

Forwarded message:

Subj: DC Tuesday Meetings
Date: 97-07-30 07:01:30 EDT
From: Fitial
To: Willietan
CC: Eloyinos,RNumberge
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Hi Willie,

Willie, Farrow is at the White House under detail from Commerce. We have started to "examine" him, shall we say. We have known he is behind a lot of our trouble, but I don't buy that it is he alone and not Stayman. Frankly, I don't trust Beirne on these matters. I cannot imagine that they are not going to have hearings in September and we are gearing up full steam for hearings at this point. In any event, we expect to have a number of questions regarding Mr. Farrow asked by one of our friendly Senators. We have a very interested background package provided about him from our friends in Puerto Rico (who loathe him).

*How did
OIA
get?*

>

JACK - NOTED... THANKS... WILLIETAN
Governor:

Welcome back.

Date: Sat, 31 Jan 1998 05:23:22 -0800
From: "Abramoff, Jack (DC)"
To: Eloyinos

Tan Co. Now Sec'y of Finance
CNMI

Williston

2001 - Sec'y of SGMA

Last week, we restructured our CMI team so as to cover the areas which we believe that Teno wants us to focus upon. We have identified six major areas of activities and will have these areas work in concert with each other. I composed this email before receiving Willie's email concerning the budget for the representation, so please understand that if the budget is significantly curtailed, it will be hard, if not impossible, to do many of these things. In the hope that the Teno guys will understand that our being out in full force is one of the best investments they can make, I still want you to see what we think the representation should be.

The following is an outline of each of the areas, who is in charge of them at the firm, and what they will be covering. I would be very grateful for your comments and thoughts on this approach. Of course, for each area, I will remain in charge and will be actively involved, as will Pat, Bill Jarrell, Dennis Stephens and the others whom you have come to know. The purpose of this division is just to track and focus our efforts as we enter what should be a very intense period.

Preston Gates CMI Team

I. Congressional Hearings Subgroup

This will be led by Franklin Walker. Franklin is one of our best attorneys, with tremendous drafting and strategic capacity. He is incredibly organized, which is the main need in this area which will come to much of our time in the next few months.

This subgroup will get us ready for the hearings. As you noted in the past (our year plan), we have a lot to do in preparation for the hearings. It is likely that the hearings will not take place until the Spring (at least), but we have to be prepared for the intense pressure Miller and Akaka will launch to get the hearings moved up.

Impeach Stayman

At a certain level, it would be good for us to have the hearings sooner than later, since we intend to use the hearings to impeach Stayman and his campaign against the CMI, enabling us to then go to the appropriations process and either defund or severely restrict his activities (more discussion of this below).

defund as strategy

The hearings subgroup will focus on, but not be limited to the following:

1. presenting the CMI case;
2. preparing our witnesses and getting them scheduled - including CMI officials and think tankers in DC;
3. working with the garment industry to get friendly workers (one Chinese, one Filipino, one Bangladeshi) to DC for the hearings;
4. writing and reviewing testimony;
5. conducting "murder board" preparation sessions;
6. preparing questions and factual backup for the friendly Senators and Congressmen;
7. outlining our hearing gameplan and ensuring our lead friends in the House and Senate are ready to conduct our game plan by hearing dates;
8. preparing the Stayman attack - including review of all interviews and writings (one of the ways we are moving on this is with

friendly workers

Write materials from the Sen!

Re Stayman attack

9. preparing the schedule for hearing week (we have to make sure that we use the entire week to highlight our case on the Hill). This will include public relations activities.
10. preparing follow up submissions; and
11. preparing legislation to be introduced into the appropriations process to cement any CMI gains in the hearings (funding of a US Attorney, restrictions on Interior's political and other harassment activities, etc.).

In appropriations!

Same lang as Senator & Indian issues

II. Congressional Action and Office of Insular Affairs Monitoring Subgroup

This subgroup will continue our extensive monitoring of Capitol Hill, as well as our ability to project political and legislative power into any committee on the Hill.

In addition to the House Resources and Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committees, it is important to monitor the committee action in the other Congressional committees to ensure that the CMI is not adversely affected, or that CMI positive agenda items are pushed. Last session, attacks were made on the CMI (led by Manasse Mansuri in the Judiciary Committee (Immigration Subcommittee), as well as in the Appropriations process. This subgroup will monitor the Hill to ensure that this does not happen.

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This group will be led by Darrell Connor. Darrell has been leading our monitoring efforts on behalf of the CMI for the past several years, as well as working closely with the Resources and Appropriations Committees in the House. He is one of the more innovative, yet detail oriented members of the Preston Gates CMI team.

~~One of the main focuses of this subgroup will be the appropriations process. The CMI has many needs and friends in the past couple years, many friends on the Appropriations Committee in the Congress. Of urgent focus this year will be the effort to defund, or more likely, to severely limit the activities of the Office of Insular Affairs. This office, led by Stayman, has been the main source of difficulty for the CMI. We believe that a lengthy list of "no such funds" amendments restricting Stayman from attacking the CMI in any forum will have a very good chance of success, with the proper amount of ground work and effort.~~

Tips = Friends Appropriations!

We had considered an effort to defund and close the OIA, but we will recommend against this for several reasons. First, carrying out such an attack with success will guarantee additional hostile press articles aplenty. Second, if the department is wiped out, the Administration is free to carry on those activities in another branch, and can merely transfer Stayman to that location, thereby defeating our aim. By placing restrictions, we can accomplish our goal (stopping Stayman from abusing the people of the CMI) and make it stick.

strategy = defund, don't abolish

This subgroup will also have responsibility for any and all floor fights, floor statements, Congressional insertions, "Dear Colleagues" and any other paper flow to the Hill.

III. Public Relations and Rapid Response Team

This group will mount the public relations counter offensive. Now that most of the publications likely to write negatively about the CMI have done so, we will mount our second counter offensive.

managing the press

The first counter offensive was mounted in 1996. This followed a series of negative articles in the Washington Post (Kranigan) and other publications. We were able to generate dozens of positive pieces about the CMI by friendly writers. In addition, this group will be responsible for generating a host of positive letters to the editor.

*friendly
writer*

The group will focus also on electronic media, using our contacts and friends to get positive pieces about the CMI on television and, most importantly, on talk radio. This effort will lead up to the hearing and give our friends sufficient amounts of publicity to counter the opponents.

This group shall ensure that all positive pieces receive the maximum exposure, including distribution by "Dear Colleague" and submission into the Congressional record. This was very successful in the last Congressional session and is greatly appreciated by the friends of the CMI on the Hill.

The group shall also be the focus of rapid response. Last year, when President Clinton released his letter calling for a federal takeover, it was the then-equivalent of this group which organized the Congressional leadership response letter within 24 hours. Rapid response to attacks on the floor of the House or Senate (such as was engineered last year when Miller surprised all with a sneak attack on the CMI during the Commerce State Justice Appropriations Bill) will also be the domain of this group.

This group will be led by Shawn Vasell, who combines superior organizational skills, unmatched background in the issues of importance to the CMI and raw energy and creativity.

IV. 902 Negotiations Subgroup

Though the 902 Negotiations will be the province of the CMI Government, we believe that there is much our firm can do to ensure that the CMI obtains the outcome it desires, and that the process of 902 does not provide the opponents of the CMI with a back door to get their desired federal takeover.

As noted in previous communications, our firm brings one additional asset to this process which will prove invaluable: Manny Rouvelas. Manny is our most senior partner, and founder of our DC office. He is a former Harvard classmate of and very close friend to Ed Cohen, the Administration's negotiator. This personal contact will be essential if there is any hope that this forum can be turned into a positive channel of problem solving.

*friends
w/negotiations*

John Mashburn, a brilliant attorney and skilled Hill staffer (formerly detailed to the Senate leadership staff by his boss Senator John Ashcroft R-MO), will lead this group, which will focus on working with the Lt. Governor in creating an agenda of action for these negotiations. Manny Rouvelas will also lead his hand in ensuring success.

V. New Democrats and Administration Outreach Subgroup

The previous CMI Administration utilized the services of other consultants to develop their relations with the Administration and the Congressional Democrats. Our firm was granted a limited license to reach out to some Congressional Democrats and, with that permission, was able to develop three of the strongest Congressional Democratic member

"develop" Mr. H. Cooper!

Thompson (D-MS) and James Clyburn (D-SC). We were also able to bring a very important group of Democrat staffers from the House to the CMI, creating yet additional allies.

Our firm has very strong ties with the Administration and this subgroup will build a new path to the Administration: one of friendship and cooperation - and one clear of Stayman. We will continue to develop Democrat friends in the House and the Senate.

This subgroup will be led by Mike O'Neil and will include the active participation of former Congressman Lloyd Meeds and former House Sergeant at Arms Werner Brandt. Mike, Lloyd and Werner will also be joined where necessary by the other top Democrats in our firm to build the widest possible Democrat support base for the CMI.

outreach to Dems

Focus areas for this subgroup in the Congress shall be the New Democrats, the Blue Dogs, the Black Caucus, the Hispanic Caucus and the Democrat Leadership Council. These groups include many members who take a more moderate line politically, and are not as closely aligned with Miller, Mink, et al, as the others.

DLC!

VI. Travel Subgroup

This group will have responsibility for any trips to the CMI, or trips of CMI officials and leaders to Washington DC. This group will be responsible to plan and schedule Teno's February trip, as well as to work with the Hearings subgroup to plan the hearings trip.

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Although the current thinking is to hold on trips to the CMI, this must be short term. There is no doubt that trips to the CMI are one of the most effective ways to build permanent friends on the Hill and among policy makers in Washington. ~~Due to the recent state of uncertainty, and the end of the Congressional recess, the trips will be curtailed for a while. It is likely, furthermore, that the upcoming Congressional elections will keep many Hill people in the states; however, the importance of bringing Congressmen and Senators to the CMI cannot be overstated.~~

trips

With the cancellation of the Young trip, it would be wise for the CMI to host a group of Resources Committee members at some time prior to the hearings. Otherwise, Miller will be the member of that committee most recently in the CMI and this will place us at a distinct disadvantage.

The frequency and need of trips can be determined in the weeks ahead, but both in order to ensure our capability to carry forth successful trips and to continue to build our ties to the past travelers, Pat Pizzella will head this subgroup.

Pizzella runs trips

At this time, Teno has not requested from our firm assistance with a wealth of other areas on which we were active for the previous administration (funding for expansion of the Tinian airport, granting control directly to the CMI over appropriated funding through the Interior Department, Congressional action freeing land in Tinian from military control, work with the EPA and its Congressional Committee, airport negotiations in Japan, etc.). Until we receive further instructions, therefore, we have stopped activities in these areas.