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Records Management, White House Office of
Subject Files - PR013-08 (Opinions - Statements - Questionnaires - Articles)

Stack:	Row:	Sect.:	Shelf:	Pos.:	FRC ID:	Location or Hollinger ID:	NARA Number:	OA Number:
W	12	18	5	1	12562	25425	12405	12239

Folder Title:

739435

Withdrawn/Redacted Material

The George W. Bush Library

DOCUMENT NO.	FORM	SUBJECT/TITLE	PAGES	DATE	RESTRICTION(S)
001	Speech	Press Conference	3	10/17/2007	P5; P6/b6;
002	Q and A	Questions & Answers	10	10/17/2007	P5; Transferred
003	Q and A	[Q&A]	1	10/17/2007	Transferred
004	Handwritten Note	[Handwritten Notes]	4	10/17/2007	P5;
005	Handwritten Note	[Handwritten Notes]	4	10/17/2007	P5; Transferred

COLLECTION TITLE:

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SERIES:

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FOLDER TITLE:

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FRC ID:

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RESTRICTION CODES

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PRM, Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

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Records Not Subject to FOIA

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PARKER_D

739435

PR013-08

Barcode Scanning Sheet



Collection Code: **SECLOG**

Staff Name:

SCANNED

Document Date: **10/17/2007**

BY

ORM

Correspondent: **RAUL YANES**

Subject/Description: **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS THE
PRESIDENT HAS SEEN OCT 17 07 INCLUDING PRESS
CONFERENCE AND PRESIDENTIAL HANDWRITTEN
NOTES**

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN
10/17/07

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

ENERGY

Q: Are you monitoring the high energy prices and are you planning on doing anything to help consumers who are going to be feeling the pinch?

- Concerned about the high price of oil. High energy prices are an unanticipated tax on American families.
- Continue to monitor prices, which are driven by supply and demand fundamentals.
- We are in a high priced energy environment, where world-wide demand has outstripped supply.
- Over the next 25 years, the Energy Department estimates that global energy consumption will increase by an additional 50 percent, with significant demand coming from China and India.
- We have seen conditions like this before, but now we also consider them in the context of tackling the issue of global climate change.
- For these reasons, I've proposed the "Twenty in Ten" plan that would decrease our gasoline consumption by 20 percent in 10 years by expanding usage of alternative fuels and modernizing CAFE standards for cars. This initiative will help confront climate change, diversify our resources and reduce our dependence on foreign sources of oil.

CARRIERS/FISA

QUESTION: Is it appropriate for the government to force telecommunications companies to provide telephone records for law enforcement and surveillance programs with little consideration for their legal privacy obligations?

- It is entirely appropriate for the law enforcement and intelligence agencies to request the help of private entities and U.S. corporations.
- In many different contexts, corporate citizens work with the government to provide this assistance within the letter of the law, and

with strong privacy protections in place. Their assistance helps to protect Americans from criminals like child predators and drug traffickers – and also from threats of terrorists.

- The Protect America Act allows us to get the help we need from private companies, and the Act should be made permanent.
- It is also critical that Congress pass legislation to provide protection from private lawsuits filed against companies who are alleged to have assisted the Nation after the attacks of September 11.
- I will veto legislation that does not include strong liability protection.
- **BACKGROUND:** This answer is intended to cover surveillance in many different contexts, without specifically referencing the Terrorist Surveillance Program. Because of litigation risks, we cannot confirm or deny any TSP-related assistance provided by any company or the existence of any TSP-related relationship with any company.

MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE

- Spoken to Secretary Rice
- Looking for a serious and substantive joint statement for the meeting this fall.
- Now is the time to reach for a Palestinian state. We must all seize that chance.
- Working with the Palestinians and Israelis on a path to a comprehensive peace.
- We're helping the parties reach agreement on a document. There is momentum and we want to sustain that momentum.

Are you for a timeframe?

Will you issue an American document if the parties can't agree?

HOUSING

QUESTION: Many families are having trouble staying in their homes. Are you worried about housing?

- We understand stress in the housing sector is causing many families to worry about paying mortgages and maintaining credit.
- We are taking steps to help homeowners avoid foreclosure, keep their homes, and prevent these problems from recurring.
- I have called on Congress to pass the Federal Housing Administration Modernization bill, which would help more homeowners qualify for FHA insurance by lowering down payment requirements, increasing loan limits, and providing more flexibility in pricing.
- We support bipartisan legislative and administrative reforms that will:
 - Improve consumer protection by improving mortgage disclosure.
 - Strengthen mortgage lending standards.
 - Promote financial literacy.
 - Crack down on fraud.
- Under current law, homeowners who are unable to meet their mortgage payments can face an unexpected tax bill. I am working with Congress to pass a bill that would protect homeowners from having to pay taxes on cancelled mortgage debt. The House has passed this bill and now the Senate needs to act. This will make it easier for homeowners to refinance their mortgages.
- Earlier this month, my administration announced a new initiative to help homeowners called "HOPE NOW." This will boost financial companies' efforts to help homeowners whose mortgages are resetting at much higher rates.
- HOPE NOW - brings together lenders and debt service organizations to identify and help struggling homeowners refinance their mortgages.

TSP DOCUMENT REVIEW

QUESTION: We understand that Senate Staff have reviewed TSP documents at the White House. Do you think this will be enough to assuage your critics in Congress about your surveillance programs?

- We have been working with the committees to provide members of Congress and their staffs the information they need when considering and drafting legislation.
- In this case, the Senate Intelligence Committee requested access to certain materials to assist their consideration of legislation that would provide protection from private lawsuits filed against companies who are alleged to have assisted the Nation after the attacks of September 11, 2001.
- The Senate is considering this legislation as part of its overall efforts to reform FISA to ensure that our intelligence community has the tools it needs to protect the country.
- We have taken steps to accommodate the Senate Intelligence Committee request, because it is imperative that Congress passes a strong bill that protects the American people.
- No comment on what documents were made available for SSCI's review.

QUESTION: Will you provide the same access to other committees?

- We have had discussions with other Committees.
- We anticipate further discussions and will continue to work to appropriately accommodate each Committee's interests, while also appropriately protecting Executive Branch prerogatives.
- Discussions of this type commonly occur committee by committee and, in this case, will have to take place against the backdrop of these Committees' consideration of their own proposals to reform FISA.

TREASURY ABCP/LIQUIDITY

QUESTION: Does the Treasury Department's announcement on Asset-Backed Commercial Paper and liquidity earlier this week amount to a bailout?

- Secretary Paulson met with market participants throughout August and recognized the need to bring these banks together to develop a private sector, market-based solution to improve liquidity in the credit market.

- I am pleased with this private sector response, which complements other market-based solutions to supporting more efficient markets. This is an effort to help the banks help themselves to fix a short term problem in the credit markets.
- The Treasury Department made it clear from day one that there would be no government money put towards this.
- The banks were told they would need to come up with their own solution and taxpayer dollars absolutely were off the table.

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2014-0222-F

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interrogation program does not torture?

- Program is in place to better protect the American people from terrorists.
- Terrorists are often the best source of information about their plots and locations of other terrorists. When we find one who may have information about the location of al Qaeda leaders or a potential attack, you can bet that we are going to detain them and question them.
- Expect us to find actionable intelligence so that we can protect our country.
- Program is limited, safe, legal, tough and effective. It and the methods of questioning used have been fully disclosed to appropriate members of the U.S. Congress.

AG - MUKASEY - CONFIRMATION - DOCUMENTS

QUESTION: Are you willing to trade documents for a confirmation?

- Understand that members of Congress have requested certain documents, and Fred Fielding has discussed possible accommodation relating to documents with members of both the House and Senate.
- Requests for documents have nothing to do with the need to confirm Judge Mukasey to be the next Attorney General.
- Fred Fielding will continue to discuss accommodation efforts with Congress, but these discussions should not in any way delay the confirmation process for Judge Mukasey.

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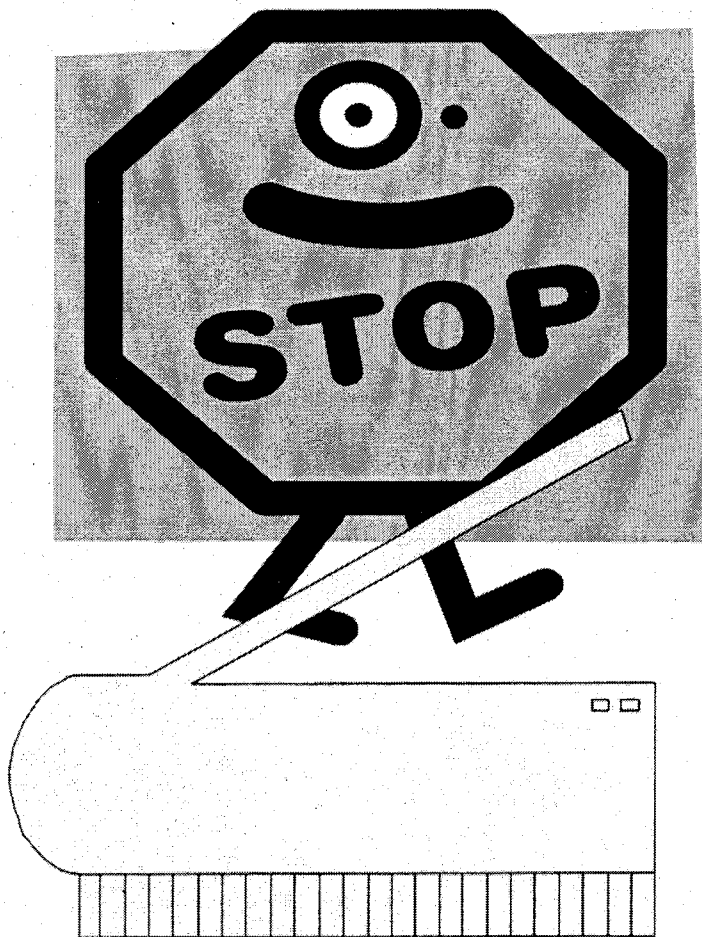
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Remainder of document not
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