

RECORD TYPE: PRESIDENTIAL (TRP NOTES MAIL)

CREATOR: Elaine C. Kamarck (CN=Elaine C. Kamarck/O=OVP [OVP])

CREATION DATE/TIME:23-MAY-1997 14:21:59.00

SUBJECT: POTUS lunch memo

TO: Ron Klain (CN=Ron Klain/O=OVP [OVP])

READ:UNKNOWN

CC: Debbie B Bengtson (CN=Debbie B Bengtson/O=OVP [OVP])

READ:UNKNOWN

Wendy C. New (CN=Wendy C. New/O=OVP [OVP])

READ:UNKNOWN

TEXT:

Ron, this is Deb. Elaine asked me to reforward this to you for the VP's meeting with the POTUS this afternoon.

She also wanted you and the VP to know that Nancy Ann Min and the VA are strongly in favor of Joe Thompson and feel that Sec. Brown's choice would be a mistake.

In addition, Skila is getting (b)(6) a job at VA.

So, the VBA decision needs to be the POTUS' rather than the VP's.

Elaine is in currently in Boston. But, she'll be at the Cape later this evening. She'll be available through Signal if you or the VP need her.

----- Forwarded by Elaine C. Kamarck/OVP on 05/23/97

02:05 PM -----

Elaine C. Kamarck

05/13/97 06:42 PM

To: Ron Klain/OVP

cc:

Subject: POTUS lunch memo

A few things for the POTUS lunch:

1) Jobs: Veterans Benefits Administrator.

The process calls for a board to select four nominees and send them forward to the President for this choice. The top ranked candidate is Joe Thompson, New York regional administrator, winner of the first hammer award ever given, responsible for re-engineering the process for the whole country. He is top notch and should get the job.

Jesse Brown is pushing the number 4 ranked candidate because he is African American. He is not anyone we know to be a reinventor.

Hershel Gober wants you to tell the President that he (Hershel) is very much in favor of Joe Thompson but does not want this repeated to anyone but the President.

2) Jobs: Deputy Secretary of Defense.

As you know Leon Fuerth likes Hamre. We have been less than impressed with Hamre as a reinventor. The Generals we know who are reinventors are split on Hamre.

So far, Hamre is Cohen's favorite. Given the mixed bag among your advisors on this we suggest the following:

Say Okay to Hamre if we get an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reinvention. Assistant Secretary posts need to be either re-designated or legislated. Cohen has wanted to get rid of the Assistant Secretary for C3I (which we agree is somewhat of an anachronism.) We could ask him to re-designate that post the reinvention post and then put one of our people in there with a direct reporting relationship to Cohen through the DepSec.

3) IRS Reinvention.

I am in the process of drawing up a plan which I hope Larry Summers and Bob will buy off on re IRS reinvention. They continue to have every wrong instinct on this. For instance, they want to get McKinzie to do a study of the IRS. I pointed out that McKinzie would simply find the people we already know and ask them what to do. They will get a much better result using their own employees and using McKinzie as facilitators.

They also want us to limit reinvention to one place. My argument is that that's what we did in reinvention in the first term -- reinvention labs etc. and that we are now into the whole agency.

Nevertheless we are slowly making progress -- thanks to your

meeting with Rubin and I may be able to strike a deal with them.