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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

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January 14, 2002

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INDEPENDENT

Mr. Andrew H. Card, Jr.  
Chief of Staff  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Card:

I am writing to request information about any communications you had with Secretary of Commerce Donald L. Evans about the financial collapse of Enron.

Last week, it was revealed that Enron Chairman Kenneth L. Lay telephoned Secretary Evans and Secretary of the Treasury Paul H. O'Neill on three occasions during October and November 2001, to inform them about Enron's financial condition.<sup>1</sup> During a call on October 29, Mr. Lay apparently told Secretary Evans that "he was having problems with his bond rating and he was worried about its impact on the energy sector," and that "he would welcome any support the Secretary thinks appropriate."<sup>2</sup> Initially, White House Press Secretary Ari Fleischer stated that neither Secretary Evans nor Secretary O'Neill informed anyone at the White House about these three phone calls with Mr. Lay.<sup>3</sup>

However, on yesterday's "Meet the Press" program, Secretary Evans said that he informed you of the October 29 phone call "several weeks" later. Mr. Evans explained: "With all the ongoing and continuing activity at Enron and Dynegy, I thought the White House ought to know. I was over there one day, and I stepped into Andy Card's office and told him I'd received this call. He simply listened to me and said, "Thank you very much."<sup>4</sup> According to Secretary Evans, he also spoke with your deputy, Joshua Bolten, about Enron "from time to time."

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<sup>1</sup>Enron Asked for Help from Cabinet Officials, Washington Post (Jan. 11, 2002).

<sup>2</sup>Enron's Lay Sought Cabinet Officials' Help, Wall Street Journal (Jan. 11, 2002); Enron Chairman Warned Bush Officials on Collapse, N.Y. Times (Jan. 10, 2002).

<sup>3</sup>White House Press Briefing (Jan. 10, 2002).

<sup>4</sup>Transcript of NBC News "Meet the Press," (Jan. 13, 2002).

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In light of these developments, I request that you respond to the following questions:

- (1) Please provide details regarding any communications either you or Mr. Bolten had with Secretary Evans regarding Enron. Please provide the dates of any communications, the form of the communication, the information exchanged or matters discussed, and copies of any documents that were exchanged.
- (2) Did either you or Mr. Bolten discuss your communications with Secretary Evans regarding Enron with anyone else, including the President or the Vice President? If so, please provide the dates of any communications, the form of the communication, the persons involved, the information exchanged or matters discussed, and copies of any documents that were exchanged.
- (3) Since January 20, 2001, have you or Mr. Bolten had any communications with anyone, including any Enron executives, regarding Enron's financial condition or other matters relating to Enron, other than the communications described in questions 1 and 2? If so, please provide the dates of any communications, the form of the communication, the persons involved, the information exchanged or matters discussed, and copies of any documents that were exchanged.

I think it is essential that these questions be answered so that there is a clear public accounting of this matter. We all owe that to the thousands of families that are facing financial ruin from the Enron bankruptcy. I hope it will be possible for you to provide the answers I am seeking by January 22, 2002.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Minority Member