB has asked for DPC's input on the advisability of including in the President's budget provisions that would authorize charging a monthly premium to retired veterans over 65 that receive the Tricare pharmacy benefit. The premium would be similar to the premium charged to seniors on Medicare Part D. Claude has expressed concerns about proposing drug benefit premium changes, as well as the other cost-sharing provisions that we think DOD will propose in the near future. Any savings that DOD proposes under the Health Care benefits are designed to allow DOD to reach the budget goal set by OMB.*
- Uncompensated Care/Katrina (Ramthun/NEC; Katz)
- Union Officer Conflict of Interest Reporting, LM-30 (Sharp/DPC; Hook)
- *Veterans (Leggitt/DPC; Katz)* – VA, DPC, OMB, and VA will be meeting with leaders from the six major Veterans Service Organizations tomorrow to listen to their FY07 budget goals. VA will be releasing DOD estimates on traumatic injuries resulting from Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) late next week. DOD estimates there are 5,000 service members who have received traumatic injuries. This information will be released in conjunction with implementation of a new benefit for injured service members. The benefit pays up to \$100,000 for injuries such as loss of limb, sight or other traumatic losses. The benefit is retroactive for members who suffered a qualified injury in OEF or IOF.
- Voting Rights Act (Ho/DPC; Hook)
- Vouchers (Streeter/DPC; Hook)
- *White House Conference on Aging (Leggitt/DPC; Katz)* – Both Secretary Leavitt and Claude Allen will be speaking next Monday at the opening session of the Conference. Claude's speech



*will address several major themes. The first theme covers implications for all generations and addressing the issues related to our seniors as a family and community issue (e.g. supporting families and family care givers). Another theme is preparing the baby boom generation, guided by values of individual ownership, choice and independence (e.g. prevention, new Medicare drug benefit and the New Freedom Initiative). His speech will conclude by emphasizing that everyone has an important role to play in ensuring we are doing what we can to care for ourselves and our loved ones and to ensure the value and dignity of all are respected.*

- Workforce Training in the Gulf Region (Sharp/DPC; Hook) – On 11/30 DOL announced the "Pathways to Construction Employment Initiative" to help workers in areas impacted by the hurricanes enter a career in construction through outreach, skills assessment, and placement in apprenticeship or pre-apprenticeship programs. It will target the residential, commercial, industrial, and heavy highway construction sectors, as well as shipbuilding and heavy marine construction. Grants of \$5 million each will be awarded to the Louisiana Community and Technical College System, working in close partnership with the Louisiana Department of Labor, and the Mississippi Department of Employment Security, working in close partnership with the Mississippi State Board for Community and Junior Colleges.



## POLICY TIME – NOVEMBER 2005

SUN	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
4	5 NO TIME	6 1:15-1:45 OFB: Voucher Expansion (30 min)	7 NO TIME	8 11:05-11:35 NSC/NEC: WTO/ Doha* (30 min)	9 NO TIME	10
11	12 2:05-2:50 NEC: Medicare/CPI* (45 min)	13 1:25-2:10 TBD: Rove (45 min)	14 2:35-3:20 NEC: NASA* (45 min)	15 1:05-1:50 NEC: Taxes in '07 Budget (45 min)	16 1:05-1:50 NEC: Health Tax (45 min)	17
18	19 11:25-11:55 NEC: Katrina Update* (30 min)	20 1:45-2:30 NEC: Health Insurance Reform (45 min)	21 1:55-2:40 OMB: '07 Budget Wrap (45 min)	22 1:05- DPC: Science (Econ Update, 10min) (45 min)	23 NO TIME	24
25	26 NO TIME	27 NO TIME	28 TBD	29 TBD	30 TBD	31

12/07/05

**Possible December Policy Times: China Overview; Doha Post–Action Review; Energy II; Family Agenda; Global Nuclear Energy Initiative/Yucca; Katrina Periodic Updates; School Choice**

\* Indicates Cabinet Member Attendance



## Working Group Calendar

### WORKING GROUP CALENDAR

Monday, December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday, December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday, December 7 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday, December 8 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, December 9 <sup>th</sup>
3:00 NEC: Meeting on Tax in the '07 Budget – Deputies (SM)	9:15 DPC: Weekly DOT call – PCC (BH)	11:00 DPC: Weekly Conf Call w/ DOL (BH)	9:00 HSC: Avian Flu Murder Board (JK)	
5:30 NEC: Meeting on Medicare/ Medicaid – PCC (JK)	3:00 NEC: Energy Principals Meeting – PCC (JK)	5:30 NEC: Healthcare Principals Meeting – PCC (JK)	9:00 NEC: Biweekly Pension Call – PCC (JK)	
	3:00 DPC: Weekly ED Call – PCC (BH)		10:00 DPC: Weekly Call w/ HHS (JK)	
	5:30 DPC: Weekly DOJ Call – PCC (BH)		1:00 DPC: Weekly Asbestos Call – PCC (BH)	
			2:30 NEC: Weekly Medicare Meeting – PCC (JK)	
			3:30 NEC: Weekly Medicaid Meeting – PCC (JK)	



## Working Group Calendar

Monday, December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday, December 13 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday, December 14 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday, December 15 <sup>th</sup>	Friday, December 16 <sup>th</sup>
	9:15 DPC: Weekly DOT call – PCC (BH)  10:30 DPC: Principals Meeting on SACI – PCC (BH)  3:00 DPC: Weekly ED Call – PCC (BH)  5:30 DPC: Weekly DOJ Call – PCC (BH)	11:00 DPC: Weekly Conf Call w/ DOL (BH)	10:00 DPC: Weekly Call w/ HHS (JK)  1:00 DPC: Weekly Asbestos Call – PCC (BH)  3:00 NEC: Weekly Medicare Meeting – PCC (JK)  4:00 NEC: Weekly Medicaid Meeting – PCC (JK)	



OFFICE OF CABINET LIAISON



CABINET MEMBER SCHEDULE

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THURSDAY 12/08/2005

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**Secretary Johanns, Secretary Gutierrez, Director Bolten & Ambassador Portman**

11:05am – 11:35am      **Oval Office**      World Trade Organization/Doha Policy Time

*Participants:*

White House

Vice President

Secretary Card, CoS

Karl Rove, DCoS

Steve Hadley, NSC

Scott McClellan, Press Secretary

Dan Bartlett, Counselor

Ben Bernanke, CEA

Al Hubbard, NSC

Candi Wolff, OLA

David Addington, OVP

Nicolle Wallace, Communications

Barry Jackson, NSC

Faryar Shirzad, NSC

**Secretary Bodman**

12:00pm – 12:15pm      **Room 164**      Lessons Learned: Hurricane Katrina

*Participants:*

White House

Fran Townsend, HSC

Joel Bagnol, HSC

DOE

Alexis Canniff De Alvarez, Deputy Director of the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

**Secretary Chao**

12:30pm – 1:30pm      **WH Mess**      Lunch with Al Hubbard

**Secretary Snow, Secretary Gutierrez, Secretary Chao, Secretary Leavitt & Director Bolten**

1:00pm – 2:00pm      **CL Conf Room**      Healthcare Principals

*Participants:*

White House

Secretary Card, CoS

Karl Rove, DCoS

Dan Bartlett, Counselor

Ben Bernanke, CEA

Al Hubbard, NEC

Candi Wolff, OLA

Claude Allen, DPC

Mike Gerson, OPSP

David Addington, OVP

Nicolle Wallace, Communications

Doug Badger, OLA

Keith Hennessey, NEC

Roy Ramthun, NEC

CMS

Mark McClellan, Administrator

**Secretary Spellings**

2:30pm – 2:45pm      **Room 164**      Office Time

2:45pm – 3:00pm      **Room 164**      Lessons Learned: Hurricane Katrina

*Participants:*

White House

Fran Townsend, HSC

Joel Bagnal, HSC

DOEd

Chris Doherty, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary

3:00pm – 4:00pm      **Room 164**      Office Time

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**FRIDAY 12 / 09 / 2005**

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No Events Scheduled.

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**SATURDAY 12 / 10 / 2005**

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**Secretary Rice, Secretary Snow, Attorney General Gonzales, Secretary Norton, Secretary Johanns, Secretary Gutierrez, Secretary Leavitt, Secretary Mineta, Secretary Nicholson, Secretary Chertoff & Director Bolten**

8:00am – 12:00pm      **Room 350**      Cabinet Level Tabletop Exercise of Government Response to an Influenza Pandemic

*Participants:*

White House

Karl Rove, CoS (T)

Joseph Hagin, DCoS (T)

Harriet Miers, Counsel (T)

Claude Allen, DPC (T)

DOJ

Lee Otis, Associate Deputy Attorney General

DOI

Thomas Weimer, Senior Advisor to the Secretary



Fran Townsend, HSC  
J.D. Crouch, (NSC)  
Keith Hennessey, NEC  
Trent Duffy, Deputy Press Secretary  
John Marburger, OSTP  
Kenneth Rapuano, HSC  
Jeanie Mamo, Media Affairs  
Carol Kuntz, OVP  
Jeremy Katz, Special Assistant to the CoS for Policy  
Heidi Marquez Smith, OCL  
Rita DiCasagrande, NSC  
Shannon Burkhardt, Communications  
Dean Clancy, OMB

State

Paula Dobriansky, Under Secretary for Global Affairs and Democracy

Treasury

Nada Eissa, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Microeconomics

DOD

Gordon England, Deputy Secretary  
Paul McHale, Assistant Secretary for Homeland Defense  
Peter Pace, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs  
Brigadier General Terry Scherling, Deputy Director for Antiterrorism/Homeland Defense  
Admiral Timothy Keating, Commander for U.S. Northern Command  
Lt. General Steven Blum, Chief of National Guard Bureau

USDA

Chuck Conner, Deputy Secretary

HHS

Dr. Bruce Gellin, Director of the National Vaccine Program Office  
Stewart Simonson, Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency and Preparedness  
Julie Gerberding, Director of Center for Disease Control  
Bill Raub, Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation  
Paula Stannard, Acting General Counsel

DOT

John Hill, Assistant Administrator for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration  
Laura McClure, Senior Advisor in the Office of the Secretary of Transportation

VA

Dr. Lawrence Deyton, Director of Public Health Strategy

DHS

Dr. Jeff Runge, Chief Medical Officer

DNI

General Michael Hayden, Principal Deputy Director

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**MONDAY 12/12/2005**

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**Secretary Norton**

9:30am – 10:00am

**Room 164**

Lessons Learned: Hurricane Katrina

*Participants:*

White House

Fran Townsend, HSC  
Joel Bagnal, HSC

### **Attorney General Gonzales**

10:30am – 11:00am      **1 FL/WW**

Lessons Learned: Hurricane Katrina

#### *Participants:*

##### White House

Fran Townsend, HSC  
Joel Bagnal, HSC

##### DOJ

Kyle Sampson, CoS

### **Secretary Leavitt**

12:00pm – 1:00pm      **WH Mess**

Personal

### **Secretary Mineta**

2:00pm – 3:00pm      **Room 164**

Office Time

3:00pm – 3:30pm      **Room 164**

Lessons Learned: Hurricane Katrina

#### *Participants:*

##### White House

Fran Townsend, HSC  
Joel Bagnal, HSC

##### DOT

Maria Cino, Deputy Secretary  
John Flaherty, CoS

3:30pm – 4:00pm      **Room 164**

Office Time

### **Secretary Bodman**

3:00pm – 3:30pm      **1 FL/WW**

Meeting with Steve Hadley

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**TUESDAY 12 / 13 / 2005**

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### **Secretary Jackson**

9:30am – 11:30am      **Room 164**

Office Time

### **Secretary Johanns**

4:00pm – 4:45pm      **CL Conf Rm**

Kitchen Cabinet Meeting

#### *Participants:*

##### White House

Jim Connaughton, CEQ  
Neil Patel, OVP  
Barry Jackson, NSC  
David Anderson, OMB  
Megan Hauck, OLA  
Peter Rowan, OLA  
Michael Sommers, NEC  
Greg Schildwachter, CEQ

##### USDA

Chuck Conner, Deputy Secretary  
Dale Moore, CoS  
Drew DeBerry, DCoS  
Beth Johnson, DCoS  
Terri Teuber, Director Of Communications

4:45pm – 6:00pm      **Room 164**

Office Time



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**WEDNESDAY 12 / 14 / 2005**

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No Events Scheduled.