

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

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SUBJECT: Updates

TO: Albert Gore (CN=Albert Gore/O=OVP [OVP])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: Heather M. Marabeti (CN=Heather M. Marabeti/O=OVP [OVP])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Today appears to be the day. Here is what I know:

1. Bowles. The President appears set to announce this at his press conference at 3pm (which conflicts with Sarah's game, weather permitting (which seems doubtful)). Bowles and Panetta will both speak at the Press Conference. I have a sneaking sense that the President is having a private meeting with Erskine and Leon at 9:15 to seal the deal -- or nail down the details -- YOU MIGHT WANT TO BUZZ THE PRESIDENT AS SOON AS YOU GET IN, IF YOU HAVE NOT TALKED TO HIM EARLIER.

2. Bowles -- Right Start. You will doubtlessly see Erskine today, and it is important to get him off on the right foot with us. In that regard, I would urge you to make three points to him when you see him:

-- You hope he will chat with you before he makes any recommendations to

the President about key White House staffing moves -- you have some ideas

and some candidates you would like him to consider;

-- You hope he appreciates your special interest in key posts like Harold's

replacement, the Political Director, Intergovernmental, etc.

-- You hope he would work closely with me (Ron) to include me in his decision

making process on these personnel -- and all other -- matters.

Hitting Erskine with these shots today just helps establish from the start that you want to work closely with him in the appropriate way.

3. Press Conference. In addition to naming Bowles, as I told you yesterday, POTUS will designate Raines and Panetta as his chief negotiators in the Budget Talks, and invite the Joint Leadership down here early next week.

4. Parks Bill. This is FINALLY HERE. We are working on a signing ceremony with your participation for next week.

5. Inaugural. Rumor has it that (b)(6) is under consideration to be the Executive Director. This would be GREAT for us. This morning Harold could not answer me coherently on this question -- he was so depressed and distracted that he could barely speak. So I don't know how serious this prospect is. But I will give you a lunch memo addendum that includes a pitch for (b)(6).