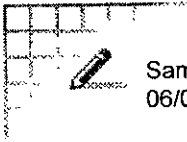


GP 17P



Samuel A. Thornstrom
06/05/2002 11:57:07 AM

Record Type: Record

To: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
cc:
Subject: climate change -- Ari's comments in gaggle this morning

Keith, you have the last question.

Q How concerned or angry was the President that "the bureaucracy", as he put it, in the EPA put out a report with a significant conclusion that apparently he disagrees with?

MR. FLEISCHER: Frankly, you know -- go back carefully and look at this issue. What's the significant conclusion that the President disagrees with in your question, in this recent report?

Q I would say it's the statement that "the changes observed over the last several decades are likely mostly due to human activities." Does he agree with that statement?

MR. FLEISCHER: Not only that, but re-roll your tapes, take a look at everything. I think this is an issue where as the initial report was written, everybody frankly looked at the initial report, and didn't look at what the President himself said.

On June 11th, in the Rose Garden, in a speech you all covered, the President said, "Concentration of greenhouse gases, especially CO2, have increased substantially since the beginning of the industrial revolution. And the National Academy of Sciences indicate that the increase is due in large part to human activity." That's what the President said all along.

Q -- he believes that?

Q So he agrees with that?

MR. FLEISCHER: The President said it June 11th.

Q He pointed to the NAS. But does he believe it?

MR. FLEISCHER: I don't think the President would have cited it in his speech, about the action on global warming, if it wasn't --

Q When he says "put out by the bureaucracy", it appears like he's distancing himself from a report coming out from his own administration.

MR. FLEISCHER: I think the President was also reflecting the fact that the coverage of this recent report did not accurately reflect what the recent report said, as attributed to an abrupt shift by President Bush. Take a look again --

Q Where did he make that statement?

Q He meant the press was the bureaucracy? I mean, he referred to the EPA.

MR. FLEISCHER: Well, the press has a little bureaucratic element to it. Take a look at what the President said June 11th. It speaks for itself.

Q When did he say it? And to whom?

MR. FLEISCHER: I'll be back -- this is an extended gaggle. I'll be back. This is not a briefing, this is a gaggle. This is to give you the President's schedule for the day.

END

10:07 A.M. EDT

Message Sent To:

James Connaughton/CEQ/EOP@EOP
Phil Cooney/CEQ/EOP@EOP
Kameron L. Bailey/CEQ/EOP@EOP
martyak.joe@epa.gov @ inet
Jill.Schroeder@hq.doe.gov @ inet
jordan.st.john@noaa.gov @ inet
ReifsnyderDA@state.gov @ inet