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COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM,  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

INTERVIEW OF: KEN MEHLMAN

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Washington, D.C.

The interview in the above matter was held at 2157  
Conference Room J, commencing at 2:30 p.m.

1        Appearances:

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5        For COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM:

6

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16       For KEN MEHLMAN:

17

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1 Ms. Laitin. On behalf of the Committee on Oversight and  
2 Government Reform, I thank you for being here today. My name  
3 is Anna Laitin. I am a professional staff with the  
4 committee. I am accompanied by Kristin Amerling, the  
5 committee's Chief Counsel, and Susanne Sachsman, who is  
6 committee Counsel.

7 Minority Counsel, introduce yourselves.

8 Mr. Callen. Ashley Callen, with the Republican staff.

9 Mr. Ausbrook. Keith Ausbrook, General Counsel,  
10 Republican staff.

11 Mr. Castor. Steve Castor.

12 Ms. Laitin. This is our second day of interviewing Ken  
13 Mehlman.

14 Mr. Mehlman. Yeah.

15 Ms. Laitin. [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]  
17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]

19 A [REDACTED]

20 Q [REDACTED]

21 [REDACTED] Today's interview  
22 will focus on the committee's investigation of former  
23 lobbyist Jack Abramoff's contacts with the White House.

24 A Uh-huh.

25 Q At the request of your counsel, we delayed this

1 interview until the White House produced documents responsive  
2 to committee requests on this matter.

3 A Right.

4 Q Just as last time, a few ground rules. I will go  
5 over them with you quickly. Majority will ask questions  
6 first. We will go for about an hour, and then turn it over  
7 to the minority. If at an hour point we are in the middle of  
8 a set of questions, we will consult with the minority about  
9 whether it makes sense for us to keep going or to stop and  
10 turn it over to them.

11 An official reporter is taking down everything you say  
12 and will make a written record of the interview. So you need  
13 to give verbal, audible answers.

14 Mr. Mehlman. Okay.

15 Ms. Laitin. You are required to answer questions from  
16 Congress truthfully. Is there any reason you cannot answer  
17 truthfully?

18 Mr. Mehlman. No.

19 Ms. Laitin. Great.

20 EXAMINATION

21 BY MS. LAITIN:

22 Q Would you please state your full name for the  
23 record?

24 A Kenneth Brian Mehlman.

25 Q And you are accompanied by your counsel?

1           Mr. Ross. Yes. I am Steve Ross, representing Mr.  
2           Mehlman today. And as I did in the first interview, I wanted  
3           to just stress a couple points quickly. One is that  
4           obviously, as you indicated, you know, this is an interview,  
5           and not a deposition, by agreement with the committee. It is  
6           a second session to accommodate my request that we not cover  
7           the Jack Abramoff material until you had gotten the  
8           production from the White House to avoid the necessity of  
9           going over the same ground twice. I appreciate you doing  
10          that.

11          Also I would like to note that we appreciate your all  
12          consideration today because of the scheduling conflict that  
13          came up late for myself. Your willingness to push back the  
14          start time is appreciated.

15          Ms. Laitin. Great. Thank you.

16                   BY MS. LAITIN:

17           Q     Well, let us get started.

18           A     Okay.

19           Q     First, when you came in September you told us you  
20           are a partner at Akin Gump. Is that still your current  
21           employment?

22           A     I hope so.

23           Q     Moving to the time you were at the White House --

24           A     Yeah.

25           Q     -- in your interview in September you said you

1 worked as Political Director at the White House --

2 A I did.

3 Q -- beginning at the beginning of President Bush's  
4 first term in office until March, 2003. Is that correct?

5 A I think that is correct.

6 Q Okay. You said you reported to Karl Rove and,  
7 because of his position as Chief of Staff, Andy Card. Who  
8 reported to you at the White House?

9 A There was a staff of, let us think, one, two,  
10 three, four, five, six. I think six or seven people reported  
11 to me.

12 Q Okay. And --

13 A There was a deputy in my office.

14 Q And that was Matt Schlapp?

15 A Matt Schlapp. And then there were regional  
16 directors, which included Sara Taylor, Cuddy Johnson, Dave  
17 Thomas, who now works with [REDACTED], Kelley McCullough, and  
18 Alicia Davis. And each of them had a region of the country  
19 for which they were responsible. In addition, two other  
20 individuals -- three other individuals worked in the office.  
21 One was named Paul Dyck, who had -- I would describe these as  
22 utility players. Paul Dyck, Doug Hoelscher and Leonard  
23 Rodriguez. The only reason I am -- yeah, I am 99 percent  
24 sure they all came in '01.

25 Q And you said they were utility players, so they

1 were not assigned by region?

2 A Well, Leonard was focused on Hispanic outreach.

3 Q Okay.

4 A And had Puerto Rico and some of the Territories.  
5 Paul Dyck helped out on lots of different issues, more of a  
6 utility player, as did Doug Hoelscher.

7 Q Okay. When did you first hear about Jack Abramoff?

8 A Well, I have known Jack Abramoff since probably the  
9 mid-1990s, when I worked on Capitol Hill.

10 Q What was the context in which you met him?

11 A Well, I knew him -- I knew him I guess partly  
12 because he was a lobbyist. I don't recall when I first met  
13 him as someone who lobbied me necessarily. I just knew him.  
14 He was someone that was obviously actively supportive of  
15 Republicans, and I knew him in that context.

16 Q Okay. And during your time at the White House did  
17 you have any direct contact with him?

18 A I recall him -- seeing him at events, and  
19 occasionally he or his associates coming to see me on,  
20 generally on issues. But the contact that I had most with  
21 him was in the mid-1990s, when it was more often.

22 Q And in the mid-1990s, you said he wasn't lobbying  
23 you directly?

24 A No, I actually knew him -- it was interesting, I  
25 got to know him, we had several mutual friends, one a guy

1 named Mark Lampkin, another woman named April Lassiter who he  
2 was also friendly with. And he had me over at least once I  
3 recall to his house for a Friday night traditional Jewish  
4 Sabbath dinner. And we occasionally would have dinner and  
5 stuff like that together. And while I saw him occasionally  
6 in the period when I was at the White House, I saw him more  
7 often, not that it was ever often, but more times when I was  
8 working on the Hill.

9 Q While at the White House can you give us a sense of  
10 the frequency of your contacts?

11 A I mean it wasn't a regular thing. It was  
12 occasionally he or an associate would come in and see me on  
13 things. And you sometimes would see him at a political  
14 event.

15 Q Would it be about monthly or less frequent than  
16 that?

17 A I don't believe it was frequently as monthly at  
18 all.

19 Q You said he came in to meet with you. Were these  
20 meetings on subjects of interest to his clients?

21 A Again, I don't recall I met with him here, him  
22 there. But he, like lots of people who were lobbyists and  
23 others, would come to my office occasionally and meet with me  
24 on sometimes matters of interest to clients, and that was  
25 usually the nature of a meeting. But I didn't -- you know,



1 when he came in and when others came in you didn't always say  
2 I am here for my client about X.

3 Q Sure. But it was matters of policy interest or  
4 looking for assistance?

5 A Again, my general recollection, and let me take a  
6 minute and just as we said in the first interview -- you were  
7 at the first interview, weren't you?

8 Q Yes.

9 A I apologize for asking that. But you know, the way  
10 I try to do it is there is things I specifically recall.

11 Q Sure.

12 A And then there is things I recall because someone  
13 who I trust has told it to me and I believe them to be true.  
14 And then there is things I have a general recollection of.  
15 And then there is things I don't remember. His meeting with  
16 me is something I have the general recollection of. I don't  
17 remember a specific meeting on a specific day with him or the  
18 specific nature of the topic. At the same time, as you might  
19 imagine, when you are the White House Political Director, you  
20 have many, many, many people coming to meet with you on many,  
21 many different issues. And the ones you are most focused on,  
22 obviously, are the ones that are most important to what you  
23 do in your job.

24 Q Sure.

25 A Which I do not believe he was part of that.

1           Q     Okay. In terms of you said you had a social  
2 relationship in the 1990s, did that continue while you were  
3 at the White House?

4           A     Not really. That wasn't something that -- it  
5 really stopped when I went from being -- I saw him much less  
6 and -- when I became the Chief of Staff for Kay Granger, who  
7 is from Fort Worth, Texas, became her Chief of Staff in '96.  
8 In that period in the late 90's it became much less frequent,  
9 partly just because my job changed. I had been a Legislative  
10 Director. As a Chief of Staff, I had a different level of  
11 focus, spent a lot more time in Texas, in Fort Worth, and it  
12 reduced then.

13          Q     Okay. Jack Abramoff, we noticed in the e-mails  
14 that we received, he had both your White House and your  
15 political e-mail accounts.

16          A     Yeah.

17          Q     Was that common? Did other lobbyists have your  
18 e-mail address?

19          A     Some probably did, some probably didn't. I mean it  
20 probably is what they e-mailed me on. And as a general rule,  
21 I don't know that I had a policy of giving one or the other  
22 e-mail address. Probably just whatever they would contact me  
23 on, whether it was in the office or in the evening, because  
24 as you recall from the last one, certainly for most of the  
25 period as I recall that when I was at the White House in the

1 political office we did not have BlackBerrys that were  
2 official.

3 Q Okay.

4 Mr. Ross. You say from the e-mails you noticed that  
5 Jack Abramoff had more than one of Ken's e-mail addresses.

6 Ms. Laitin. Do you want to see?

7 Mr. Ross. Yes.

8 Ms. Laitin. Absolutely. I have a couple of exhibits.  
9 These are just e-mails that we were going to show Mr. Mehlman  
10 to ask about his social relationship. Exhibit 1 will be the  
11 one about Rosh Hashannah. The Exhibit 2 will be the October  
12 2nd, 2002.

13 [Mehlman Exhibit Nos. 1 and 2  
14 were marked for identification.]

15 Mr. Ross. Maybe I am missing something, but in the two  
16 pages that you have shown me I see one e-mail from Mr.  
17 Abramoff to Ken, but it doesn't show an e-mail address for  
18 Ken.

19 Ms. Laitin. You are correct. But the response comes  
20 from -- it is a reply coming from Mr. Mehlman's  
21 georgewbush.com account.

22 Mr. Ross. Okay. So --

23 Ms. Laitin. I can see if I can pull a different  
24 example. That is the one I had at hand.

25 Mr. Ross. So was the question really did Mr. Mehlman

1 send to Mr. Abramoff e-mails from different e-mail addresses  
2 or is this to purport to show that Mr. Abramoff had in his  
3 contact list more than one address? I am not sure. Because  
4 the way you phrased it was that there was -- you had e-mails  
5 that showed that --

6 Ms. Laitin. I also --

7 Mr. Ross. I am not disputing that. That is not what  
8 this shows me here.

9 Ms. Laitin. Okay. I will see if I can find another  
10 example where it says directly. Because he replies from his  
11 georgewbush account I may have taken an assumption too far  
12 that this being addressed to Ken Mehlman was addressed to his  
13 georgewbush.com account, because that is where he is replying  
14 from.

15 Mr. Ross. Okay. Again maybe I am missing something.

16 Ms. Laitin. You are correct.

17 Mr. Ross. Because the page that you are showing me has  
18 the first mail in the chain that is produced is from Ken at  
19 an e-mail address.

20 Ms. Laitin. I see what you are saying. You are  
21 correct.

22 Mr. Ross. If there is more of it.

23 Ms. Laitin. I will see if I can find another. The  
24 question was really about Mr. Abramoff having easy access to  
25 Mr. Mehlman's e-mail address, but I will see if we can find

1 another example.

2 Mr. Ross. Okay.

3 BY MS. LAITIN:

4 Q Do you have a sense how many lobbyists had your EOP  
5 e-mail address?

6 A I don't have a sense of that.

7 Q Okay.

8 A I mean my business card had my EOP address on  
9 there.

10 Q Okay.

11 A So anyone who had my business card.

12 Q Fair enough. Fair enough. Moving on to some of  
13 Jack Abramoff's colleagues. Do you know Tony Rudy?

14 A I do.

15 Q When did you first meet him?

16 A Probably also in the mid-1990s. I think -- I am  
17 trying to remember whether I met him when I was at Lamar  
18 Smith's office. I was Lamar's LD and then Kay's Chief of  
19 Staff -- Kay Granger. I am trying to remember which one it  
20 was, because I certainly knew him when I was Kay's Chief of  
21 Staff because he was the Deputy Chief of Staff -- I think he  
22 was Deputy Chief of Staff then for Mr. DeLay. And the Texas  
23 Chiefs of Staff would each week -- the Republican Texas  
24 Chiefs of Staff would have a lunch. I don't remember the day  
25 of our lunch. But it was at the same time that the Texas

1 Republican Members had lunch. And he would sometimes attend  
2 those lunches in place of the Chief of Staff, or in addition  
3 to the Chief of Staff. So I knew him from that. And also we  
4 were -- Kay definitely was, I think Lamar was a whip, too. I  
5 am not sure. But because we were part of the whip  
6 organization, we saw him and Mr. DeLay at whip meetings. And  
7 obviously the whip staff sometimes would follow up with the  
8 staffs of members of the whip organization.

9 Q Okay. Can you describe your relationship with him  
10 during the period you were at the White House?

11 A Again, he would be someone who, based on not  
12 specific but general recollection, would occasionally contact  
13 me on issues.

14 Q Okay. Were you -- were your contacts primarily  
15 official related or social?

16 A I would think more official related than social.

17 Q Okay. And about how frequent? Do you have a  
18 sense?

19 A This was not a person that I regularly saw. I  
20 would think it would be very few. But I don't remember all  
21 the numbers.

22 Q Okay.

23 A Again, as you might imagine, I am sure you find in  
24 your own position lots of folks that you visit with. And so  
25 you don't kind of keep track of how often you meet with

1 specific people.

2 Q Sure. I am going to show you another e-mail that  
3 we will mark as Exhibit 3.

4 [Mehlman Exhibit No. 3  
5 was marked for identification.]

6 Ms. Laitin. This is an e-mail chain. It is really the  
7 bottom two e-mails that I want you to look at.

8 Mr. Ross. I take it that this is an e-mail from the  
9 Greenberg Traurig?

10 Ms. Laitin. It is. This is from the Greenberg Traurig  
11 production. Correct.

12 Mr. Ross. And I take it it is a series of e-mails, not  
13 all of which include Mr. Mehlman in the --

14 Ms. Laitin. Exactly. I was asking really about the  
15 first two. We just have the extra stuff on top. The first  
16 one is addressed to Mr. Mehlman.

17 Mr. Ross. Got it.

18 BY MS. LAITIN:

19 Q In this e-mail on November 7th, 2001, Tony Rudy  
20 writes to Mr. Mehlman asking for a meeting regarding a  
21 political/policy issue that should be light lifting. He gets  
22 an e-mail back the next day from a Katherine Marinis at the  
23 White House suggesting a meeting the next day. Who is  
24 Katherine Marinis?

25 A Kate Marinis, now Kate Walters, was my assistant.

1 Q Okay. Was it common for lobbyists to have such  
2 quick access to meet with you, to get a meeting 2 days after?

3 A I am not sure that there was a specific common or  
4 not common. It appears -- again, I don't remember the  
5 specifics here, but my general sense was I believed that it  
6 was very important in my job to have an open door policy and  
7 to meet with folks, and I tried to accommodate them based  
8 upon my schedule.

9 Q Okay. And did you generally accept meetings from  
10 lobbyists without knowing the subject matter beforehand, or  
11 did you try to get a sense of what they were coming in for?

12 A Part of it. Sometimes what they were coming in  
13 for. Other times if I knew the individuals -- and certainly  
14 Tony Rudy was someone I knew -- I would do a meeting with  
15 them.

16 Q Great. Do you know Kevin Ring?

17 A I also want to point out that I don't know -- and  
18 this doesn't indicate whether there was a telephone  
19 conversation to follow up to say what it was about or all  
20 that either.

21 Q Of course.

22 A But again, based on this, that would be my sense of  
23 how I would have done things like this.

24 Q Okay. Do you know Kevin Ring?

25 A I do.



1 Q When did you first meet him?

2 A Another person probably in '90 to '95, '96 period.  
3 He was -- he worked I believe back then for Mr. Doolittle,  
4 although he may have worked for another Member before Mr.  
5 Doolittle. And I would know him from staff activities and  
6 being fellow staffers on the Hill.

7 Q Can you describe your relationship with him during  
8 the time you were at the White House?

9 A I don't recall having really a relationship with  
10 him. He may have come and seen me on a few things, but they  
11 certainly were not things that I recall.

12 Q Okay. Mr. Abramoff's lobbying team also included a  
13 number of other individuals who I am going to name. And just  
14 let me if you know any of them. Neil Volz?

15 A I know Mr. Volz.

16 Q How do you know him?

17 A Neil Volz was, as I recall, the Chief of Staff for  
18 a while for Mr. Bob Ney. And I believe I got to know Mr.  
19 Volz first in the 2000 Bush campaign. I think that is right.  
20 And Mr. Ney was, as were the other Members of the Ohio  
21 delegation, one of our co-chairmen for the State. And he  
22 was -- I was a Field Director. So I would deal with those  
23 folks a lot. Ohio was a big focus of ours. Eastern Ohio was  
24 particularly important because we felt, which we were  
25 successful in doing, we were going to be able to kind of

1 break the lock on West Virginia, eastern Ohio, western  
2 Kentucky, which were areas that had historically voted  
3 Democratic in presidential elections, but were fairly  
4 populist. And we were very interested in Mr. Ney's thoughts  
5 and his thoughts about how we could do better in eastern  
6 Ohio. And that is part how I knew him. I also recall Mr.  
7 Ney as being a proponent of the -- I am trying to remember  
8 the legislation after the 2000 election. It was legislation  
9 about voting machines and those issues. And it is a law,  
10 provides grants to States.

11 Mr. Ross. HAVA.

12 Mr. Mehlman. HAVA, yes. And obviously, this was an  
13 area, as White House Political Director, in which we were  
14 interested, and we worked with Mr. Ney. And also Mr. Ney was  
15 a proponent of one of the major alternatives to BCRA, which  
16 was an area of interest from a policy perspective to the  
17 President and, as his Political Director, an area that I  
18 thought it was important that I be up to speed on.

19 BY MS. LAITIN:

20 Q And what about when Mr. Volz left the Hill and went  
21 to Greenberg Traurig? Did you have any contact with him?

22 A I don't remember specific contact, but again, I  
23 would not be surprised if lots of people that I had known  
24 from my Hill days would occasionally come see me in their  
25 roles as lobbyists or lawyers or other positions.

1 Q Okay. Sure. I will run more, Todd Boulanger?

2 A I don't think so.

3 Q Shawn Vasell?

4 A Shawn Vasell is someone -- a name I generally  
5 remember, but I don't remember specifically him.

6 Q Duane Gibson?

7 A Yes. Duane Gibson had worked -- yes, Duane Gibson.

8 Q Okay. He came to Greenberg Traurig in May, 2002  
9 about.

10 A I remember him less from Greenberg Traurig. Here  
11 is how I remember him. In the mid- -- when I first went to  
12 work for Lamar Smith, when I first went to the Hill, one of  
13 the biggest issues that was focused on in our district --  
14 this was Texas 21, which was the hill country -- was the  
15 issue of private rights. And the Resources Committee was  
16 very focused on that. And Duane was a staffer on the  
17 Resources Committee that was one of the point people on that  
18 issue.

19 Q From the time you were in the White House do you  
20 have a memory of him?

21 A I don't remember -- I mean I know the guy, but I  
22 don't recall dealing with him when I was in the White House.

23 Q Sticking just to your time at the White House --

24 A Okay.

25 Q -- Michael Williams?

1           A     I don't think I remember a Michael Williams who was  
2 part of the Abramoff team.

3           Q     It is obviously a common name.

4           A     Yeah, there is a Michael Williams who worked at the  
5 NRA I remember, but I don't remember -- maybe it is a  
6 different person.

7           Q     What about Stephanie Leger Short?

8           A     I don't remember.

9           Q     Or Padgett Wilson?

10          A     I don't remember.

11          Mr. Ross. The last name was?

12          Ms. Laitin. Padgett.

13          Mr. Ross. Padgett. Okay.

14                 BY MS. LAITIN:

15          Q     Moving to your knowledge of Mr. Abramoff's contacts  
16 with others in the White House.

17          A     Yeah.

18          Q     To your knowledge, about how frequently did Karl  
19 Rove have contact with Jack Abramoff?

20          A     Again, I don't recall much contact between the two.  
21 But Mr. Rove's office was in the White House, mine was in the  
22 EOB. While I dealt a lot with Mr. Rove, I don't remember  
23 ever being in a meeting with Mr. Rove and Mr. Abramoff.

24          Q     Do you remember Mr. Rove mentioning a meeting with  
25 Mr. Abramoff?

1 A Not really, no.

2 Q Do you know Susan Ralston?

3 A I do.

4 Q During the time you were at the White House how  
5 often were you in contact with her?

6 A Very frequently. She was Mr. Rove's assistant.  
7 And so because of the fact that Mr. Rove and I worked very  
8 closely together, I would see her and talk to her on a daily  
9 basis.

10 Q Did you know that she was a former employee of Jack  
11 Abramoff's?

12 A I did.

13 Q Did you know she was in regular contact with Jack  
14 Abramoff and several of his associates while he was at the  
15 White House?

16 A No. I mean I have read articles indicating the  
17 nature of contacts allegedly that occurred. And I know  
18 that -- but I don't recall her telling me how often or  
19 knowing how often she was in contact with Mr. Abramoff.

20 Q Did you ever hear that she was passing information  
21 from the White House to Mr. Abramoff or the other way around?

22 A Not really, no.

23 Q Okay. I am going to show you another e-mail. This  
24 is not an e-mail that you were copied on, but one where you  
25 are mentioned.

1 [Mehlman Exhibit No. 4  
2 was marked for identification.]

3 BY MS. LAITIN:

4 Q This would be Exhibit 4. This is an e-mail  
5 exchange between Susan Ralston and Jack Abramoff dated  
6 October 23rd, 2002, in which Ms. Ralston states that you had  
7 asked her to provide information to Mr. Abramoff. You had  
8 asked her to pass information along.

9 Do you recall doing that either in this specific  
10 instance or generally?

11 A I don't recall this specifically. And as I said  
12 before, I know that she had worked for him, and each day  
13 there would be a regular meeting that we would have -- most  
14 days at least during the week in Mr. Rove's office with his  
15 directors, I was one of the directors, and Susan would often  
16 sit in the meetings. And so it is very possible in those  
17 meetings that questions about him she may have brought up or  
18 issues with him came up. But I don't recall this  
19 specifically, no.

20 Q Okay. In this e-mail she asks Mr. Abramoff to send  
21 his requests only to you and not to others at the White House  
22 because they just forward it to him anyways.

23 A Uh-huh.

24 Q Do you know who else at the White House Mr.  
25 Abramoff might have been contacting?

1           A     I do not.

2           Q     Do you know -- other White House officials in the  
3     Office of Political Affairs, do you know of any contacts  
4     between Mr. Abramoff and his associate and other individuals  
5     on your staff?

6           A     One second.

7           Mr. Ross. The committee has issued a report that talks  
8     about some of the contacts with the Office of Political  
9     Affairs. I take it your question is not really designed to  
10    elicit whether Mr. Mehlman has read your report, and you are  
11    not looking for information that is based on reading your  
12    report --

13          Ms. Laitin. That is correct.

14          Mr. Ross. -- but earlier information. So I think the  
15    answer would be that, you know, his knowledge of that comes  
16    from reading your report.

17          Mr. Mehlman. Yeah. And, you know, the report indicated  
18    a Mr. Rodriguez who had contact. That is something that I,  
19    based on reading the report, believe to be true, and recall  
20    based on that. It is not something that I recalled before  
21    that. So I don't want to just -- I am trying to provide a  
22    context for answering the questions. I want to answer it  
23    truthfully. At the same time, if that knowledge is based on  
24    your report jiggering my memory, I want you to understand  
25    that, too. That's the answer.

1 BY MS. LAITIN:

2 Q Sure. So do you have any specific recollection  
3 outside of reading the report?

4 A No. But as I said, I believe that to be true based  
5 on having read the report.

6 Ms. Laitin. This will be Exhibit 5.

7 [Mehlman Exhibit No. 5  
8 was marked for identification.]

9 BY MS. LAITIN:

10 Q This is an e-mail that you were copied on dated  
11 October 23rd, 2002.

12 A Okay.

13 Q Does this refresh your recollection of any  
14 communications with Leonard? This is about what you were  
15 discussing just minutes ago --

16 A Yeah.

17 Q -- an e-mail from Leonard Rodriguez to Mr.  
18 Abramoff, sending a quote to him, and saying that Ken -- that  
19 you had instructed him.

20 A It does, but where -- it does. But where the --  
21 and I am not trying to split hairs here, I am just trying to  
22 answer you as honestly as I can. Where the recollection  
23 begins with respect to your report versus otherwise is six of  
24 one, half dozen of another.

25 Q Sure. Now, you mentioned before when we were



1 discussing the Office of Political Affairs that Leonard  
2 Rodriguez was involved in Hispanic outreach as well as Puerto  
3 Rico and the Territories?

4 A Yeah.

5 Q So if there is a lobbyist working on these issues,  
6 would it be something you would normally do to suggest that  
7 the staffer working on those areas reach out?

8 A Yeah. And again, this is not something I  
9 specifically recall doing, but that is how I would -- the  
10 way, in my opinion, if you are going to be effective in a job  
11 like that you do that; when people come in with a specific  
12 question about something, the specific person with  
13 responsibility, you pass it along for them to handle. And so  
14 because of his responsibility for the Territories, the way I  
15 do business, the way I do my jobs would typically be to try  
16 to provide the person with responsibility to work on them.

17 Q And again just to be clear, you have no specific  
18 recollection of conversations between yourself and Mr.  
19 Rodriguez about Mr. Abramoff?

20 A I don't recall specifically conversations. I  
21 recall having read a lot in the report about it, and believe  
22 this all to be true, and believe this to be fairly consistent  
23 with what we did for candidates for offices all over the  
24 country, the difference being that elections in Guam were  
25 held at different times than were elections in other places.

1 Q Okay. Did you ever see Mr. Abramoff in the White  
2 House complex?

3 A I don't know the answer to that question. I don't  
4 know if he ever came and saw -- I recall certainly talking to  
5 him. I recall, based on again probably your report, talking  
6 to his aides. I am not certain that he came to my office. I  
7 wouldn't be surprised if he did on a couple of occasions.  
8 But I don't recall, you know -- again, based on your report I  
9 recall, and I am not surprised to believe, that he was at one  
10 of the Hanukkah parties. There were 370 people at each  
11 Hanukkah party, about. And often there were events for  
12 Jewish leaders. Whether he was there or not I don't  
13 remember.

14 Q Okay. Did the White House ever hold briefings  
15 within the White House complex for outside -- people outside  
16 the White House that involved you, Andrew Card, Matt Schlapp,  
17 and Lezlee Westine?

18 A Oh, very often. And it involved different people  
19 different times. That is a pretty exciting lineup.

20 Q According to e-mails provided to us by Greenberg  
21 Traurig, there was such a briefing scheduled for December  
22 4th, 2002. Do you recall such a briefing or --

23 Mr. Ross. Again?

24 Ms. Laitin. I am asking if it was common. You may not  
25 remember it specifically.

1 Mr. Mehlman. It was very common.

2 Ms. Laitin. Okay.

3 Mr. Mehlman. Can I take a minute on that?

4 Mr. Ross. Yeah. But if you have information about a  
5 specific briefing.

6 Ms. Laitin. Sure.

7 Mr. Ross. -- rather than --

8 Ms. Laitin. Absolutely.

9 Mr. Ross. Why don't we just identify the briefing and  
10 you can -- hold on one second.

11 Ms. Laitin. This will be Exhibit 6. This is an e-mail  
12 from Jack Abramoff's assistant Allison Bozniak to him,  
13 letting him know that an invitation to the White House for  
14 such a briefing.

15 [Mehlman Exhibit No. 6  
16 was marked for identification.]

17 Mr. Ross. Okay. And the question is?

18 BY MS. LAITIN:

19 Q Do you recall this specific briefing?

20 A No. And let me answer that, if I could, by -- very  
21 often when groups came into town for conferences or  
22 conventions we would invite leaders of the group over to the  
23 White House to get a briefing on issues, and I would  
24 sometimes participate in those briefings. In addition,  
25 around the time of the holiday parties, the Christmas and

1 Hanukkah parties, we would invite people who were invited to  
2 those parties, some of them, into the White House for issue  
3 briefings, too. So it wouldn't just be all about parties, it  
4 would be about giving people updates on issues. And I don't  
5 recall the specifics here. It is December 4th. It is very  
6 possible that could have been one of those holiday briefings.

7 Q And what sort of issues would be covered? And  
8 obviously this is generally.

9 A Each briefing would be different. You would often  
10 have an economics type or a public policy type talking about  
11 the President's issues agenda. You would often have the  
12 Chief of Staff or someone like that generally talking about  
13 things. And I would often talk about, you know, what was  
14 happening in the world of politics.

15 Q And about how big would these briefings be? The  
16 audience?

17 A Well, they were in that Room 450 in the EEOB, or  
18 they were in the Indian Treaty Room usually, and so they were  
19 pretty big. Several hundred people. A couple hundred people  
20 at least. I don't recall the capacity of those rooms, but it  
21 is a couple hundred people.

22 Q Okay. I am going to move on to some specific  
23 topics on the lobbying issues.

24 A Okay.

25 Q While you were at the White House, did you ever

1       become aware that any member of the Abramoff team sought  
2       White House assistance regarding the Mississippi Band of  
3       Choctaw Indians' interest in securing funds to build a jail  
4       facility?

5             A       This is something I recall as we speak today, and I  
6       recall it based on reading your report.

7             Q       Do you have any recollection prior to reading the  
8       report?

9             A       In the -- no. I would put that in the general  
10      murky recollection category.

11            Q       Okay. What do you recall about it?

12            A       Well, what I read in the report is what I recall  
13      about it. And I hope -- again, I am not trying to make your  
14      life hard --

15            Q       Sure.

16            A       -- but I am trying to -- I had very often very,  
17      very many people from very, very many backgrounds, some were  
18      supporters, some were opponents, it included lobbyists, it  
19      included labor leaders, it included civil rights leaders and  
20      others who would all come see me on issues. And Members of  
21      Congress would come see me and others would come see me. So  
22      you have hundreds of meetings. And do you recall the  
23      specifics not of any one meeting, almost no. But when you  
24      read a report like your report, which I did, it then  
25      refreshes my recollection with respect to some of those

1 issues.

2 Q Why don't I move to some specific e-mails and we  
3 can work off of those.

4 A Okay.

5 [Mehlman Exhibit No. 7  
6 was marked for identification.]

7 Ms. Laitin. This is Exhibit 7. This is an e-mail from  
8 Tony Rudy to Jack Abramoff reporting on a meeting with you on  
9 November 9th, 2001.

10 Mr. Ross. It will take us a minute to read it.

11 Ms. Laitin. Yes. And it is poorly formatted.

12 Ms. Laitin. Have you had a chance to read it now?

13 Mr. Mehlman. Uh-huh.

14 Mr. Ross. I am just about caught up.

15 Mr. Mehlman. I am a little bit offended they called me  
16 the Deputy Political Director there. A demotion there.

17 Mr. Ausbrook. That is right. And David Israelite got a  
18 promotion. He got number two at Justice.

19 Mr. Ross. But there is a large group of bureaucrats.  
20 And I take it this is the entire e-mail that you have?  
21 Because it is not clear whether this is the end of it from  
22 the page that I have got.

23 Ms. Laitin. That is the end of the e-mail. There is an  
24 attachment to it which is the same phrasing, which is the  
25 same thing. I just didn't include it for simplicity.

1           Mr. Ross. Okay.

2                   BY MS. LAITIN:

3           Q     As you can see, this e-mail is e-mailed to Mr.  
4 Abramoff on November 10th, 2001. It states that Tony Rudy  
5 had a great meeting. That occurred yesterday afternoon with  
6 you. According to Mr. Rudy's e-mail, you quote, promised to  
7 begin a campaign immediately to get Justice to release some  
8 of the fiscal year 2001 money. Do you recall doing this?

9           Mr. Ross. And just in order for us to be precise --

10          Ms. Laitin. Absolutely.

11          Mr. Ross. -- as I read this e-mail, and particularly  
12 the headnote on it, which says "Edit at will," this would  
13 appear to me to be a draft of something that Mr. Rudy was  
14 anticipating Mr. Abramoff was going to send to their client  
15 rather than a communication internally. And not to say that  
16 it might not be puffery that is engaged in in e-mails between  
17 different members of Mr. Abramoff's team, I doubt that it  
18 rises to the level of the puffery that was engaged in when  
19 they were sending something to a client. And just so that we  
20 know what we are talking about. Unless you think my  
21 characterization of that is incorrect based upon what I see.  
22 And again since I haven't been given the attachment to it, I  
23 think that is the fairest characterization of what you have  
24 given us to comment on.

25          Ms. Laitin. Sure. The memo itself is addressed to Jack

1 Abramoff from Tony Rudy. But obviously we don't know exactly  
2 how it was used, if they provided it to a client or not.

3 Mr. Ross. Don't you think that the headline "Edit at  
4 will" suggests that it was for passing on further, or you  
5 think I am --

6 Ms. Laitin. I don't know. I am using this simply as a  
7 way to refresh his memory and take how Tony Rudy initially  
8 reported on the meeting a day after to see if Mr. Mehlman can  
9 comment on it.

10 Mr. Ross. And that is what I would have to object to,  
11 because I am not sure that this can be characterized as how  
12 Mr. Rudy reported to Mr. Abramoff about the meeting. What I  
13 think it is is a draft of, and appears to me, and I have seen  
14 my share of e-mail traffic, that this is a draft of a memo to  
15 be forwarded by Mr. Abramoff as a report to the client.

16 Ms. Sachsman. It either refreshes Mr. Mehlman's  
17 recollection or it doesn't. So if Mr. Mehlman would like to  
18 look at it, and it either refreshes his recollection as to  
19 the fact that he had a meeting and that this in fact did  
20 occur at this meeting, or perhaps from his memory he can say  
21 that this in fact did not occur at the meeting. It doesn't  
22 really matter what the memo was about or who it was to.

23 Mr. Ross. I disagree, because if it is being  
24 characterized in the question as to what the memo or the  
25 exhibit that is being put in front of a witness is, I think



1 then a fair characterization is that it is not simply being  
2 used to refresh recollection, which of course you could use  
3 anything to do. But if this is being put as part of the  
4 record as something, I think we have to be careful as to what  
5 that something is. And so if it is being used as an exhibit  
6 to ask the witness to comment on, that is different than if  
7 it is being shown to a witness to refresh a recollection.

8 Ms. Sachsman. It will be attached to the transcript, so  
9 it will stand as it is.

10 Mr. Ross. No, it will stand -- it will stand as it is,  
11 but the characterization of what it is, of what it is being  
12 described as is something that the questioner asked. And,  
13 you know, again -- I am happy to talk with everybody. I  
14 thought we were engaging in a discussion as to what it was  
15 that was being put in front of the witness to comment on.

16 Ms. Sachsman. Your characterization is now on the  
17 record, so --

18 Mr. Ross. Okay. So what is the question?

19 BY MS. LAITIN:

20 Q The question is do you -- first, do you recall this  
21 meeting?

22 A I do not have a specific recollection of this  
23 meeting.

24 Q Do you have a recollection of any conversations  
25 about the Choctaw jail and releasing funds?

1           A     Very, very generally and murky recollection based  
2     on what I have read in your report and based on this.

3           Q     The last agenda item in the e-mail that I gave you,  
4     Mr. Rudy calls for another round of donations from the  
5     Choctaw. Were you aware of any efforts by Mr. Abramoff's  
6     team to encourage political donations from the Choctaw to  
7     help them secure funds for the jail?

8           Mr. Ross. I am sorry, and but for the comment I  
9     wouldn't feel compelled to do this --

10          Ms. Laitin. Sure.

11          Mr. Ross. Are you asking -- are you asking him whether  
12     paragraph 5 from the single piece of paper you have shown Mr.  
13     Mehlman refreshes his recollection, or are you simply asking  
14     him whether he has knowledge? And again, but for the comment  
15     I wouldn't feel compelled to go into this. But if you are  
16     going to say that it is being put in front of him to refresh  
17     his recollection, then I don't think that is -- then the  
18     question has to be more carefully asked. And again --

19          Ms. Amerling. Why doesn't he just answer the question  
20     about whether he has a recollection?

21          Mr. Ross. Does he have knowledge of?

22          Ms. Amerling. A knowledge of or a recollection of this,  
23     without reference to this document.

24          Mr. Ross. Fine. Thank you.

25          Mr. Mehlman. Say that again. Sorry.

1 BY MS. LAITIN:

2 Q Do you have any recollection of efforts by Mr.  
3 Abramoff's team to encourage political donations from the  
4 Choctaw to help them secure funds for their jail?

5 A I do not. Again, I can't -- you are asking me to  
6 say what Mr. Abramoff's team did with respect to clients and  
7 others and --

8 Q To simplify it further, do you have any  
9 recollection of any political donations from the Choctaw in  
10 late 2001?

11 A I recall only based on reading your report  
12 allegations about that. But I don't recall specifically  
13 beyond that.

14 Q Okay. Did you ever contact the Department of  
15 Justice regarding the Choctaw jail?

16 A I don't recall having made contact specifically --  
17 I don't have a recollection of that, no.

18 Q Okay. And you don't recollect any calls from the  
19 Department of Justice either?

20 A Again, and I want to answer this precisely, because  
21 I don't recall that specifically. I can tell you how I  
22 generally believe it is appropriate to handle requests like  
23 that. But I can't -- I don't recall the specifics of this  
24 request and whether there was discussion with the Department  
25 of Justice or not.



1 BY MS. LAITIN:

2 Q This is an e-mail from Tony Rudy to you February  
3 4th, 2002.

4 A Uh-huh.

5 Q Have you had a chance to read the e-mail?

6 A I have.

7 Q In this e-mail Tony Rudy writes to thank you for,  
8 quote, for all your help in assisting the Choctaw Indians  
9 obtain their grant from the Justice Department.

10 A Uh-huh.

11 Q Why do you think he was thanking you?

12 A I don't know. That would be his own  
13 characterization. As I indicated to your colleague, Mr.  
14 Ausbrook, I, when I received input from people, would as a  
15 matter of course pass it along to the people. And I would  
16 tell people I will pass it along to the people. And then if  
17 I got information back saying here is what happened, I would  
18 pass it along to the person that provided me the information.  
19 Based on that, I would assume he was thanking me for passing  
20 it along, and that they got the result that they wanted.

21 Q If you thought a suggestion from a lobbyist or  
22 other person outside the White House was not a good idea,  
23 would you pass along that information?

24 A If I thought it was a particularly bad idea, again,  
25 this is very hypothetical, but probably not. If somebody

1 said to me, you know, some crazy idea, I would probably not  
2 pass it along.

3 Q If an idea had come from a lobbyist you trust,  
4 would you be more likely to pass it along?

5 A I would say if the information came from someone I  
6 knew and/or I knew of I would be more likely to pass it  
7 along. So, for instance, I will give you an example. And  
8 again, this is hypothetical, but it is how I think about  
9 things. I focused a lot on outreach to organized labor in  
10 the first term. A lot of the members of organized labor  
11 hadn't endorsed the President in his initial election and  
12 didn't agree with a lot of the President's agenda.  
13 Nevertheless, I believed that we were going to be effective  
14 as a White House, and my job was to increase our number of  
15 supporters and increase the number of people with whom we had  
16 good relationships, so I would pass along information from  
17 folks like that even though they weren't necessarily  
18 supporters.

19 Q I am going to step back before the decision was  
20 made. The e-mail I just showed you, in that e-mail Tony Rudy  
21 said the decision had been made.

22 A Yeah.

23 [Mehlman Exhibit No. 9  
24 was marked for identification.]

25

1 BY MS. LAITIN:

2 Q This is an e-mail from him about 3 weeks earlier.  
3 Have you had a chance to review the e-mail?

4 A Uh-huh.

5 Q This is an e-mail from Tony Rudy to you dated  
6 January 16th, 2002, in which he says we continue to be  
7 frustrated by the lack of response by the Justice Department  
8 and asks is there anything you can do to help.

9 A Uh-huh.

10 Q You just explained to us you would occasionally  
11 pass on information.

12 A Uh-huh.

13 Q Do you have any specific recollection of this  
14 e-mail?

15 A I do not.

16 Q Do you think this is something that you would have  
17 passed on?

18 A I don't know. I mean to say -- I don't have a  
19 specific recollection. The way I would typically --  
20 certainly I believed it was important for people at agencies  
21 and in the government to be responsive to people, and quickly  
22 responsive. Certainly Mr. Rudy is someone I knew, and  
23 believed to be a person that was honest and supportive of the  
24 President. And so while I don't recall specifically, I can  
25 tell you just knowing how I think about things, I believe

1 someone like that should be able to get an answer and a fair  
2 hearing.

3 Q Do you have any knowledge regarding Ralph Reed's  
4 involvement in the Choctaw jail matter?

5 A I do not.

6 Q I am going to move on to another issue.

7 A Okay.

8 Q Do you have any knowledge of a gaming compact for  
9 the Jena tribe of the Choctaw Indians that was under  
10 consideration --

11 A No, I do not.

12 Q -- by the Department of Interior in 2002 and 2003?

13 A I do not.

14 Q I am going to show you two sets of e-mails.

15 A Okay.

16 Q The first one, Exhibit 10, I would ask you to give  
17 particular attention to the first e-mail in the chain, which  
18 is mostly on the second page. While Mr. Mehlman is reading,  
19 I will mark the first one, which is an exchange of Todd  
20 Boulanger and Susan Ralston dated February 20th, 2002 as  
21 Exhibit 10, and the next one, which is an e-mail exchange  
22 between Susan Ralston and Todd Boulanger on February 21st, as  
23 Exhibit 11.

24 [Mehlman Exhibit No. 10

25 was marked for identification.]



1           Mr. Mehlman. Okay.

2           Ms. Laitin. And this is Exhibit 11. Mr. Mehlman is not  
3 included on any of these e-mails, but I wanted to use them.

4           BY MS. LAITIN:

5           Q     In the first set, Todd Boulanger, who is an  
6 associate of Mr. Abramoff's, asks to meet with Susan Ralston  
7 the next day to provide her with a briefing book for her to  
8 give to Mr. Rove regarding an Indian gaming compact that was  
9 negotiated under the cover of night.

10           In the next e-mail, set of e-mails, the next day, Ms.  
11 Ralston reports that she gave the binder to Karl Rove, who  
12 gave the binder to Mehlman to read cover to cover and be  
13 prepared for an upcoming meeting.

14           A     Uh-huh.

15           Q     Do you have any recollection of this briefing  
16 binder about the Jena?

17           A     I do not.

18           Q     And are you aware that in 2003 this issue came up  
19 again?

20           A     No.

21           Q     Moving on to the next issue.

22           Mr. Ross. A very famous binder, though.

23           BY MS. LAITIN:

24           Q     Do you know who Allen Stayman is?

25           A     I do, and I believe the basis of my knowledge of

1 that is that question from -- or press reports on your  
2 report.

3 Q How did you first hear about him? Do you recall?

4 A Well, remember, when your report came out, which I  
5 believe was in 2005 or 2006 --

6 Q 2006?

7 A I apologize, 2006 -- I was at the time the RNC  
8 Chairman. And as RNC Chairman, I was almost always all over  
9 television. I mean I did Sunday shows many Sundays. I was  
10 often on cable shows. And I would get asked questions about  
11 this. And so as a result I read it and read articles on it.  
12 And I remember, based on reading the report, also reading a  
13 column by Mr. Robert Novak, where he indicated information  
14 regarding Mr. Stayman. And I think that is where I first  
15 remember reading about it.

16 Q To refresh your memory then, in 2001 Mr. Stayman  
17 served as the chief negotiator for the Compacts of Free  
18 Association regarding the Marshall Islands and the Federated  
19 States of Micronesia.

20 [Mehlman Exhibit No. 12

21 was marked for identification.]

22 Ms. Laitin. I am going to present you now with an  
23 e-mail exchange. It is another e-mail exchange in which you  
24 are not included but are discussed.

25 Mr. Ross. Right. But again before we move on, you

1 mentioned a fact about Mr. Stayman's career --

2 Ms. Laitin. Sure.

3 Mr. Ross. -- as an attempt to refresh Mr. Mehlman's  
4 memory, which --

5 Ms. Laitin. That may have been an incorrect phrasing.

6 Mr. Ross. Okay. Is there a question about whether he  
7 knew that fact?

8 Ms. Laitin. No, I was just stating that for background  
9 for the questions.

10 Mr. Ross. Okay.

11 Mr. Mehlman. They start here?

12 Ms. Laitin. Yes. This will be Exhibit 12. A January  
13 29th, 2001, e-mail exchange between Tony Rudy, Kevin Ring,  
14 and Jack Abramoff.

15 Mr. Ross. Okay. And your question might be?

16 Mr. Mehlman. My reaction was similar to the reaction of  
17 Mr. Ring when I read he will kill him. What?

18 BY MS. LAITIN:

19 Q Do you remember discussing Allen Stayman with Tony  
20 Rudy during the early weeks of the Bush administration?

21 A Again -- and again, I am trying to be precise in  
22 this answer because obviously it is important to be -- I  
23 don't. I have a murky recollection of this, much of which I  
24 think is from the 2006 report, which I obviously, given the  
25 fact that I was all over television and asked about it rather

1 frequently, wanted to figure out what had happened. And I as  
2 a result read the report, read the Novak and studied it back  
3 then. So it is not something I recall from back then  
4 specifically. It is something that my recollection has been  
5 refreshed by both reading the report and other articles about  
6 the report that came out, which was necessary given the fact  
7 that I was going to be asked about it a lot on television.

8 Mr. Ross. By way of -- if we could just expand on that,  
9 I just want to make sure we are not confusing the situation.

10 Mr. Mehlman. Yeah. And again let me try to put it in  
11 context.

12 At the beginning of any administration there are lots of  
13 people who come and have ideas about who would be good and  
14 who is not good in different jobs. And so you take those  
15 requests and listen to them and pass it on and try to deal  
16 with the flood of incoming as well as you can. This is not  
17 something that I specifically recall, and it is not -- given  
18 the number of incoming.

19 At the same time, when I read the report it is a general  
20 recollection. So it is not a specific recollection based on  
21 reading the report. There is a general recollection of yeah,  
22 there was some guy they didn't like, but I don't remember a  
23 lot of the specifics.

24

25



1 Mr. Novak's column, of what the issue was with Mr. Stayman?

2 A No, not other than that. And again, it is hard for  
3 me to separate the two. Here is my challenge. As I've  
4 indicated, I know I did dozens, hundreds of interviews in  
5 2006; local television, national television, local  
6 newspapers, national newspapers. And the attorney in me, I  
7 am a big believer in preparing for that. And I would -- I  
8 like lots of papers and data and facts and specifics. And  
9 this was an area, when the report came out, I was asked a lot  
10 of questions about. So I read the report and got my hands on  
11 as many columns on the issue as I could and tried to  
12 answer -- and as a result, you know, want to be truthful when  
13 the reporters ask me questions. So it is very hard -- I  
14 don't have specific knowledge of these issues and the issues  
15 here. And the extent to which I have murky knowledge, I'm  
16 not sure whether it was a basic report or whether the report  
17 helped me recollect it, refresh my recollection as they say.

18 Q The type of political position that Mr. Stayman had  
19 -- I mean, is it fair to say that there are hundreds, if not  
20 thousands, of those types of political positions in the  
21 administration in dealing with such a narrow issue?

22 A I don't recall the specific position, but that is  
23 my understanding, yes.

24 Ms. Amerling. Just so we are clear, you're asking if  
25 there were hundreds of compact negotiators?

1           Mr. Castor. The position of a compact negotiator is  
2 dealing with a fairly narrow set of facts. It is a fairly  
3 narrow job description, and I'm just observing and  
4 Mr. Mehlman, I think, agreed with me that there are thousands  
5 of political positions in an administration, you know, when  
6 you get down to that level.

7           Mr. Castor. Is that fair to say?

8           Mr. Ross. I'm not sure that Mr. Mehlman has indicated  
9 he knows precisely what position Mr. Stayman had. If the  
10 impression is, are there thousands of jobs being filled at  
11 the beginning of an administration, why don't we ask it that  
12 way?

13          Mr. Mehlman. Yes.

14                   BY MR. CASTOR:

15           Q       Certainly it is fair to say, if someone was  
16 lobbying you on a Cabinet slot, you may have a recollection  
17 of what the issues were regarding the decision making over a  
18 particular Cabinet person; is that fair to say?

19           A       Generally it is, but unfortunately for people's  
20 egos, more people think that there ought to be cabinets than  
21 you can imagine.

22           Q       I mean, is it fair to say that the Micronesia  
23 compact negotiator is fairly on down the chain in terms of --

24           A       It is not something I can imagine being  
25 particularly focused on.

1           Q     Did you ever have a recollection of what the  
2     Greenberg folks were interested in with respect to  
3     Micronesia?

4           A     I don't.

5           Q     Slot?

6           A     I don't. I know Mr. Abramoff has had for a long  
7     time worked with the Mariana Islands, but I don't recall that  
8     area, and the thing I most recall from the Novak column is  
9     apparently this man was a DNC consultant or something, which  
10    is unusual to have a person as a consultant for the DNC  
11    working in the Bush administration.

12          Q     What is your recollection of the holdover rate from  
13    political appointees from the Clinton administration to the  
14    Bush administration?

15          A     I don't remember the specific --

16          Q     High, a lot of --

17          A     No, generally that is not something that is very  
18    high at all. It is pretty low.

19          Q     One of the e-mails we looked at telling Rudy thank  
20    you for your support, do you ever remember a time when a  
21    lobbyist thanked you for your support, you had no idea what  
22    support you gave?

23          A     Yeah. And people do that all the time and, as I  
24    said, I thought that the way that appropriately you handle  
25    something like that is to pass along the information. And if



1 that is helpful to the decision makers and helpful to  
2 lobbyists, so be it. But I remember lobbyists often is a  
3 thank you for things you did and things you didn't do.

4 Q Isn't it fair to say having a lobbyist say thank  
5 you to you is almost like saying have a good day or other  
6 type of generic salutation?

7 A That is a fair statement.

8 Q We had some discussion about puffery that goes on  
9 between, you know, lobbyists and their clients?

10 A Right. Not at Akin Gump.

11 Q You know, when some of these groups had the  
12 opportunity to come in to get a briefing?

13 A Yeah.

14 Q In the Indian Treaty Room or one of the big  
15 auditorium type rooms in EEOB, I mean, is it fair to say that  
16 there might be a great deal of puffing going on on the other  
17 end, that the folks in the audience might turn around and  
18 have conversations with their clients that they just spent  
19 some time with some top White House officials?

20 A I believe that happens very often. And, I mean, my  
21 sense is that there are people that will even say I met with  
22 and the meeting was with them and 400 other people.

23 Q So, exhibit 6, I guess there is this, you know,  
24 e-mail about Mr. Abramoff coming over to the White House to  
25 hear from you and Andy Card and Lezlee Westine and Matt

1 Schlapp. Is it fair to say that that type of meeting which  
2 occurred with great frequency is the type of meeting where  
3 there is potentially hundreds of people in the room?

4 A Yes.

5 Q And it is more of an opportunity for the White  
6 House officials such as yourself to help the people in the  
7 room understand the lay of the land?

8 A Absolutely, absolutely. In fact, I can't recall a  
9 single meeting where there was a one-on-one meeting with  
10 myself, Matt Schlapp, Lezlee Westine, Andy Card and any  
11 individual.

12 Q And the flow of communication is generally --  
13 except for some nominal Q&A -- it is a one-way flow of  
14 information? The White House folks talking to the folks in  
15 the audience?

16 A Yes. A lot of talk; not a lot of listening.

17 Q So it would be unfair to characterize such a  
18 meeting as an important opportunity for the Greenberg folks  
19 to influence the White House?

20 A I think it would be unfair and misleading.

21 Q Other than reading the report, do you have any  
22 recollection of this Choctaw jail --

23 A Again, when I read the report, there was -- and I  
24 say this again to try to be precise. I do not have specific  
25 knowledge. I don't have knowledge based on the fact that

1 someone who was with me and had direct knowledge and I trust  
2 told me. Reading the report gave me a general kind of murky  
3 knowledge which all of us are familiar with. That is the  
4 basis for my saying when she asked me the question, I had  
5 that general knowledge.

6 Q So you don't have any recollection of talking to  
7 David Israel over at DOJ about the Choctaw jail?

8 A I do not.

9 Q You don't have any recollection talking to any  
10 other Justice Department official about the Choctaw jail?

11 A I have not. But as I say, the way I would handle  
12 something is to call the appropriate people in the agencies.

13 Q Did you ever have an occasion to call Tracy Henke?

14 A I don't remember Tracy Henke.

15 Q She handled the grants over at the Justice  
16 Department.

17 A That is not something -- I may -- I do not remember  
18 her name.

19 Q You explained when you had an opportunity to be the  
20 recipient of a position from a lobbyist, that if you thought  
21 it was relevant, you might forward it onto the decision  
22 makers?

23 A Yeah.

24 Q It was your practice to, along with forwarding the  
25 information along, communicate what the White House's

1 position was?

2 A Again, I don't remember specifically. I don't  
3 think that generally would be something -- to the extent to  
4 which the President had it as a priority, I might. But it  
5 would depend on the issue.

6 Q And what was your decision making like when you  
7 decided to pass along information? What type of analysis did  
8 you place on the information that you were passing along?  
9 Was it sort of, well, this could be useful and relevant?

10 A Again, it depends on if this was something that was  
11 a real priority of the President, then I'd pass it along in a  
12 different way than somebody who was a supporter and you just  
13 say, hey, here is some information and try to get an answer  
14 for the supporter. If it was an important constituency, not  
15 a supporter, you'd want to make sure they got an answer, too.  
16 All of which I think is part of the job of the White House  
17 Political Director.

18 Q And I think you spoke a little bit about that it  
19 was important that these folks who were communicating. Did  
20 you get a sense that they were getting a fair hearing?

21 A Absolutely.

22 Q That they had an opportunity to have their position  
23 communicated to the decision --

24 A No question about it, and that goes for people that  
25 were supporters and not supporters.

1           Q     So even if a decision wasn't going to go their way,  
2     it was still useful?

3           A     Very important.

4           Q     To pass along the information and just get a sense  
5     that the various issues and positions were in the hopper so  
6     to speak?

7           A     Yes.

8           Q     Are you aware if Members of Congress do the same  
9     thing?

10          A     Yes, having worked on the Hill, I believe that they  
11     do.

12          Q     And so even if the administration's position on a  
13     certain piece of legislation or a policy initiative fight be  
14     foregone -- a foregone conclusion, you might still  
15     communicate the position of a Member of Congress on down the  
16     chain?

17          A     Absolutely. And my understanding is that Members  
18     of Congress very often will pass along information to a  
19     constituent or a lobbyist in a similar way.

20          Q     So the forwarding of information, the forwarding of  
21     a particular Member of Congress's or lobbyist's position on  
22     something isn't necessarily vouching for that position?

23          A     That's right.

24          Q     It is merely throwing it in the hopper so to speak?

25          A     Yes.

1           Q     Would you acknowledge that when the White House  
2           Political Director senior staff person such as yourself  
3           forwards information on down the line, that it might be  
4           viewed with a certain level of credibility?

5           A     Well, I think that hopefully the credibility it  
6           will be viewed with is that they are encouraging you to  
7           provide an answer and fairly considerate. As you know from  
8           our previous meeting, one of the things I very much focused  
9           on whenever I would talk to people at agencies and do  
10          briefings at agencies was the importance of most of all  
11          following the rules and making sure that everything you do is  
12          consistent with both the spirit and the letter of the law.

13          Q     We looked at an e-mail about Tony Rudy I guess had  
14          a meeting with you, and I believe it was characterized as  
15          getting put together quickly. You were asked something along  
16          the lines of, was that unusual, that level of access would be  
17          given to a lobbyist so quickly? You remember that line of  
18          questioning earlier today; right?

19          A     Uh-huh.

20          Q     Is it fair to say that access to the White House  
21          Political Director, access to Ken Mehlman would depend on a  
22          range of circumstances that are entirely unknown as we sit  
23          here today?

24          A     It would be, including my schedule, including  
25          whether I was in town, including what else I had going on.

1 As I recall and I also noticed that also -- what was the date  
2 of that e-mail?

3 Q This is a November 7th and 8th of 2001?

4 A Yeah, I mean -- and again, this is speculation.  
5 Let me establish that. But this was 6 weeks after September  
6 11th. The White House Political Director wasn't traveling  
7 that much. The President, as you may recall, did no  
8 political travel in 2001 in the gubernatorial races that  
9 year, and so my ability to meet with people and plan and do  
10 meetings and stuff like that was probably greater than that  
11 was, say, in 2002. But this is hypothetical and speculation  
12 because I don't remember the specifics of it.

13 Q I guess one of the things I'm trying to get at,  
14 there is no way to really know what was going on in your  
15 professional calendar --

16 A I tried very hard to meet with people as  
17 expeditiously as I can. Unfortunately, it was not always  
18 able to happen.

19 Q So if we go back and look at the calendar and, you  
20 know, at a different time, it might be fair to say that one  
21 of your closest friends from the Capitol Hill days tried to  
22 lobby you on something that was close and important to the  
23 President, you might not have been able to afford that person  
24 access for a number of weeks?

25 A You're exactly right.

1           Q     So if we look at a set of e-mails regarding the  
2           hypothetical I just showed you, someone might draw the  
3           conclusion that they didn't have access to you?

4           A     That's right. I mean, as I've indicated in the  
5           first meeting, you know, the challenge you have -- and you  
6           all have the same thing in the jobs you have, because it is  
7           very busy, and certainly at the White House it was like that.  
8           In my opinion, what really differentiates people who are  
9           effective in their jobs and those who are not: Those who are  
10          effective are able to make sure that they're able to be  
11          responsive to people and polite and have an open-door policy  
12          while also getting their job done and figuring out what they  
13          want to do. And it is very easy in these political jobs and  
14          governmental jobs to get in-boxed to death. So while I tried  
15          to be open and meet with people, I also tried very hard to  
16          make sure that the agenda items that were, I viewed, my job  
17          and my responsibility I was able to do. And if that meant I  
18          couldn't do as many meetings on some days, unfortunately,  
19          that is what happened.

20          Q     You said that you knew Mr. Abramoff in the mid '90s  
21          on Capitol Hill and you knew that he was a lobbyist in town.

22          A     Yeah, yeah.

23          Q     You know, when you were at the White House?

24          A     Yeah.

25          Q     You knew that he represented Indian tribes?



1           A     Knew he was a strong support of the Republican  
2 party.

3           Q     You knew that he represented some of the clients  
4 like the Mariana Islands?

5           A     Uh-huh.

6           Q     Did you have any awareness that Mr. Abramoff was  
7 involved in some of the, you know, highly illegal activities?

8           A     I did not.

9           Q     That later came to light with Mr. Scanlon?

10          A     Not at all.

11          Q     Did you have any idea that Mr. Abramoff was engaged  
12 in some of the illegal activities that came out of Florida  
13 with some of the --

14          A     No.

15          Q     Wire transfers?

16          A     Nope.

17          Q     Because there was a comment I believe that you made  
18 at one point that the White House doesn't know Mr. Abramoff?

19          A     Yeah, that actually was a comment that was falsely  
20 attributed to me based on a magazine article. I don't  
21 remember the magazine, but it was -- I think it was Vanity  
22 Fair or something had taken it out of context -- another  
23 article which I remember that because this was back when I  
24 was at the RNC, and my press person had indicated that the  
25 magazine -- how out of context that was taken. I had said he

1 was -- everybody knew who Jack Abramoff was. Not everybody.  
2 Many people knew who he was. And as I recall -- this is a  
3 little murky. I think it was -- what I was saying was people  
4 didn't know he was engaged in the activities he was in or in  
5 trouble the way he was.

6 Q So it is fair to say that Jack Abramoff that was  
7 engaged with Mr. Scanlon in bilking his Indian tribe crime  
8 clients is a different Jack Abramoff that wasn't the lobbyist  
9 at Greenberg Traurig?

10 A He is obviously the same person, but I don't think  
11 a lot of people -- certainly I didn't know what he was doing.  
12 A lot of people didn't know what he was doing. And I can't  
13 imagine that his colleagues at Greenberg Traurig knew what he  
14 was doing because there's a lot of honorable people that work  
15 there.

16 Q This famous briefing book that Susan Ralston said,  
17 you know, internally to the Greenberg people, she said that  
18 you were instructed to read cover to cover?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Do you have any recollection of that?

21 A I do not.

22 Q Do you have a recollection of reading a Greenberg  
23 Traurig binder cover to cover?

24 A No.

25 Q Does that sound like something that might be puffed

1 up a little bit?

2 A It does.

3 Q Is it fair to say, when lobbyists come to see White  
4 House officials such as yourself, and you're the political  
5 director, they bring briefing materials with them and hand  
6 them to you?

7 A Some do.

8 Q And is it fair to say that a good portion of the  
9 time you take the materials and never look at them ever  
10 again?

11 A That's a fair characterization.

12 Q Is it also a fair characterization that you might  
13 run into someone in town, they might hand you something, some  
14 briefing materials, and you might thank them for giving them  
15 to you?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And you might never do anything with them ever  
18 again?

19 A Yes.

20 Q So just because someone on the Greenberg Traurig  
21 side of the House thought that you were going to be reading a  
22 binder cover to cover doesn't mean you were?

23 A That's correct.

24 Q These Indian Treaty Room briefings or some of the  
25 other briefings where hundreds of people show up, you weren't

1 in charge of organizing those, were you?

2 A No, not generally. The briefings that we would  
3 have been -- I don't recall us -- I can't recall ever  
4 being -- I mean, I'm just trying to remember it like -- when  
5 the Republican National Committee members would come in town,  
6 we would sometimes do a reception with the President, and  
7 that would be an event that we'd be responsible for  
8 organizing. And the -- around the time of the holiday  
9 parties, when people were in town, we'd sometimes have  
10 briefings. And we'd be speaking at the briefings, but I  
11 generally think that generally the Office of Public Liaison  
12 would organize those.

13 Q So if the Chief of Staff, Andrew card was coming,  
14 if you were coming, if some of the other senior White House  
15 staff was going to be at a briefing in the Indian Treaty Room  
16 with a couple of hundred people, that is something you think  
17 might be put together by the Office of Public Liaison?

18 A Or we may have all talked about who should be there  
19 or speak there. But as general rule that is not something  
20 we'd typically do or want to do. Because, quite frankly, in  
21 my opinion, that is not a particularly good use of time.

22 Q How many of these briefings where there were a  
23 large number of people, more than 50, how many do you think  
24 you did in the White House?

25 A Dozens.

1           Q     And is it fair to say that you have no idea who is  
2     in the room?

3           A     No. You know. You know who is in the room. But  
4     you don't know every individual. You know it is the  
5     Electronics Association whose convention is in town. You  
6     know, is it the -- I remember doing a speech to the Council  
7     on National Policy, the -- I remember doing the holiday  
8     briefings for people, and those were all examples of  
9     briefings you remember doing that you would know -- you would  
10    probably know some of the people there. You'd know the heads  
11    of the group, some of the leaders of the group. You'd  
12    recognize them. You'd try to say nice things. Whenever I  
13    speak to any audiences, I always try to find out some  
14    specifics about what they care about so I can try to connect  
15    with them.

16          Q     The briefing that Mr. Abramoff went to at the  
17    beginning of December may have been, you said, an advance --

18          A     It looks to me like it would have been the Hanukkah  
19    one, but I'm not positive.

20          Q     If it was the Hanukkah one, it is fair to say there  
21    would be some of the Jewish Americans --

22          A     Yeah, the President was -- Bush -- President Bush,  
23    I think, we're the first administration to have had a formal  
24    as opposed to a kind of staff -- but a formal -- you know,  
25    what do they call it -- ceremonial floor Hanukkah party where

1 the kitchen is kosher. Jewish leaders are invited.  
2 Everybody gets their picture with the President and the First  
3 Lady. And I don't recall if that was the one, but that was  
4 right around that time.

5 Q We wrote about it in our report. But as it turns  
6 out, the paper trail shows Abramoff wasn't even invited at  
7 first. Do you have any recollection of --

8 A I know that around the holiday parties, who  
9 doesn't, is one of the most horrendous times of the year for  
10 a political director because everybody wants to be invited;  
11 everyone is offended when they're not. And I know that, as a  
12 general rule, around the time of the holiday parties, there  
13 would be absolute -- just all kinds of furious supporters and  
14 others who believe they should be invited. And you would  
15 have to deal with it. It was a very unpleasant time. I  
16 actually recall one of the years, we actually -- the  
17 gentleman that took all the photos -- the camera's film was  
18 skunked. And so more than 300 pictures that the President  
19 took never showed up, and I remember hearing that and  
20 refusing to go tell him and having someone else tell him  
21 because of knowing what the reaction would be.

22 Mr. Castor. That's the end of my questions.

23 Mr. Mehlman. I'm not normally a coward like that, but I  
24 knew how long he had stood in line, and we had had a lot of  
25 people. So I knew it would be really ugly.

1 Ms. Amerling. I'm going to ask this round of questions.

2 Mr. Mehlman. Nice to see you again.

3 Ms. Amerling. Nice to see you.

4 EXAMINATION

5 BY MS. AMERLING:

6 Q I'd like to start by asking you a little bit about  
7 gifts and disclosure of gifts. When you're at the White  
8 House, did the White House provide guidance on receiving  
9 gifts from lobbyists?

10 A I think that they did. I don't remember the  
11 specific guidance that they gave. I remember generally there  
12 was guidance, but I don't remember the nature of it.

13 Q Do you remember whether it was through briefings or  
14 through documents, memos?

15 A There were briefings that were provided, and I  
16 remember from our last meeting, you showed us or you  
17 referenced some report with some kind of guidance, but I  
18 don't specifically remember personally the nature of the  
19 guidance.

20 Q Do you remember who provided the guidance?

21 A I do not. I know that as a general rule Brett  
22 Cavanaugh would be the person that we'd go to on most issues,  
23 and his boss obviously was Alberto Gonzales.

24 Q And did the White House provide guidance about  
25 reporting gifts on financial disclosure and things like that?

1           A     I don't remember the nature of the report -- I  
2 don't remember the nature of the guidance they provided.

3           Q     Do you recall whether they provided guidance on  
4 that at all?

5           A     As I said, I remember generally there was guidance  
6 on gifts. I don't remember the nature of the guidance, in  
7 other words, the form of it. I don't remember the specifics  
8 of what was in the guidance.

9           Q     You've mentioned?

10          A     I'm certainly aware of the gift rule and aware from  
11 it in part because of my time up on the Hill where it first  
12 was implemented.

13          Q     When you were at the White House, were you aware of  
14 what the gift rules?

15          A     Yeah.

16          Q     When you were at the White House, were you aware of  
17 what the rules related to, what was required on your  
18 financial disclosure reports were?

19          A     I recall generally being aware of that, but I don't  
20 recall the specifics.

21          Q     And was it important to you that your staff was  
22 aware of the ethics rules?

23          A     Oh, yeah. Absolutely.

24          Q     Did you take any steps to make sure your staff was  
25 aware of that?



1           A     Oh, yeah. We had briefings as I told you in our  
2 last meeting about ethics rules generally and that we had  
3 briefings with Mr. Cavanaugh, and I, as a matter of course,  
4 would always try to put forward not only my schedule, but my  
5 presentations and everything else to Mr. Cavanaugh and make  
6 sure he was comfortable, and others in the staff did the same  
7 thing.

8           Q     And you would have made sure that those briefings  
9 would have included the information about the rules on gifts  
10 and financial disclosure?

11          A     I don't recall the specifics of the briefing, but I  
12 certainly would have wanted them to be comprehensive.

13          Q     Are you aware of any staff of the Office of  
14 Political Affairs receiving tickets from Jack Abramoff or  
15 members of his lobbying team to concerts or sporting events  
16 or other entertainment events?

17          A     I'm not.

18          Q     Did you accept tickets to a U2 concert in 2001 from  
19 Mr. Abramoff or his team?

20          A     I don't recall having done that.

21          Q     Now, in October of 2006, Congressman Waxman wrote  
22 to you about this issue because the committee had obtained  
23 several documents linking you to that.

24          A     Yes, in the report.

25          Q     Let me show you a few of those documents.

1 [Mehlman Exhibit Nos. 13, 14 and 15  
2 were marked for identification.]

3 BY MS. AMERLING:

4 Q I'm showing the witness three documents.

5 A Only two right now.

6 Q There is the third. The first is an e-mail  
7 exchange dated June 5, 2001.

8 Mr. Castor. I'm sorry, 13 is which one?

9 Ms. Amerling. This is an e-mail exchange dated June 5,  
10 2001, between Kevin Ring, Jack Abramoff and Julie Plocki.  
11 We'll mark as exhibit 14 an e-mail dated later in the day on  
12 that same day.

13 Mr. Castor. Okay.

14 Ms. Amerling. June 5th. It is an e-mail from Julie  
15 Plocki.

16 Mr. Castor. I have got it all now. My bad.

17 Ms. Amerling. For the record here, the third e-mail  
18 will be exhibit 15, and that is the June 14, 2001, e-mail.

19 Mr. Ross. And these are all e-mails, none of which are,  
20 I take it, to or from Mr. Mehlman?

21 Ms. Amerling. That's correct. These are e-mails we  
22 received from Greenberg Traurig.

23 BY MS. AMERLING:

24 Q Have you had a chance to look at these?

25 A Uh-huh.

1           Q     In the first one, Kevin Ring, one of Jack  
2 Abramoff's associates asks if tickets are available for the  
3 upcoming U2 concert because apparently Ken Mehlman at the  
4 White House wanted to go. In the second one, Mr. Abramoff's  
5 assistant includes your name on the most current list; for  
6 you two tickets, indicating there were two reserved for you.  
7 And on the third e-mail, Mr. Ring tells Mr. Abramoff that he,  
8 "will talk to Mehlman at the concert tomorrow night." Now,  
9 in the letter that the Mr. Waxman sent you last October, he  
10 noted that these documents linked you to the concert, and he  
11 asked you three basic questions. One, did you attend the  
12 concert? Two, if you attended, did you bring a guest, and  
13 did you reimburse for the cost of tickets? And three, if you  
14 attended and you didn't reimburse, why didn't you report that  
15 on your 2001 financial disclosure form?

16           A     Right.

17           Q     Why didn't you respond to the Congressman's letter?

18           A     I'll refer you to my counsel.

19           Mr. Ross. I may talk to you about that another time.

20           Ms. Amerling. Why can't you answer the question now?

21           Mr. Ross. He is following my advice.

22           Ms. Amerling. And is this because there is a privilege  
23 related to this? Or is there a constitutional issue that is  
24 preventing an answer to this question?

25           Mr. Ross. No, he was following my advice. The answer

1 to your question as to why he didn't respond to the letter is  
2 that he was following my advice at the time.

3 Ms. Amerling. Right. And I'm wondering if there is a  
4 basis for -- that you can provide for him --

5 Mr. Ross. Well, again, I would be happy to talk to you  
6 about that at another time. I don't think that a basis was  
7 required whether or not to respond to that letter at that  
8 time. He is happy to answer your questions now.

9 Ms. Amerling. But I'm asking you right now, what is the  
10 basis for your saying that he can't answer the questions  
11 today? Is there --

12 Mr. Ross. He did answer it.

13 Ms. Amerling. What is the basis for him not being able  
14 to say why he didn't answer the letter?

15 Mr. Ross. He did answer that. He was following my  
16 advice.

17 Ms. Amerling. Okay.

18 Mr. Ross. That is his answer.

19 BY MS. AMERLING:

20 Q Mr. Mehlman, when you received Mr. Waxman's letter,  
21 did you check your records to try to find answers to his  
22 questions?

23 A I talked to my counsel when I received his letter  
24 who --

25 Q Yes. Did you check your bank records to determine

1       whether or not you had reimbursed for the cost of the  
2       tickets?

3           A       I do not recall having attended the concert.  So  
4       the answer to the first question is, I don't recall having  
5       attended.

6           Q       Now I'm asking you, when you received the letter  
7       from Mr. Waxman which raised issues about whether you  
8       attended and, if so, whether you reimbursed, did you check  
9       your records to ascertain whether there's any records  
10      relating to the concert?  That's what I'm asking you.

11          Mr. Ross.  I'll object to that question.  I don't think  
12      that is the proper question.

13          Ms. Amerling.  What is the basis of the objection?

14          Mr. Ross.  I'll object to that on an attorney/client  
15      basis.  If you're asking what went into the consideration of  
16      whether he answered the question -- answered the letter or  
17      not and what response he had -- you have asked him whether he  
18      went to the concert.  He says he didn't go to the concert.

19          Ms. Amerling.  He didn't say he didn't go to the  
20      concert.  He said he doesn't recall.

21          Mr. Mehlman.  I don't recall going to the concert.

22                   BY MS. AMERLING:

23          Q       Does that mean you believe you did not go?

24          A       I don't think I went.  I've been to a lot of  
25      concerts.  I've been to U2 concerts.  I've been to

1 Springsteen, other concerts. I don't remember going to that  
2 concert. So that is -- I mean, at the same time, I think it  
3 is very important to be precise in my answers. And as a  
4 result, I am telling you I don't remember going. I don't  
5 think I went.

6 Q And you just mentioned that you think is important  
7 to be precise.

8 A Yeah.

9 Q And you've mentioned a number of times in our  
10 previous day of interview and you've reiterated today that it  
11 is important to you to follow the law, to understand the  
12 rules and regulations.

13 A Right.

14 Q And to make sure that you follow them?

15 A Absolutely.

16 Q And Mr. Waxman's letter talked about some ethics  
17 issues.

18 A It did.

19 Q And some evidence which raised questions about  
20 whether there potentially were violations of ethics rules  
21 relating to gifts?

22 A Right.

23 Q Ethics rules relating to financial disclosure.

24 A Right.

25 Q --- Maybe you can help me clear up a little confusion.

1 I'm finding it a little perplexing given your tendency to  
2 want to be careful and make sure you follow the rules, if you  
3 had gotten a letter that has raised questions about whether  
4 the rules were followed, why wouldn't you have checked your  
5 records?

6 A Because I thought it was more important when you  
7 get a letter like that to talk to counsel about the  
8 appropriate response to the letter is, which is what I did.  
9 At the time I got the letter and to this day today, I don't  
10 remember going, and I don't think I went to the concert.

11 Q Didn't you want to make sure that you had complied  
12 with the rules relating to gifts and financial disclosure?

13 Mr. Ross. Your question assumes --

14 Mr. Mehlman. You're presupposing that I went --

15 Mr. Ross. You're presupposing he went to the concert.

16 Ms. Amerling. I'm not presupposing anything.

17 Mr. Mehlman. I got the letter and I said to myself --

18 BY MS. AMERLING:

19 Q I'm not presupposing anything. You get a letter,  
20 and it raises questions --

21 A You say did I go to the concert. I don't think I  
22 did. I don't remember going. And you talk to a lawyer, and  
23 you say, how should I respond to this? And he says, the  
24 advice which he gave me, which is --

25 Mr. Ross. And I don't think we need to -- I'm objecting

1 to questions about the advice that was given at the time.

2 Mr. Mehlman. So when you get a letter like that --

3 Ms. Amerling. I'm not asking you about your advice.

4 Mr. Ross. Let's talk about this. In the absence of an  
5 understanding that he went to the concert, whether or not he  
6 checked to see whether he reimbursed I'm not sure is a fair  
7 question. If you're asking, will we check now and let you  
8 know that we reimbursed him, I'm happy to tell you that we  
9 will. I also can assure you that the answer is going to be,  
10 no, he didn't. But if it will -- if the committee wants us  
11 to check, you know, we'll be happy to do that. But, again,  
12 the -- you'd only reimburse somebody if you had taken the  
13 tickets.

14 Ms. Amerling. That's right.

15 Mr. Ross. So your question presupposes a fact that is  
16 not only not in evidence, but I think contrary to my  
17 understanding of what happened.

18 Ms. Amerling. I disagree with your characterization of  
19 my question. It does not presuppose that. My question  
20 relates to a letter that raised some serious issues that  
21 referred to some evidence that you may have attended a  
22 concert.

23 BY MS. AMERLING:

24 Q And you yourself said at the time you were on TV  
25 all the time, you were being asked questions. You read our



1 report, and you were interested in making sure you were aware  
2 of the facts. It seems logical to assume you would have  
3 wanted to ascertain definitively whether in fact you did  
4 attend the concert.

5 A And I don't think I did.

6 Q And did you check your records -- did your check  
7 your schedule to see --

8 A I don't have access to my schedule. You don't have  
9 access -- one does not have access to -- this happened in  
10 2000 -- I don't have access to my White House schedule.

11 Q You couldn't have gotten access to your schedule if  
12 you had asked for it.

13 A I don't believe I could get access to -- my  
14 understanding was that all of those records -- after 12 years  
15 you get access to. You don't have access until then.

16 Q Did you talk to anybody who was listed on the  
17 document that was released by the committee that listed other  
18 potential attendees to see whether you might have been able  
19 to obtain information to confirm where you were there?

20 A My recollection is that I didn't attend. I don't  
21 think I attended. I don't know if these other people are  
22 being questioned or asked questions. I'm an attorney. And  
23 to the extent they're being asked questions and they have  
24 another attorney and they give me information, they can be  
25 surrendering their attorney privilege. So I didn't think

1 that was appropriate either. So what I did when this  
2 happened is that I said, did I attend? I don't think so. I  
3 don't remember attending. I didn't go out and definitively  
4 say, no, I know for sure I did not attend, because I wanted  
5 to be truthful and honest. I don't think I attended. And I  
6 talked to counsel and said, how should I respond to the  
7 letter and dealt with it the way counsel advised me to? That  
8 is pretty careful.

9 Q Have you ever eaten at Signatures?

10 A Yeah.

11 Q Did you ever get comped for a meal at Signatures by  
12 Mr. Abramoff or any --

13 A Not that I recall.

14 Q Are you aware of anyone in the Office of Political  
15 Affairs getting comped meals at Signatures?

16 A Not by Mr. Abramoff, no. Let me explain why I  
17 answered that question. You know, if people in the Political  
18 Office or myself have a political fundraiser at a restaurant  
19 or a dinner at the restaurant with the Republican National  
20 Committee and others pay consistent with the political  
21 exception that exists with the fundraising exception with  
22 respect to that, is that being comped?

23 Mr. Ross. Let's make sure -- am I correct that when you  
24 use the term comped, it is sort of as the owner of the  
25 restaurant or operator of the restaurant not charging him?

1           Ms. Amerling. That, or if you're at a meal with someone  
2 on Mr. Abramoff's lobbying team, and they pay for your meal  
3 there.

4           Mr. Ross. Why don't we -- I think the answer is going  
5 to be the same, but why don't we separate them --

6           Mr. Mehlman. I'm not aware of either.

7           Mr. Ross. Because comping is a -- in my understanding,  
8 getting a comp from an establishment is different than  
9 somebody else paying for your meal.

10          Ms. Amerling. I think he answered both.

11          Mr. Ross. I think it is the same to both questions,  
12 but --

13          Mr. Mehlman. I'm not aware of either with respect to  
14 that issue. But as I said, because in the office and in the  
15 job, you go to a lot of fundraisers. I don't consider that  
16 to being comped either.

17          Ms. Amerling. Okay.

18                   BY MS. AMERLING:

19           Q     After a report -- the bipartisan committee staff  
20 report came out in September 2006 -- there were some media  
21 accounts that included information about the U2 concert or  
22 the documents that linked you to a U2 concert. Following  
23 those press accounts, did the White House contact you?

24           A     I don't remember being contacted by the White House  
25 then.

1 Q Nobody contacted you to talk about those issues?

2 A I don't think -- not that I remember.

3 Q Okay. Let me turn to a different subject. Were  
4 you on the transition team?

5 A I helped on the transition team, but I was not a  
6 formal member. I don't believe I was ever on the transition  
7 payroll.

8 Q Was -- were you aware of Jack Abramoff being on the  
9 transition team?

10 A No, I'm not aware of that. At the same time, I  
11 will say that half -- as will be the case with the next  
12 administration, whatever -- whoever the next President is, as  
13 you know, many, many people, lawyers, lobbyists and other  
14 hangers on will call themselves part of the transition team  
15 as a way to show that they have access and are on the inside,  
16 and it doesn't mean that much.

17 Q Do you have any reason to believe that Jack  
18 Abramoff was not on the transition team?

19 A I don't know either way. I'm just saying my  
20 definition of who is on the transition team is a huge  
21 definition because so many people love to say it.

22 Q Okay. Let's turn to an issue concerning requests  
23 for a political endorsement.

24 A Okay.

25 Q Do you know who Juan Babuata is?

1 A Huh-uh.

2 Q Let me show you a couple of e-mails, and maybe it  
3 will refresh your recollection.

4 A Great. Thank you.

5 Ms. Amerling. I'll start with one e-mail. And we'll  
6 mark this as exhibit 16.

7 [Mehlman Exhibit No. 16  
8 was marked for identification.]

9 Q Please take your time to read it. This is an  
10 e-mail chain beginning with an October 17th, 2001, e-mail  
11 from Tony Rudy to Ken Mehlman at 4:02 p.m. asking for the  
12 huge favor of declining a request from Juan Babuata for  
13 endorsement.

14 Mr. Ross. That is not your characterization. It is --

15 Ms. Amerling. Why don't you read the e-mail, and if you  
16 disagree with how I characterize it, please feel free to tell  
17 me how you disagree.

18 Mr. Ross. No. What I'm asking is, you just used the  
19 term describing the e-mail as that it was asking for a huge  
20 favor, which terminology -- and I was just clarifying, that  
21 is the terminology used in the e-mail.

22 Ms. Amerling. That's correct. I was quoting from the  
23 e-mail.

24 Mr. Ross. Right. That's all I was saying.

25 BY MS. AMERLING:

1 Q Have you had a chance to read it?

2 A Uh-huh.

3 Q Do you recall receiving a request to refrain from  
4 endorsing Babuata?

5 A Not specifically. I mean, I have a general -- this  
6 generally -- there is a general recollection of this issue in  
7 my mind, but not specifically.

8 Q Can you describe what recollection it brings up for  
9 you?

10 A That's it. There is a general recollection that  
11 these guys didn't -- there was some candidate they liked over  
12 another candidate in the CNMI, but this is -- there is  
13 nothing more specific that I recall to that.

14 Q You don't remember what steps you may or may not  
15 have taken after --

16 A According to this, I passed it along to Leonard and  
17 asked him to check it out, which is exactly how I typically  
18 do things like this.

19 Q Okay. Let me show you a couple of additional  
20 documents.

21 A Okay.

22 Ms. Amerling. The first I'll mark as exhibit 17. It is  
23 an e-mail.

24 [Mehlman Exhibit No. 17 and 18  
25 was marked for identification.]

1           Mr. Ross. The first document is the one you're --

2           Ms. Amerling. Reading right now.

3           Mr. Ross. The e-mail on the attachment.

4           Ms. Amerling. It is the October 26, 2001, e-mail to you  
5 from Jack Abramoff with an attachment.

6                       BY MS. AMERLING:

7           Q     And the second, which we will mark as exhibit 18,  
8 is an e-mail exchange between Jack Abramoff and Susan  
9 Ralston.

10          Mr. Ross. Okay. And then the --

11                       BY MS. AMERLING:

12          Q     Have you had a chance to look at both?

13          A     Uh-huh.

14          Q     The first document is an e-mail to you from Jack  
15 Abramoff attaching a memo on the subject of Juan Babuata's  
16 desire to have an endorsement, and the memo which is  
17 attached, which it looks like you read here, discusses how he  
18 is the Republican candidate for -- in a gubernatorial  
19 election for the Mariana Islands. And in the second document  
20 that I showed you, there is an exchange between Susan Ralston  
21 and Jack Abramoff where Mr. Abramoff says he spoke to you and  
22 says, "Can you believe they are still toying with endorsing  
23 Babuata?" And Ralston responds, Karl Rove "is being lobbied  
24 by Lujan and Radewagen, and that's why it came up again. You  
25 need to get Mehlman proof that he is a bad guy." Do these

1 documents refresh your recollection about the Babuata matter?

2 A Not -- again, these documents refresh what that  
3 refreshed, which is that there was a decision about whether  
4 this candidate would get the Republican endorsement or not  
5 or -- and I don't remember what we ultimately decided.

6 Q Do you recall talking with Jack Abramoff about  
7 this?

8 A Not specifically. I remember getting data and  
9 feedback on it. I don't remember if I talked to him or  
10 Leonard did.

11 Q Why would you have asked for background from Jack  
12 Abramoff on this issue?

13 A If Mr. Abramoff was saying we shouldn't endorse  
14 him, I would want to know why he thinks that.

15 Q How common was it to refrain from endorsing the  
16 Republican candidate in a gubernatorial race?

17 A It depends on the race. I mean, I actually -- in a  
18 very well known -- you may remember, we didn't endorse the  
19 Republican candidate for the United States Senate in  
20 Connecticut when I was the RNC chairman, to which I got a lot  
21 of grief. But I thought it was the right thing to do. But  
22 it depends on the candidate.

23 Q Were there other occasions where the President  
24 didn't endorse the Republican gubernatorial candidate?

25 A Not that I remember. I don't remember whether Guam



1 was a Guamian case or not. I know that, in the Puerto Rico  
2 case, that is always a sensitive issue, too, because  
3 Republicans are divided between the Common Wealth and the  
4 Independence Party. So, often, in these territorial  
5 elections and in the Connecticut Senate race -- I'm  
6 kidding, -- often in these territorial election, you have to  
7 look carefully and see what is really going on.

8 Q Do you remember talking about this issue with Karl  
9 Rove?

10 A Not specifically. I may have -- I do not remember  
11 specifically talking to him about it.

12 Q Do you remember talking with Matt Schlapp about it?

13 A No.

14 Q Or Susan Ralston?

15 A This gives me general recollection. What I did,  
16 what we did, what we decided, I don't remember.

17 Q Do you remember whether anybody was resisting this  
18 request from Abramoff?

19 A Well, it says here, Radewagen, who is married to a  
20 member of the National Committee; Lujan -- I'll assume that  
21 is Manuel Lujan, the former head of the Interior Department  
22 under President Bush 41 were. But I don't remember -- I  
23 don't remember the specifics. But, again, I remember  
24 certainly Fred Radewagen who would have been someone I would  
25 have taken seriously if he had called, too.

1 Q Do you remember if anyone at the White House was  
2 resisting Jack Abramoff's requests?

3 A I don't recall. This is not something that I would  
4 have felt to be particularly important, quite honestly. I  
5 would want to make sure we got it right. I know it is  
6 important to other people, but what happens in the CMNI would  
7 not have been particularly important to me as the White House  
8 Political Director.

9 Q Do you know why the President didn't issue an  
10 endorsement in the Babuata election?

11 A I don't.

12 Q Do you have any knowledge regarding an effort by  
13 Ben Fitial to prevent a meeting from taking place that had  
14 been planned between the President and Juan Babuata?

15 A No. I don't know who Ben Fitial is.

16 Q He was a candidate from the same election.

17 A I don't know.

18 Q Do you know anything about a meeting in May 2001  
19 between Rove and Abramoff in which Babuata was discussed?

20 A No, I don't remember. That's not something I know  
21 about.

22 Q Do you have any knowledge of an effort by Jack  
23 Abramoff to obtain endorsement by President Bush of  
24 Republican candidates for office in Guam in October 2002?

25 A Not really. Not really. I mean, the only thing

1 that, in the back of my head, I remember about Guam is I  
2 think there was some Asian trip, that we may have landed  
3 there or something, and there was some question of whether he  
4 would greet somebody or do some rally. And I remember there  
5 was some back and forth on that. I don't remember if  
6 Mr. Abramoff was involved, but I remember viewing it as very  
7 complicated with lots of people being upset and therefore  
8 annoying.

9 Q Let me show you a couple of documents.

10 Ms. Amerling. These have already been introduced as  
11 exhibits 4 and 5.

12 Mr. Ross. Can we take a 2-minute break?

13 Ms. Amerling. Sure. Let's go off the record.

14 [Recess.]  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

1        RPTS JOHNSON

2        DCMN NORMAN

3        [4:37 p.m.]

4                    BY MS. AMERLING:

5            Q        Before I had -- before we went off the record --  
6        put in front of you two documents that had already been  
7        introduced. Have you had a chance to look at them?

8            A        Uh-huh.

9            Q        The first is an e-mail from Susan Ralston to Jack  
10        Abramoff dated October 23rd saying: Ken asked me to let you  
11        know he has the quote to be approved for the Guam candidates.

12          A        Uh-huh.

13          Q        And the second, it is an e-mail from Leonard  
14        Rodriguez to Jack Abramoff which provides a Guam candidate's  
15        quote.

16          A        Uh-huh.

17          Q        Did you ask Leonard Rodriguez to provide Jack  
18        Abramoff with a quote for the Guam candidate?

19          A        I don't remember asking him, but I am assuming that  
20        I did.

21          Q        Why would this have been done through Jack  
22        Abramoff?

23          A        Why would it have been done through Jack Abramoff?  
24        I don't know. But presumably -- I mean I don't know who  
25        would have contacted us, and I don't mean this in a district

1 respectful way to Guam, but that was not a huge level of  
2 focus of the office. So presumably -- and again I am  
3 surmising based on this -- Mr. Abramoff was the one that  
4 brought it to our attention.

5 Q Was it common to provide quotes for elections  
6 through lobbyists?

7 A Not necessarily. But as you know, many States and  
8 localities have in fact hired lobbyists in Washington to  
9 represent them before Washington areas on Washington issues.

10 Q Okay. In this e-mail, the Susan Ralston e-mail,  
11 she says: Ken asked me to let you know that he has the quote  
12 to be approved for your Guam candidate. Everyone would  
13 appreciate it if you would contact Ken only, and not others  
14 here at the White House, because they just forward it to him  
15 anyway.

16 We talked about this quote a little bit earlier, but  
17 could you explain why you would have been the person to be  
18 designated to get contacts from him?

19 A Well, presumably if we are talking about the quote  
20 from the Guam candidate -- and again, I don't remember the  
21 specifics here -- I was the White House Political Director.  
22 So having people in other offices saying to the White House  
23 Political Director, "Hey, you should do this quote to Guam,"  
24 I would have found to be pretty annoying because, you know,  
25 we are working on it, we don't need seven people e-mailing

1 us.

2 Q Do you know who Angela Williams is?

3 A I don't remember Angela Williams.

4 Ms. Amerling. I will show you another e-mail.

5 [Mehlman Exhibit No. 19

6 was marked for identification.]

7 Mr. Mehlman. Another person they want me to kill.

8 BY MS. AMERLING:

9 Q Have you had a chance to read this?

10 A I have.

11 Q This is a March 1, 2001 e-mail from Jack Abramoff  
12 to Kevin Ring in which Ring asked -- in which Jack Abramoff  
13 asked Ring to try and get the subject of the e-mail, Ken  
14 Mehlman --

15 A Yes.

16 Q -- to, quote, kill Angie Williams at the OIA slot.  
17 Do you recall discussing with Kevin Ring whether Angie  
18 Williams should get a slot at the Office of Insular Affairs?

19 A I don't recall that, and I don't recall discussing  
20 whether she should be killed.

21 Q Do you recall advocating for anyone to get a  
22 position at the Office of Insular Affairs?

23 A No. And until you just said that, I wasn't sure  
24 what OIA stood for. I don't recall having advocated for  
25 anyone for that position.

1           Ms. Amerling. Let me show you another e-mail, November  
2 9, 2001. Let us mark this as Exhibit 20.

3                               [Mehlman Exhibit No. 20  
4                               was marked for identification.]

5           BY MS. AMERLING:

6           Q     Have you had a chance to look at it?

7           A     Uh-huh.

8           Q     In this e-mail exchange, Doug Hoelscher e-mails Ken  
9 Mehlman and Matt Schlapp, noting there's three leading  
10 candidates for the Office of Insular Affairs -- Mark  
11 Zachares, Jeff Crane, and Angie Williams -- and says, quote,  
12 Mark Zachares has been a push for us for a while per Karl and  
13 Susan.

14           Do you know why Karl Rove would have been pushing this  
15 person?

16           A     No. I don't who Mark Zachares is.

17           Q     Do you know why Rove would have been interested in  
18 who heads the Office of Insular Affairs?

19           A     Huh-uh.

20           Q     You never had a discussion with Karl Rove about  
21 this?

22           A     I don't remember ever having a discussion about  
23 Karl Rove -- about Mark Zachares at all.

24           Q     This is a Deputy Assistant Secretary position. Was  
25 it common for Karl Rove to get involved with discussions

1 about placing people at this level of the administration?

2 A I don't remember having very many discussions with  
3 him about placing people at this level unless the position  
4 was a very sensitive position.

5 So, for instance, population, you know, the people at  
6 the State Department that oversee Mexico City implementation,  
7 which is important to the pro-life community, would be  
8 something that I think would be interesting and important.  
9 Ambassadors, interesting and important. You know, who the  
10 solicitor of labor is, interesting and important. Because  
11 these are all, obviously, very important to policymaking and  
12 important to key constituencies.

13 I don't see this position as -- at least looking at it  
14 now, I don't see this as being that kind of a position.

15 Q Doesn't it seem strange to you that Karl Rove would  
16 have been involved in this?

17 A I don't know that he was. This is what Doug  
18 Hoelscher indicates. And as a matter of course, often you  
19 know, my deputy Matt Schlapp who was more focused on  
20 personnel than I was, would go over with Karl Rove some of  
21 the appointments for key positions. But as I said, I don't  
22 believe this be would a key position.

23 Q Do you have any recollection of any meetings at the  
24 White House attended by the President that were organized by  
25 Americans for Tax Reform and that involved Jack Abramoff or



1 his clients?

2 A I don't think so. I mean, Americans for Tax Reform  
3 had fly-in summits for some of their activists from around  
4 the country. They have this State legislative entity that  
5 they work with where key leading State legislators come in.  
6 And on occasion when they did, we would have them come to the  
7 White House for meetings and the kind of briefings I am  
8 talking about. I don't remember whether the President  
9 attended or not.

10 Q Do you remember whether Jack Abramoff or any of his  
11 clients, people that you were aware of as being his clients,  
12 attended?

13 A No, I don't remember that. As I said, I remember  
14 ATR briefings. I don't remember who attended those  
15 briefings. I know ATR did; and obviously their leader,  
16 Grover Norquist did.

17 Q Do you have any knowledge about whether Mr.  
18 Abramoff sought contributions to Americans for Tax Reform in  
19 connection with any meeting at the White House involving his  
20 clients?

21 A I don't have any knowledge of that.

22 Q Are you aware of any other meetings at which both  
23 the President and Jack Abramoff were present?

24 A I am not aware of any.

25 Q Did Grover Norquist ever contact you on behalf of

1 Jack Abramoff?

2 A I don't remember having him contact me on that  
3 basis. I remember him contacting me on a number of different  
4 things, but not Jack Abramoff.

5 Q Were you aware of efforts by Jack Abramoff or his  
6 other colleagues at Greenberg Traurig, on behalf the Saginaw  
7 Chippewa, in 2002 to secure \$3 million for a school  
8 construction program in the Department of Interior  
9 appropriations bill?

10 A I am not aware of that.

11 Q Were you aware of the interest of the Sandia Pueblo  
12 tribe in protecting lands in the Sandia Mountains in New  
13 Mexico?

14 A I am not aware.

15 Mr. Ross. That's Sandia Pueblo?

16 Ms. Amerling. Yeah. That's all the questions I have.

17 Do you have any?

18 Mr. Castor. No. Let's go.

19 Ms. Amerling. Thank you very much.

20 Mr. Mehlman. Thank you for your time.

21 [Whereupon, at 4:46 p.m., the interview was  
22 concluded.]

23

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## Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

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I have read the foregoing \_\_\_\_ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

---

Witness Name

**ERRATA SHEET**  
**FOR INTERVIEW OF KENNETH MEHLMAN**

<b><u>PAGE</u></b>	<b><u>LINE</u></b>	<b><u>CORRECTION</u></b>
17	14	Add "know" after "me." Change noted by Committee staff.
29	7	Change "Do" to "Did." Change noted by Committee staff.
45	25	Change "I do" to "you." Change noted by Committee staff.
49	2	Remove "is a" after "often." Change noted by Committee staff.
51	7	Change "Israel" to "Israelite." Change noted by Committee staff.
52	19-20	Change "communicating. Did you get" to "communicating got." Change noted by Committee staff.
57	1	Change "support" to "supporter." Change noted by Committee staff.
58	7	Remove "crime" after "tribe." Change noted by Committee staff.
63	22	Change "Cavanaugh" to "Kavanaugh." Change noted by Committee staff.
64	10	Change "from" to "of." Change noted by Committee staff.
64	14	Add "were" after "rules." Change noted by Committee staff.
64	18	Remove "were" after "reports." Change noted by Committee staff.
65	3, 5	Change "Cavanaugh" to "Kavanaugh." Change noted by Committee staff.
70	6	Add "it" after "think." Change noted by Committee staff.
72	8	Change "that" after "know" to "if." Change noted by Committee staff.
73	6	Change "your" to "you." Change noted by Committee staff.
73	19	Change "where" to "whether." Change noted by Committee staff.
81	3	Change "Common Wealth" to "Commonwealth." Change noted by Committee staff.

- 81 6 Change "election" to "elections." Change noted by Committee staff.
- 84 25 Remove "district." Change noted by Committee staff.
- 85 1 Change "respectful" to "disrespectful." Change noted by Committee staff.

AKIN GUMP  
STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

Attorneys at Law

**STEVEN ROSS**  
202.887.4343/fax: 202.887.4288  
sross@akingump.com

June 3, 2008

The Honorable Henry Waxman, Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6143

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write at the invitation of your Committee's counsel with respect to a matter which arose in the course of the Committee's interview of Mr. Ken Mehlman. Mr. Mehlman was asked whether he had attended a U2 concert in June of 2001. Prior to becoming Chairman of the Committee, you and your staff had publicly raised the issue of whether attendance at that concert had constituted a gift which should have been reported on Mr. Mehlman's personal financial disclosure form for 2001.

When asked during his voluntary interview late last year if he had attended the concert, Mr. Mehlman repeatedly stated that he had no memory or recollection of having done so and did not think that he had gone to the concert. In his expressed desire to be precise in his answers, Mr. Mehlman, when asked about an evening now seven years ago, he repeatedly stated that he did not recall having attended and did not think that he had gone. In addition, my own efforts have led me to conclude that Mr. Mehlman did not attend that concert as Mr. Abramoff's or Greenberg Traurig's guest.

Committee counsel has stated to me that his answers might be viewed as having left the question open. Any statement by the Committee that would suggest that Mr. Mehlman attended the concert as a guest of Mr. Abramoff or his law firm would serve as implying that there is a question regarding Mr. Mehlman's compliance with the reporting obligations that applied to his government service. As such, the Committee should not lightly make or imply such an allegation.

To state or imply that Mr. Mehlman attended the concert based on the limited mention of his name in internal Greenberg Traurig emails, none of which were to, from or cc'd to Mr. Mehlman, that merely identify him as someone who might be invited (those very emails never

AKIN GUMP  
STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

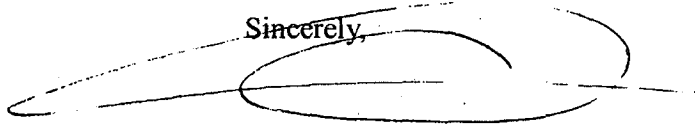
Attorneys at Law

February 14, 2007

Page 2

identify Mr. Mehlman as one of the thirty-two people with a number assigned seat) and in the total absence of any indication in those emails or anywhere else that he did attend would be unfair to Mr. Mehlman and a disservice to the tradition and importance of your Committee. To preserve the authority of the Committee, it is critical that it be wielded in a responsible fashion. Making, or even implying, any allegation concerning Mr. Mehlman's adherence to his ethical obligations in this regard on the basis of this record would be unwarranted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Steven Ross", written over a horizontal line.

Steven Ross  
Counsel for Ken Mehlman

cc: The Honorable Tom Davis, Ranking Member

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR:Ken Mehlman ( CN=Ken Mehlman/OU=WHO/O=EOP [ WHO ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:19-AUG-2002 07:46:27.00

SUBJECT:: Re: Rosh Hashannah

TO:abramoffj@gtlaw.com ( abramoffj@gtlaw.com [ UNKNOWN ] )  
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

thanks but will probably try to do something with my family in Baltimore.

abramoffj@gtlaw.com

08/17/2002 11:54:58 PM

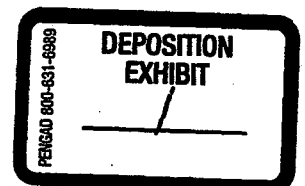
Record Type: Record

To: Adam B. Goldman/WHO/EOP@EOP, Ken Mehlman/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Rosh Hashannah

Pam and I are sponsoring Rosh Hashanna services at our home this year (Saturday, September 7 and Sunday, September 8) and would love to include you, if you desire to attend. Our space will accommodate family as well, if you so desire. The services will be conducted in accordance with Orthodox tradition. Please let me know as soon as convenient if you have any interest in coming, and staying for lunch afterwards as well (though not required). Of course, there is no charge. Regards.





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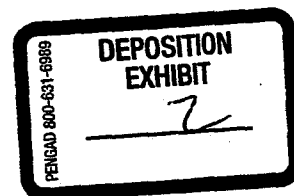
**From:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov) [/o=GTLAW/ou=WDC/cn=Recipients/cn=abramoffj] on behalf of Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 02, 2002 4:42 PM  
**To:** 'Ken Mehlman'  
**Subject:** RE: do you have POTUS there for an event in OCT? is it a major donor/pic with potus event?

Thanks Ken. You are great. if you get other options, super, but if not, I appreciate that you tried on this one. The restaurant should open by election day. in fact, we discussed hosting an election night party there (the deli will have almost a dozen flat panel screens - they are there to broadcast sports). Any ideas for this? I'd be happy to work something out for someone to host something there, Republican of course. As for you treating me, no way! I want to treat you my friend. see you soon.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ken Mehlman [REDACTED] mehlman@georgewbush.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 02, 2002 3:34 PM  
**To:** abramoffj@gtlaw.com  
**Subject:** RE: do you have POTUS there for an event in OCT? is it a major donor/pic with potus event?

Sorry that this is not easier. I will look for other options. On a happier notr, when does your restaurant open? Can I treat you there?



**GTG-R000961**

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**From:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov) [/o=GTLAW/ou=WDC/cn=Recipients/cn=abramoff] on behalf of Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 08, 2001 6:58 AM  
**To:** Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov)  
**Subject:** RE: Meeting request

I can't do it that late because of the Sabbath. I would otherwise love to go.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 08, 2001 7:41 AM  
**To:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Subject:** Fw: Meeting request

<< File: pic22853.pcx >> Rove's guy. Want to come? Ken mehlman meeting Tony Rudy

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED] Marinis@who.eop.gov <[REDACTED] Marinis@who.eop.gov>  
**To:** rudyt@gtlaw.com <rudyt@gtlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Thu Nov 08 07:37:44 2001  
**Subject:** Meeting request

Mr. Rudy- would tomorrow (Friday, 11/9) work? Ken could do it in between 4 - 5 pm.  
thanks

Kate Marinis  
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded by Kenneth B. Mehlman/WHO/EOP on 11/08/2001 07:33 AM -----

(Embedded  
image moved rudyt@gtlaw.com  
to file: 11/07/2001 08:32:32 PM  
pic22853.pcx)

Record Type: Record

To: Kenneth B. Mehlman/WHO/EOP

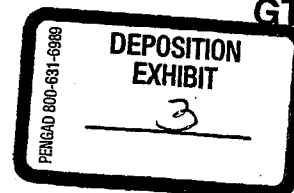
cc:

Subject: Meeting request

Is there anyway I can grab a quick meeting with you regarding a political/policy issue that should be light lifting. Tony Rudy

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GTG-R000354

001132653

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**From:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov) [/o=GTLAW/ou=WDC/cn=Recipients/cn=abramoffj] on behalf of Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2002 8:17 AM  
**To:** 'Susan Ralston'  
**Subject:** RE: Mehlman

The only one who I had contact with (at the RNC, not WH) was Jack Oliver, who originally was my contact point, and he put me to Terry Nelson. I am happy for Ken to be the guy, but I would appreciate if they could hurry up since the election is less than 2 weeks away! Thanks Susan.

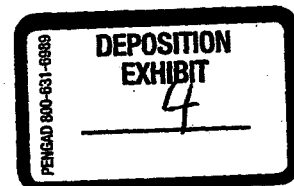
-----Original Message-----

**From:** Susan Ralston [redacted] [ralston@georgewbush.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2002 8:04 AM  
**To:** abramoffj@gtlaw.com  
**Subject:** Mehlman

Ken asked me to let you know that he has the quote to be approved for your Guam candidates. Everyone would appreciate it if you would contact Ken only and not others here at the WH because they just forward it to him anyway. Too many cooks...

Susan Ralston

-----  
Please send all replies to [redacted]ralston@georgewbush.com



**From:** Leonard Rodriguez [redacted] [redacted]@georgewbush.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 23, 2002 12:38 PM  
**To:** abramoffj@gtlaw.com  
**Cc:** Jack Oliver; tnelson@mc [redacted]; jpeshong@mc [redacted] Ken Mehlman  
**Subject:** Guam candidates quote

Jack-

I work in the office of Political Affairs under Ken Mehlman and oversee the US Territories for our office.

We approved the quote below this morning for our candidates use.

In the future please feel free to contact me directly for any requests from Guam.

Thanks and looking forward to working with you,

Leonard Rodriguez

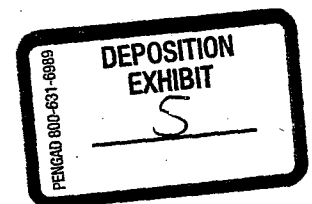
[redacted] (w)

BTW, I tried to reach you via your cell phone to introduce myself and share this message with you.

I have the following number for you [redacted]

Below is the approved quote for our Guam candidates.

"Felix Camacho, Kaleo Moylan and Joe Ada are strong, effective leaders for Guam. As candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor and Delegate to Congress, they will bring the promise of a new confidence and new prosperity to the island of Guam. My Administration will work closely with them to see Guam remains a trusted friend and an American treasure."



GTG-R000153

5/8/2004

000527042

---

**From:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 03, 2002 11:26 AM  
**To:** Bozniak, Allison R. (AdmAst-DC-Gov/Adm)  
**Subject:** Re: The White House called

**Importance:** High

How big a group? What kind of group? What's on the schedule now? Jack Abramoff

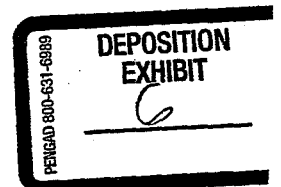
-----Original Message-----

**From:** Bozniak, Allison R. (AdmAst-DC-Gov/Adm) <bozniaka@gtlaw.com>  
**To:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov) <abramoffj@gtlaw.com>  
**CC:** Bowers, Holly M. (AdmAst-DC-Gov/Adm) <bowersh@gtlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Tue Dec 03 12:02:19 2002  
**Subject:** The White House called

You have been invited to a briefing tomorrow at the White House from 2:30 - 3:30 (you would have to be there by 2:00 at the latest) covering a 'range of issues'. Andy Card, Leslie Westin, Ken Melman and Matt Schlapp will all be speaking.

Let me know ASAP so I can get you set up.

contact: Naomi  
[REDACTED]



GTG-R006951

**From:** TCRudy@aol.com  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 10, 2001 1:07 PM  
**To:** abramoffj@gtlaw.com  
**Subject:** Memo



Choctaw.doc (40  
KB)

Edit at will

To: Jack Abramoff  
From: Tony Rudy  
CC: Shawn Vasell  
Date: 11/10/2001  
Re: Next Step

While we were successful in obtaining report language in the final version of the State Justice Commerce Appropriations bill that highlights the Choctaw jail, we need to begin a second phase of attack against the bureaucrats who have held up the project for so long.

Late yesterday afternoon we had a great meeting with Karl Rove's office that will hopefully bear fruit shortly. Ken Mehlman, the Deputy Political Director at the Bush White House, promised to begin a campaign immediately to get Justice to release some of Fiscal Year 2001 money that still remains unspent from the Tribal Justice Fund at the State Department. However, to turn the screws even further, I suggest the following: 1. Thank [REDACTED] did try at the last minute to get the earmark through the House Appropriations Committee. He has delivered on the road projects we requested (although the final version of the legislation is not complete). We need to get him engaged in the effort to get the jail through Justice. If the Chief or Nell could call him and thank him for his efforts that would help get him further engaged in the effort. I also suggest that the Tribe mail the database of supporters asking them to call [REDACTED] office and thanking them for what he is doing for the Choctaws. Then we go in for the ask.

2. [REDACTED] Letters, Meetings, Calls - We should immediately ask [REDACTED] to call both Ken Mehlman at the White House and David Israelite, the number two person at the Department of Justice to reiterate how important this project is for his re-election. We need to provide him with letters to send and also ask that me meet personally with Isrealite and the bureaucrats in charge of the funding issue.

3. Letters from Leadership - I believe that we can quickly get letters from the House and Senate Leadership to the Justice Department demanding release of '01 funds. [REDACTED] has already indicated his approval for such a letter. This should ratchet up the pressure somewhat. Additionally, personal calls from [REDACTED] to Isrealite will get this on his radar.

Additionally, based on conversations with our associate Ron Platt, [REDACTED] will sign a letter to the bureaucrat in charge. 4. Move Staff Visits - I believe we should begin to bring key Congressional staff to the reservation, including the CJS Clerk who refused the earmark in the House. That will protect us, if God forbid, we need the earmark next year.

5. Another Round of Donations - Some of our supporters have really stepped up to the plate to help us. We should be prepared to give to their projects and causes as soon as the money is released.



RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR:rudyt@gtlaw.com ( rudyt@gtlaw.com [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME: 4-FEB-2002 10:38:35.00

SUBJECT::

TO:Ken Mehlman ( CN=Ken Mehlman/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [ WHO ] )  
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

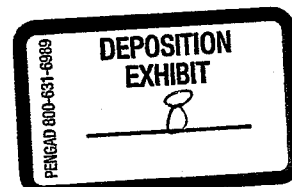
I just wanted to thank you for all your help in assisting the Choctaw  
Indians obtain their grant from the Justice Department. This past Friday,  
the Tribe received good news -- the Department will fund the prison.

Thank you again for all your help.

> Tony Rudy  
> Greenberg Traurig  
> 800 Connecticut Avenue, NW  
> Suite 500  
> Washington, DC 20515  
> (202) [REDACTED]  
>  
>  
>  
>  
>

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RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR:rudy@gtlaw.com ( rudy@gtlaw.com [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME:16-JAN-2002 17:02:49.00

SUBJECT:: Choctaw indian jail

TO:Ken Mehlman ( CN=Ken Mehlman/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [ WHO ] )  
READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:  
Ken:

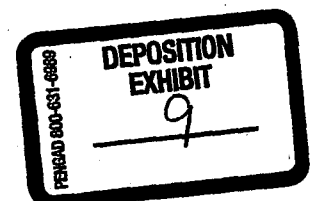
I hope you are well. We continue to be frustrated by the lack of response by the Justice Department in the effort to obtain 16 million dollars for the Choctaw jail facility we discussed in December.

Despite letters from [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], there appears to be no one over there who is listening. Is there anything you can do to help? Thanks  
Tony Rudy

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To reply to our email administrator directly, please send an





---

**From:** Boulanger, Todd (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2002 5:10 PM  
**To:** Leger, Stephanie K. (Assoc-DC-Gov/Adm)  
**Subject:** RE: Hello

leave it in.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Leger, Stephanie K. (Assoc-DC-Gov/Adm)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2002 6:09 PM  
**To:** Boulanger, Todd (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Subject:** RE: Hello

Am working on the binder now. Do you think Rove needs all of the legal and statutory backing to support the citations or can I lighten the book on that?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Boulanger, Todd (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2002 6:02 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED] Ralston@who.eop.gov'  
**Subject:** RE: Hello

8 a.m. You bet. I will have the briefing book ready by then.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** [REDACTED] Ralston@who.eop.gov [REDACTED] Ralston@who.eop.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2002 5:56 PM  
**To:** boulangerT@gtlaw.com  
**Subject:** Re: Hello

Sure. Can we get together for coffee? 8 AM, 1 PM or 6 PM

(Embedded  
image moved   boulangerT@gtlaw.com  
to file:       02/20/2002 05:45:03 PM  
pic01960.pcx)

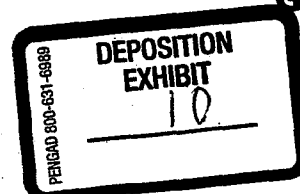
Record Type:   Record

To:   Susan B. Ralston/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:  
Subject:   Hello

Hi Susan,

1



GTG-R001478

003871256

Do you have time to meet tomorrow briefly? Something is coming your way regarding the Department of Interior signing new Indian gaming compacts and the conservatives are ready - and soon will - be pouncing on the Administration.

I have a briefing book for you to give to Karl (it is not yet fully updated, but it will be by COB tonight). Rep. [REDACTED] is involved in a huge fight with [REDACTED] regarding a gaming compact that was negotiated under the cover of night. Not that I'm a saint, but the politics of this stinks to high heaven.

It's going to be brought up at the VAT meeting on Monday and the CATs are going to send something on Wednesday after their meeting to the Administration basically saying that the expansion of Indian gaming is un-checked and that it's an embarrassment to Bush, and that Sec Norton is basically a rubber stamp for gambling. Eagle Forum has already weighed in.

As you probably know, a similar situation just happened to Rep. [REDACTED] and he was very upset about it.

Anyway, don't do anything drastic until you have a chance to review the material.....it speaks for itself....but you may want to put it on Karl's radar screen.

Thanks,

Todd

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To reply to our email administrator directly, please send an email to [postmaster@gtlaw.com](mailto:postmaster@gtlaw.com).

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**From:** Boulanger, Todd (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2002 8:42 AM  
**To:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov); Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov); Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov); Leger, Stephanie K. (Assoc-DC-Gov/Adm)  
**Subject:** Vitter

[REDACTED] is meeting with Rove on Tuesday. This meeting is confirmed. Just an fyi. If there are anyways to "bolster" Mehlman before that time, than we should do it.

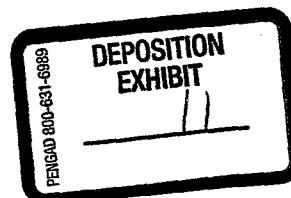
-----Original Message-----

**From:** Susan Ralston - @GWB [REDACTED] Ralston@rnchq.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2002 9:35 AM  
**To:** boulangert@gtlaw.com  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Thanks for breakfast. I showed KR the binder and gave him a quick brief so he is aware. He gave the binder to Mehlman to read cover to cover and to be prepared. Mehlman will be at the meeting.

Susan Ralston

-----  
Please send all replies to [REDACTED] ralston@georgewbush.com



GTG-R001483

003872697

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**From:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2001 6:37 AM  
**To:** Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov)  
**Subject:** RE:

He's at the WH, and so was Mehlman I thought. I thought Mehlman was Political Director at the WH.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 30, 2001 7:00 AM  
**To:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Subject:** RE:

Yes right under rove  
Tony Rudy

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov) <abramoffj@gtlaw.com>  
**To:** Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov) <ringk@gtlaw.com>; Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov) <rudyt@gtlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Tue Jan 30 00:39:34 2001  
**Subject:** RE:

Is Mehlman at the RNC?

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 29, 2001 12:07 PM  
**To:** Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov)  
**Cc:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Subject:** Re:

Excellent.  
Kevin Ring

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov) <rudyt@gtlaw.com>  
**To:** Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov) <ringk@gtlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Mon Jan 29 12:04:24 2001  
**Subject:** Re:

Mehlman said he would get him fired  
Tony Rudy

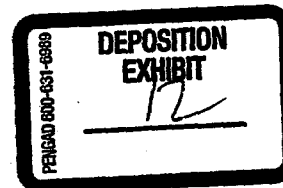
-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov) <ringk@gtlaw.com>  
**To:** Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov) <rudyt@gtlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Mon Jan 29 12:03:14 2001  
**Subject:** Re:

What???  
Kevin Ring

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov) <rudyt@gtlaw.com>  
**To:** Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov) <ringk@gtlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Mon Jan 29 12:01:58 2001



Subject: Re:

He said he would kill him  
Tony Rudy

-----Original Message-----

From: Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov) <ringk@gtlaw.com>  
To: Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov) <rudyt@gtlaw.com>  
Sent: Mon Jan 29 12:01:10 2001  
Subject: Re:

Ok, cool.  
Kevin Ring

-----Original Message-----

From: Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov) <rudyt@gtlaw.com>  
To: Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov) <ringk@gtlaw.com>  
Sent: Mon Jan 29 12:00:15 2001  
Subject: Re:

Nope that is y I called  
Tony Rudy

-----Original Message-----

From: Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov) <ringk@gtlaw.com>  
To: Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov) <rudyt@gtlaw.com>  
Sent: Mon Jan 29 11:59:16 2001  
Subject: Re:

Is that why u called? Or do I still need to call?  
Kevin Ring

-----Original Message-----

From: Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov) <rudyt@gtlaw.com>  
To: Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov) <ringk@gtlaw.com>  
Sent: Mon Jan 29 11:55:07 2001  
Subject:

We need to get the background material on stayman to ken mehlman at the rnc Tony Rudy

---

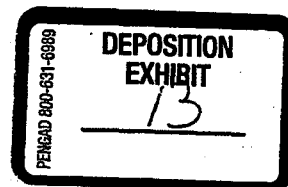
**From:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 05, 2001 1:39 PM  
**To:** Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov); Plocki, Julie (AdmAsst-DC-Legis)  
**Subject:** RE: U2

We must. Julie please work it out. Please send me a grid on this.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 05, 2001 2:09 PM  
**To:** Plocki, Julie (AdmAsst-DC-Legis)  
**Cc:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Subject:** U2

Please tell me we can fit 2 more in for Friday night. Ken Mehlman of the White House apparently wants to go.



-----Original Message-----

From: Plocki, Julie (AdmAsst-DC-Legis)  
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2001 2:17 PM  
To: Lane, Rodney (AdmAst-DC-Gov)  
Subject: U2 concerts for Jack's approval (ASAP, please)

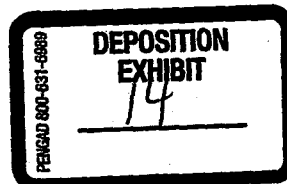
Here is the most current list.

Thursday, June 14th (only 12 tickets available)

1-4 Nell Rogers  
5-8 Greg Capelli (TR 5-9)  
9-10 [REDACTED] CoS (AB 6-4)  
11-12 Brian MacDonald (TR 5-7)

Friday, June 15th (16 tickets + the AT's)

1-2 Pat Wilson (PW 2-2)  
3-4 Pete Rowan (TR 5-9)  
5-8 [REDACTED] office (TR 5-21)  
9-10 Don Trigg (KR 5-22)  
11-12 Kevin Ring (KR 5-22)  
13-14 Doug Mescar (KR 5-22)  
15-16 Duane Gibson (KR 5-22)  
AT 1 & 2 Lori Sharpe Day (KR 5-29)  
AT 3-6 Carrie Crane (RL 6-5)  
AT 7 & 8 Ken Mehlman (KR 6-5)



---

**From:** Boulanger, Todd (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 14, 2001 6:01 PM  
**To:** Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov); Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov); Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov); Vasell, Shawn (Dir-DC-Gov); Wilson, Padgett (AstDir-DC-Gov)  
**Subject:** Re: update - CNMI personnel

It will be a great day when stayman is whacked. Kev, if the washington times story comes out tomorrow and I'm not around, email it to: Jterrana [REDACTED] right in the morning and Ange will get it the day's addition.

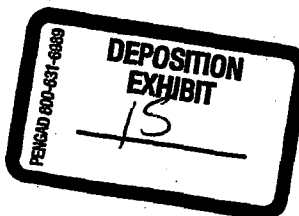
-----  
Todd Anthony Boulanger

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov) <ringk@gtlaw.com>  
**To:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov) <abramoffj@gtlaw.com>; Rudy, Tony (Shld-DC-Gov) <rudyt@gtlaw.com>; Boulanger, Todd (Dir-DC-Gov) <boulangerT@gtlaw.com>; Vasell, Shawn (Dir-DC-Gov) <vasells@gtlaw.com>; Wilson, Padgett (AstDir-DC-Gov) <wilsonp@gtlaw.com>  
**Sent:** Thu Jun 14 18:30:12 2001  
**Subject:** update - CNMI personnel

Houston, we have contact. A guy I hired to work in [REDACTED]'s office (and who also worked for Ken Mehlman for [REDACTED]) is going to be considered for the Wage and Hour Division spot. I couriered our friend his resume and he was very favorably disposed. He sent it to Labor's WH liaison. I will talk to Mehlman at the concert tomorrow night.

As for Stayman, a replacement's resume has been sent to our conduit. We shall see.



GTG-R006369



RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Kenneth B. Mehlman ( CN=Kenneth B. Mehlman/OU=WHO/O=EOP [ WHO ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME: 17-OCT-2001 19:17:37.00

SUBJECT: Favor

TO: Leonard B. Rodriguez ( CN=Leonard B. Rodriguez/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [ WHO ] )  
READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Please advise us on whether to do this or not, reaching out to the relevant people at the RNC.

----- Forwarded by Kenneth B. Mehlman/WHO/EOP on  
10/17/2001 07:17 PM -----

rudyt@gtlaw.com

10/17/2001 04:02:50 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Kenneth B. Mehlman/WHO/EOP@EOP, Matthew A. Schlapp/WHO/EOP@EOP

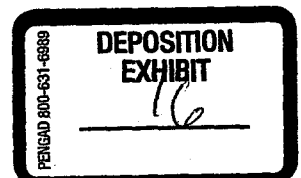
cc:

Subject: Favor

Hope you guys are safe over there. I need to ask a huge favor.

Apparently Juan Babuata, a candidate for governor in the CNMI, is pressing the Administration hard for an endorsement letter. We strongly urge you to ensure that the President does not endorse Babuata.

Despite party labels, Babuta's candidacy is being supported by [REDACTED]



[REDACTED] and other Democrats on the Interior Committee.

Ben Fitial, the former Chairman of the Republican Party and the islands Chairman for the Bush Campaign, is Babuata's opponent. Ben is the only candidate who supports our positions on all issues. Babuata has made numerous donations to Democrat candidates for office.

Please do what you can to ensure that an endorsement does not happen.

Please let me know if you hear anything. Thank you.

Tony

Tony Rudy

Greenberg Traurig

800 Connecticut Avenue, NW

Suite 500

Washington, DC 20006

(202) [REDACTED]

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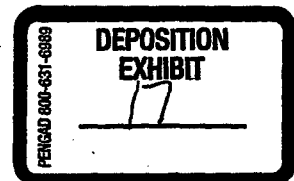
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**From:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov) [/o=GTLAW/ou=WDC/cn=Recipients/cn=abramoff] on behalf of Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2001 1:31 PM  
**To:** mehلمان@who.eop.gov  
**Cc:** Lippy, Laura J. (AdmAst-DC-AdGov)  
**Subject:** FW: Memo for Mehلمان

  
babauta  
revised.doc (28 KB)

Laura, please call Ken Mehلمان's office to make sure I have the right email address.

Ken, here is a memo from Kevin on the topic we discussed.



October 26, 2001

TO: Ken Mehlman  
RE: Background on Juan Babauta

---

We are aware that Juan Babauta is seeking an endorsement for his gubernatorial run. We think an endorsement would be a mistake, in light of Babauta's record.

For years, Congressional Republicans and movement conservatives have led the effort to keep the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) a strong, independent commonwealth. They have ensured that the territory has moved away from welfare toward work. They have moved away from dependency to freedom. They have moved from socialism to economic liberty.

While conservatives have been bashed in the liberal media over their efforts to fight a federal takeover, the CNMI's own "Congressman," Mr. Juan Babauta has stood on the other side of these issues. Not only has he opposed these efforts, he has undercut the Congressional Republicans at every turn. Indeed, rather than supporting those efforts, Mr. Babauta has served as chief apologist for CNMI enemies Congressman [REDACTED] and Senator [REDACTED].

In addition, it is critical to understand that party labels sometimes mean one thing on the mainland and quite another on the islands. Indeed, a fundraiser held just last week for Mr. Babauta brought home this point very clearly. At the event, a liberal attorney who works for Milberg Weiss announced at the event, "I never thought I would be supporting a Republican, but to be honest, if we were on the mainland, we would all be Democrats." And, indeed, they would.

Specifically, Mr. Babauta has:

- **Denounced House Republicans Efforts to Protect the CNMI**. Babauta said that Democrats would win the House and efforts on behalf of Saipan would only anger leading Democrats. He has constantly publicly mused about the return to power of the Democrats in Congress, stating that Republican help would only lead to Democratic anger in the future. "We have to remember that Mr. Babauta was extremely critical of Governor Froilan Tenorio's decision to ... court American conservative Republicans. Mr. Babauta characterized it as an unwise partisan ploy which could backfire. And yet he may have been in bed with [REDACTED] David North [former Interior employee accused of illegal actions against Republican Congressmen and violation of other laws in pursuit of Clinton's aim to take over the CNMI immigration and minimum wage authorities] and the others all along." ("Mr. Babauta's about-face" Saipan Tribune, 01/24/00)

GTG-R001855

001124872

- **Proclaimed that [REDACTED] is a “genuine champion of human rights.”** Despite the fact that [REDACTED] would double the minimum wage immediately and allow a takeover by the federal government, Babauta said that [REDACTED] was just misunderstood and was a “genuine champion of human rights.”
- **Testified in support of increasing the CNMI’s minimum wage.** While conservatives have fought a principled fight to protect the local economy from a draconian minimum wage hike, Babauta supported applying the federal minimum wage to the CNMI.
- **Spent more time lobbying for the CNMI to have a non-voting delegate in Congress than fighting urgent minimum wage and federal immigration takeover threats.** Even when Mr. Babauta testified before Congress, he did not use the opportunity to denounce takeover efforts. Instead, he admitted to “focusing” his testimony on the delegate bill [an attempt to raise his status in Washington from Resident Representative, with no office in the Congressional complex, to that of Delegate, like those of Guam, American Samoa, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico]. According to the Saipan Tribune, “Mr. Babauta’s federal takeover opposition is strongly suspect. It is a well known fact that Mr. Babauta used to be one of our critics. In the early 1990s, Mr. Babauta was an ardent champion of the federal minimum wage in the CNMI. He was highly critical of our local garment industry—about as critical as David North, Al Stayman [Clinton head of the OIA], [REDACTED], 20/20, Global Exchange, and [REDACTED].”
- **Contributed financially to re-election campaign of Senator Akaka, leading Senate opponent of CNMI.** It is hard to understand why Mr. Babauta would have supported the campaign of such a long-standing foe of the CNMI. Moreover, it is impossible to determine how his relationship with Senator [REDACTED] has benefited the CNMI.

In his words and in his deeds – political giving and legislative actions, to name just a couple – Juan Babauta has demonstrated that he is unworthy of endorsement by Republicans in Washington, DC. The Administration and Republican Party should protect the integrity of their reputations by not endorsing a candidate who reflects the values of neither of these two great entities.

One last note: Mr. Babauta’s main opponent in the election, House Speaker Ben Fitial, has been endorsed by [REDACTED] as well as Representatives [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] These conservative stalwarts would not have broken ranks with their party’s gubernatorial candidate without serious consideration. And yet each chose to endorse Mr. Babauta’s opponent

GTG-R001856

001124873

**From:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2001 2:15 PM  
**To:** 'Susan Ralston - @GWB'  
**Subject:** RE: Mehlman

I'll get him what I can, but this is ridiculous. The guy is totally hated by the R's on the Hill and has insulted [REDACTED] and others in meetings (not all of this is in print). Ken has been called by the [REDACTED] guys. Why do they persist? They should just tell Lujan and Radewagen no. not like these guys do a damn thing for any of us anything. Sorry for ranting. I just can't believe that our guys are actually entertaining helping a guy who gives money to D's and attacks R's. I sent the memo to Ken, and will forward to you as well just in case. Thanks Susan.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Susan Ralston - @GWB [REDACTED] Ralston@rnchq.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2001 3:14 PM  
**To:** 'abramoffj@gtlaw.com'  
**Subject:** RE: Mehlman

I know. KR is being lobbied by Lujan and Radewagen and that's why it came up again. You need to get Mehlman proof that he's a bad guy.

Susan Ralston

-----  
Please send all replies to [REDACTED] ralston@georgewbush.com

-----Original Message-----

**From:** abramoffj@gtlaw.com <abramoffj@gtlaw.com>  
**To:** [REDACTED] Ralston@rnchq.org [REDACTED] Ralston@rnchq.org>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 26 15:08:50 2001  
**Subject:** RE: Mehlman

Spoke to him. Can you believe they are still toying with endorsing Babuata? Babuata had a rally with the whites on the island where they were all saying that, if they were on the mainland, they would all be D's and that the only reason they are supporting a "republican" (Babauta) is because he really is a D! how true!

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Susan Ralston - @GWB [REDACTED] Ralston@rnchq.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2001 12:58 PM  
**To:** 'abramoffj@gtlaw.com'  
**Subject:** RE: Mehlman

He gets too many calls. Just wait to hear from him.

Susan Ralston

-----  
Please send all replies to [REDACTED] ralston@georgewbush.com

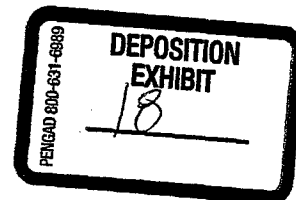
-----Original Message-----

**From:** abramoffj@gtlaw.com <abramoffj@gtlaw.com>  
**To:** [REDACTED] Ralston@rnchq.org [REDACTED] Ralston@rnchq.org>  
**Sent:** Fri Oct 26 12:54:26 2001  
**Subject:** RE: Mehlman

Thanks. Just tried to get him, but got vmail.

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Susan Ralston - @GWB [REDACTED] Ralston@rnchq.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, October 26, 2001 11:15 AM



To: 'abramoffj@gtlaw.com'  
Cc: 'laner@gtlaw.com'  
Subject: Mehlman

Just asked me for your number

Susan Ralston

-----  
Please send all replies to [sralston@georgewbush.com](mailto:sralston@georgewbush.com)

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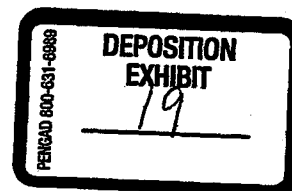
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**From:** Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov) [/o=GTLAW/ou=WDC/cn=Recipients/cn=abramoffj] on behalf of Abramoff, Jack (Dir-DC-Gov)  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2001 11:51 AM  
**To:** Ring, Kevin (Shld-DC-Gov)  
**Subject:** Ken Mehlman

Please get him to try to kill Angie Williams at the OIA slot. I fear she might have made it farther than we had hoped. Let me know. Thanks.



GTG-R000736



RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Kenneth B. Mehlman ( CN=Kenneth B. Mehlman/OU=WHO/O=EOP [ UNKNOWN ] )

CREATION DATE/TIME: 9-NOV-2001 17:30:52.00

SUBJECT:: Re: Office of Insular Affairs -- Jeff Crane

TO: Matthew A. Schlapp ( CN=Matthew A. Schlapp/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [ WHO ] )  
READ: UNKNOWN

CC: Douglas L. Hoelscher ( CN=Douglas L. Hoelscher/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [ WHO ] )  
READ: UNKNOWN

CC: kenneth b. mehlman ( CN=kenneth b. mehlman/OU=who/O=eop@eop [ UNKNOWN ] )  
READ: UNKNOWN

CC: paul b. dyck ( CN=paul b. dyck/OU=who/O=eop@eop [ WHO ] )  
READ: UNKNOWN

CC: David W. Hobbs ( CN=David W. Hobbs/OU=WHO/O=EOP@EOP [ WHO ] )  
READ: UNKNOWN

TEXT:  
Crane is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]'s first choice.

Matthew A. Schlapp

11/09/2001 11:42:21 AM

Record Type: Record

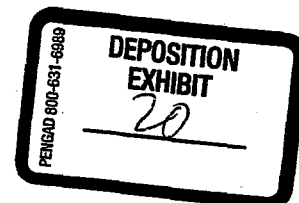
To: Douglas L. Hoelscher/WHO/EOP

cc: kenneth b. mehlman/who/eop@eop, paul b. dyck/who/eop@eop

bcc:

Subject: Re: Office of Insular Affairs -- Jeff Crane

I don't know the other two do you?



Douglas L. Hoelscher

11/09/2001 10:21:33 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Kenneth B. Mehlman/WHO/EOP@EOP, Matthew A. Schlapp/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc: Paul B. Dyck/WHO/EOP@EOP

Subject: Office of Insular Affairs -- Jeff Crane

Mehlman/Schlapp,

Julie Lapeyre informed me that they will probably make a final decision on the Insular Affairs spot in the next week or so. At this time they have three leading candidates -- Mark Zachares, Jeff Crane, and Angie Williams.

Is there one of these candidates that we would favor and thus need to communicate our recommendation to Jodey's shop? Mark Zachares had been a push for us for a while per Karl and Susan.

-Doug