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To: David C. Childs A-76comments/OMB/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: IMPORTANT

Distinguished Reader,

Brigadier General Harrington, the head of my agency, the Defense Contract Management Agency, in his own prolific writings of official memorandums and planning documents, refers to myself and his hundreds of other employees as "human capital."

Many, if not all of us in this agency believe that the term "Human Capital" is a most impersonal, careless, cruel and offensive definition for valuable men and women, most of whom have dedicated their entire careers and professional sweat in service to their country, through Government service positions of every kind! However, this definition and the exclusion of DoD civilian employees from President Bush's recent holiday letter are just two examples of a most telling public and bureaucratic, destructive mindset of late, which is, no doubt, strongly influenced and greatly propagated by the current presidential administration.

"Human Capital"?!

We live in a sad day, where proven, dedicated civilian employees and their families are given no "human" consideration or appreciation - a day in which, for the sake of public perception alone, committed and worthy workers are thrown out of their jobs and whole families forced to worry about their entire futures, just to ensure their jobs are privatized! But the practice of privatization is but smoke and mirrors and not the solution at all, especially when one knows learns that, according to the black-and-white facts, the combined pay of all Government employees equals only 2% of the national deficit! Savings to the American people? Come now! Privatization is not any kind of solution now and will not be the solution in the future. The facts just do not show this. And this is just the financial argument. What about the practical, business considerations?

The facts are that the Government has NOT conducted serious studies, of a comprehensive nature, on the financial impact or the multiple, likely crippling lateral damages caused by privatization. In short, the private sector's "human capital" have, themselves, NOT been properly studied and proven in their ability to save money or improve Government business and support missions. The current A76 process, now "streamlined," was designed to be a good competitive tool in keeping Government positions open to all and fair, but now it is being abused, by all agencies, as this administration's method of achieving a political slight of hand magic called, "savings." And the American public, historically cynical of Government and, therefore, uniformed of the facts and hostile toward anyone who draws a paycheck from Uncle Sam, is buying this privatization lie hook, line and sinker!

As a Defense Department Information Technology employee, with 18 years of service, I would ask those in political power, most of whom are pushing privatization, a few, tremendously serious questions. And I would

challenge them to answer these questions in the spirit of patriotism and with great commitment to such patriotism in mind and the thoughts of dedicated, proven employees and their families in the foremost part of their hearts.

1. In the wake of our great September American Tragedy, as well as fairly recent, nationally publicized Government computer security scandals and stories, do you really want to risk allowing equal computer access to sensitive, sometimes classified, information, on thousands of Government computers, to private company employees, many of whom, as in the past, will require security waivers, and many of whom will be foreign nationals?
2. Do you think it just that this country should desert the thousands of men and women civilian employees, who have proven their good worth and given their entire careers and personal lives to serving their country in the spirit of national pride and patriotism, without first making absolutely sure, through comprehensive performance and finance studies, that their job loss will better serve this countries business performance, our national security interests and the safety of our people?
3. Should any presidential administration be permitted to so drastically and rapidly alter, transform and eliminate hundreds of Government positions - disrupt and surely damage thousands of personal lives and risk our national business endeavors - without first securing overwhelmingly conclusive proof that such alterations, transformations, terminations and disruptions will equate to substantially improved financial savings and absolutely better security of our nation's sensitive information and our most important business concerns?

For over 200 years, the "human capital," working in the federal offices and institutions of these United States, have been known to be a properly called and properly respected as dedicated, patriotic, professional and valuable men and women. What has changed? How has this happened?

Politics has replaced national business prudence. Expedience has replaced a righteous consideration of justice toward those who have faithfully and commendably served. The need to appear financially tough has replaced the long practice of wise caution and methodical and complete research. The net result of this national, psychological plague has now resulted in the impersonal and cruel term "human capital" replacing the true, appreciative declaration, "our dedicated and competent civilian employees."

And what administration or single politician will be able to cure such a national illness of false and dangerously destructive sentiment if it remains so greatly contagious and negligently untreated? And will it be too late by then?

Most sincerely,

A dedicated, loyal and long-time employee of the Defense Contract Management Agency

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