

Testimony of  
The Honorable Clay Johnson III  
Before the  
Subcommittee on Government Oversight, the Federal Workforce, and the District  
of Columbia  
of the  
Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Mr. Chairman, thank you for inviting me to testify on the Administration's efforts to manage the challenges of the transition. I served as Executive Director of the 2000-2001 Presidential Transition, and am part of this Administration's efforts to prepare the next Administration to take office and especially to help ensure its continued attention to our management challenges.

The Bush Administration's primary transition goal is to do a better job than has ever been done before to help the next Administration prepare to govern. One of the most important parts of this is to ensure continued strong commitment to spending the taxpayers' money effectively and **more effectively every year**, as established by Executive Order 13450.

On July 18, the Administration delivered specific Transition guidance to agencies (Attachment A). On September 24, we are meeting with each agency's senior career transition coordinator to discuss best practices, answer questions, and ensure that these individuals understand the needs of the incoming and outgoing Administrations (Attachment B). The White House staff has met with certain transition representatives for the major party candidates and will continue to do so in order to assist and advise them to prepare to get their team "on the field" much faster than ever before. In addition, I have shared my experiences with these representatives (see Attachment C).

To help ensure the next Administration is prepared to effectively address both management and human capital challenges, by January 20, 2009, all agencies will have established their FY09 program, GAO high risk, and management practice goals, and plans to achieve them. They will have made them publicly available to all employees, Members of Congress, other stakeholders, and the general public, and made their accomplishment a significant part of every relevant Senior Executive's performance goals. In this manner, agencies will continue to focus on

their desired program, high risk, and management outcomes while the new Administration is assembling and preparing to establish its own priorities.

I welcome your questions and any suggestions on what further we might do to help the next Administration best prepare itself to govern effectively.