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**Subject:** BPs  
**Sent:** Thu, 25 Mar 2004 10:35:51 -0500  
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here you go. thanks.

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

### MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY

Thursday, March 25, 2004

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

Oval Office

Harriet Miers

#### I. PURPOSE

To discuss with Secretary Abraham issues of importance to the Department of Energy (DOE).

#### II. BACKGROUND

You have met individually with members of your Cabinet on a periodic basis. Secretary Abraham has identified several issues of importance that he may raise with you:

- Energy Legislation – The Secretary will update you on efforts to secure passage of comprehensive energy legislation. Senate leadership is working to determine if a limited number of amendments can be agreed upon to expedite action on the overall bill. There is bipartisan support to move the bill quickly. However, resistance from House members is likely over any stripped-down bill that removes the Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) liability provision.
- Gasoline Prices – The Secretary will brief you on factors affecting recent increases in gasoline prices. The average retail price of regular gasoline has risen 26 cents between December 2003 and March 2004. Reasons include higher crude prices; increasing demand in the United States, China, and Southeast Asia; lower gasoline imports; refineries focusing on heating oil production during the winter; and low gasoline inventories. Political concerns in Venezuela have also been a factor.
- Nuclear Nonproliferation – Secretary Abraham will update you on DOE's nonproliferation efforts, including the removal of nuclear material from Libya and the work underway on a new nonproliferation agreement with Russia that will result in additional highly enriched uranium fuel being secured for down-blending.
- Defense Complex Upgrades – The Secretary will brief you on DOE's efforts to upgrade the Nation's nuclear weapons complex. DOE has undertaken a large-scale capital improvement program to rebuild decaying infrastructure, and is working to restore basic defense capabilities within the nuclear weapons program.

- Ongoing Climate Initiatives – The Secretary will brief you on efforts to address global climate issues, in particular in efforts to develop new technologies for curbing greenhouse gas emissions. Waning support for the Kyoto agreement, particularly from the Russians, creates an opportunity to publicize your Hydrogen Initiative, clean coal/carbon sequestration initiatives, and other technologies under development to transform energy production and curb greenhouse gases in the process. The Secretary will also update you on successful efforts to work on these issues with our international partners.
- August 2003 Final Blackout Report – Secretary Abraham will discuss with you the upcoming final report of the U.S.-Canada Task Force on the August 2003 blackout. The report contains recommendations for regulators and the utility industry to upgrade systems, procedures, and facilities—with the goal of reducing the potential for future blackouts and containing outages that do occur.
- Implementation of Your Management Agenda – The Secretary may brief you on DOE’s progress on the implementation of your management agenda. Recently, OMB issued a scorecard evaluating agency performance, and DOE ranked first among Cabinet-level agencies.
- Legacy Cleanup Process – The Secretary may brief you on progress being made in cleaning up radiological contamination at former nuclear weapons development sites across the country. Under the program, DOE has accelerated cleanup and will save taxpayers as much as \$50 billion over 35 years.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

Spencer Abraham, Secretary of Energy  
Andrew Card, Chief of Staff  
Harriet Miers, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy  
Brian Montgomery, Cabinet Secretary

### IV. PRESS PLAN

Closed

### V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS, REMARKS, AND ATTACHMENTS

None

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

### A CONVERSATION ON JOB TRAINING AND THE ECONOMY

Thursday, March 25, 2004

1:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

New Hampshire Community Technical College

Nashua, New Hampshire

Steve Friedman / Karl Rove

#### I. PURPOSE

This event will highlight: (1) how small businesses have benefited from the tax relief passed over the past three years; and (2) how that relief is translating into more jobs. It is also an opportunity to discuss the importance of job training.

#### II. BACKGROUND

**Note:** The unemployment rate in January for New Hampshire was 4.1 percent, down from 4.5 percent in January 2003.

New Hampshire Community Technical College (NHCTC) at Nashua/Claremont offers 25 associate degree programs and 26 certificate and diploma programs to its 1,500 students. The programs include not only technical fields such as engineering and computer programming, but also business, nursing, human services, and the liberal arts.

NHCTC and its students are potential beneficiaries of two programs contained in your FY 2005 Budget – Community-based Job Training Grants, and Pell Grants.

Community-Based Job Training Grants. Building on the success of the Department of Labor's High-Growth Job Training Initiative – a program that establishes public-private job training partnerships with high-growth industries to supplement state-administered job training and reemployment services – your FY 2005 Budget proposes \$250 million to strengthen the role of community colleges in workforce development. This funding would be used for Community-based Job Training Grants, which would be awarded to community and technical colleges that are linked with local employers looking for more skilled workers. NHCTC would be a potential grant recipient.

Pell Grants. Every year, millions of students pursue higher education with the help of Pell Grants, which are Federal financial aid awards targeted to needy students. The grants of up to \$4,050 (which do not need to be repaid) are helping more than five million students each year. Approximately \$7 billion of the \$12.9 billion in funding for Pell Grants in your FY 2005 budget will go to students attending technical and two-year colleges. Your 2005 budget also proposes to establish a \$33 million program to enhance

Pell Grants for low-income students. This program would provide up to an additional \$1,000 per year to students in the first two years of college who complete the rigorous State Scholars curriculum in high school, enroll in postsecondary education full-time, and are Pell Grant recipients. Next year, approximately 36,000 low-income graduating high school seniors would be eligible to receive an enhanced Pell Grant under this proposal.

**Note:** Today's event is in Congressman Charlie Bass' (R, NH-02) district, but he will not attend.

### III. PARTICIPANTS

#### Conversation Participants

Lucille Jordan, President, NHCTC (will introduce you)

Mike Hills, Student, NHCTC

Heather Limanek [luh-MAN-eck], Student, NHCTC, and Owner, Heather's Happenings

David "Dave" Dunfee, President, D.G. O'Brien, Inc.

George Kassas, Co-founder and Executive Vice President for Operations and Business Development, Cedar Point Communications

#### VIPs in Attendance

Governor Craig Benson (R)

Denise Benson, wife of Governor Benson

State Attorney General Peter Heed (R)

Speaker Gene Chandler, New Hampshire House of Representatives (R)

President Thomas "Tom" R. Eaton, New Hampshire Senate (R)

State Senator Jane O'Hearn, Chair, State Senate Education Committee (R)

State Senator Jack Barnes (R)

State Senator Robert "Bob" Morse (R)

State Senator Ted Gatsas (R)

State Senator Andy Martel (R)

State Senator Chuck Morse (R)

State Senator Andy Peterson (R)

State Senator Russell "Russ" Prescott (R)

State Senator Shelia Roberge (R)

State Senator Frank Sapareto (R)

State Representative Rogers Johnson, House Majority Whip (R)

State Representative Nelson Allan (R)

State Representative Lawrence Artz (R)

State Representative Michael Balboni (R)

State Representative Elenore Casey Crane (R)

State Representative Bob Guida (R)

State Representative Paul Harrington (R)

State Representative Steve L'Heureux (R)

State Representative Henry McElroy (R)

State Representative Claire McHugh (R)

State Representative Robert Mercer (R)

State Representative William Mosher (R)  
State Representative Pamela Price (R)  
Councilor Raymond Wiezorek, Executive Council (R)  
Commissioner (Chairman) Rhona Charbonneau (non-partisan position), Hillsborough County  
Commissioner (Vice-Chair) Carol Holden (non-partisan position), Hillsborough County  
Commissioner Toni Pappas (non-partisan position), Hillsborough County  
Marguerite Wageling (non-partisan position), Hillsborough County Attorney  
Nancy Merrill, National Committeewoman  
Tom Rath, former Attorney General (R); and National Committeeman  
Griffin “Grif” Dalianis, Commander of Disabled Veterans  
Frank Emiro, Board Member, Service Employees International Union  
Elaine Tinetti, Retired, Dana Faber Cancer Institute  
Bill Grimm, Founder, Franklin Career Academy  
Karen Testerman, President, Cornerstone Research  
Cheryl McGuinness, widow of Tom McGuinness

**Note:** Tom McGuinness was the co-pilot of American Airlines Flight 11, the hijacked plane that flew into the North Tower of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

Nicholas “Nick” Campasano, Fire Chief, Manchester, New Hampshire  
Donald “Don” Gross, Police Chief, Nashua, New Hampshire  
Specialist Lee Herman, 368 Combat Engineers, U.S. Army Reserves

**Note:** Specialist Herman returned from Iraq on March 15, 2004.

Bill Simonton, Commissioner, NHCTC System

400 invited guests, including NHCTC faculty and students, small business owners, employees, and state and local community leaders

#### White House Staff

Andrew Card, Chief of Staff  
Brian Reardon, Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy  
Matthew Hunter, Associate Director, Office of Political Affairs

#### IV. PRESS PLAN

Open

#### V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- You arrive at New Hampshire Community Technical College and are greeted by Lucille Jordan, Bill Simonton, Jane O’Hearn, Ted Gatsas, Grif Dalianis, Frank Emiro, Elaine Tinetti, and Bill Grimm.  
**Note:** All of the greeters except for Lucille Jordan will be escorted to their seats.
- You and Lucille Jordan proceed to the Collision Repair Lab for brief meeting with stage participants.

- You conclude participation in brief meeting, and you and Lucille Jordan proceed to offstage announce.
- Participants proceed to seats on stage.
- You and Lucille Jordan are announced on to stage and proceed to your seats.
- Lucille Jordan delivers brief opening remarks and introduces you.
- You begin conversation.
- Upon conclusion of the conversation, you work rope line, and depart.

## VI. REMARKS

Talking Points provided by Speechwriting

## VII. ATTACHMENTS

Talking Points

Background Information on Conversation Participants

Political Briefing

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CONVERSATION PARTICIPANTS

**Note: A condensed version of this background is included on the large-print cards for use at the event.**

### Lucille Jordan, President, New Hampshire Community Technical College at Nashua/Claremont

- Lucille was appointed the President of New Hampshire Community Technical College at Nashua/Claremont (NHCTC) in 1998.
- Prior to this position, she served as the Director of English as a Second Language and Special Services and the Vice-President of Academic Affairs.
- Lucille previously served as the Director of Programs for the Gifted and Talented for the City of Dublin, Ohio and for the State of Ohio.
- She believes that community colleges are the engines that stimulate job growth through job training. Community colleges stay current because they are in close contact with local businesses and industry.
- Lucille has a bachelor's degree in Education, and master's degrees in Education and English.
- Lucille and her husband, Jim O'Neill, have one grown son and two grandchildren. Her husband is the Superintendent of Jaffrey and Ringe Schools in Jaffrey, New Hampshire.

### Mike Hills, Student, NHCTC (Derry, New Hampshire)

- Mike has been enrolled in the Collision Repair Technology Program since September 2003.
- He enrolled in the program because he felt his career was not going where he wanted, and he wanted to learn a new skill set to help him further his goals.
- Mike received financial assistance from Pell Grants and Federal loans and a scholarship from the American Automobile Association.
- He estimates he will receive his associate's degree by May 2005. He attends classes part-time, while also working part-time at a local supermarket.
- Mike has seen from his instructors how collision repair requires advanced skills and a strong technical base of knowledge and understands the need for retraining in this economy.
- Mike is divorced and has two children, Michcala (10) and Arianna (7).

### Heather Limanek [luh-MAN-eck], Student, NHCTC and Owner, Heather's Happenings (Hudson, New Hampshire)

- Heather was laid off from her job as an assistant manager at a local restaurant in 2000.
- She decided to go to school to get a degree in business and enrolled in the NHCTC's Business program in the spring of 2001.
- While in school, Heather decided to start her own business, Heather's Happenings. Heather's Happenings provides entertainment for children's birthday parties.
- Heather's business is growing, even though she is attending school and has a young child. She has plans to graduate in May and looks forward to focusing even more attention on the growth of Heather's Happenings.
- She hopes to expand her market and have the opportunity to hire a few employees in the near future. She believes the new skills she has learned at NHCTC will help her become a successful entrepreneur.
- Heather and her husband, Joseph, have one son, Dyric (9).

David “Dave” Dunfee, President, D.G. O’Brien, Inc. (Seabrook, New Hampshire)

- S Corporation with \$20 million in revenues and 175 employees.
- Dave’s father-in-law started D.G. O’Brien in 1962. The company manufactures electrical and optical connectors used in the ocean, in subsea oil and gas wells, and in the human body.
- Employment: D.G. O’Brien hired 25 employees in 2003 and has plans to hire ten employees in 2004.

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- Dave and his wife, Barbara, have 2 sons, Ryan (18), Spencer (15).

George Kassas, Co-founder and Executive Vice President for Operations and Business Development, Cedar Point Communications (Derry, New Hampshire)

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**Note:** The R&E credit is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2004. Your budget calls for making the credit permanent.

**THE WHITE HOUSE**

WASHINGTON

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