Subject:

To Discuss US Attorney position - Central District of California

Location:

Harriet Mier's Office

Start: End: Mon 10/30/2006 2:00 PM Mon 10/30/2006 2:45 PM

Recurrence:

(none)

Participants: Harriet Miers, Karl Rove or designee, Bill Kelley, Bob Hoyt, Jenny Brosnahan

Sampson, Kyle From: Monday, January 08, 2007 2:28 PM Sent: Goodling, Monica To: Leslie\_Fahrenkopf@who.eop.gov Cc: FW: FYI Subject: High Importance: Document.pdf Attachments: Document.pdf (285 KB) Monica, here are Sen. Domenici's recommendations for U.S Attorney for the District of New Mexico. He intends, apparently, to send a fifth recommendation shortly. Unless Leslie objects, will you get the process rolling for these four? Thanks. ----Original Message-----From: Looney, Andrea B. [mailto:Andrea\_B.\_Looney@who.eop.gov] Sent: Monday, January 08, 2007 10:21 AM To: Fahrenkopf, Leslie; Brosnahan, Jennifer R.; Sampson, Kyle; Brand, Rachel; Macklin, Kristi R Subject: FW: FYI ----Original Message----From: Wolff, Candida P. Sent: Monday, January 08, 2007 10:16 AM To: Looney, Andrea B.; O'Hollaren, Sean B. Subject: FW: ----Original Message----From: Bell, Steve (Domenici) [mailto:steve bell@domenici.senate.gov] Sent: Monday, January 08, 2007 10:12 AM To: Wolff, Candida P.; Scott Jennings; kr@georgewbush.com Subject: FW: Sent out Friday; a fifth name coming today... is our overwhelming choice and will take the job... Thanks for everything ...

Bell

Tracking:

Recipient

Read

Goodling, Monica

Read: 1/8/2007 5:45 PM

Leslie\_Fahrenkopf@who.eop.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE JANUARY 5, 2007

CONTACT: MATT LETOURNEAU (202) 224-7098

# DOMENICI RECOMMENDS FOUR TO WHITE HOUSE FOR U.S. ATTORNEY POSITION IN NEW MEXICO

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today announced that he has recommended four distinguished attorneys to President Bush for his consideration as the next U.S. Attorney for New Mexico.

In response to the Bush Administration's request for recommendations following the departure of David Iglesias, Domenici has submitted the following names to the White House: Jim Bibb of Santa Fe, T. Glenn Ellington of Santa Fe, Charles Peifer of Albuquerque, and Pat Rogers of Albuquerque.

The names will now by vetted by the Administration. Following that process, President Bush will nominate a new U.S. Attorney, who will then be considered for confirmation by the U.S. Senate.

"It is my pleasure to recommend four individuals that I believe would serve New Mexico and the nation with distinction as United States Attorney for our state. I am familiar with each of them, and I believe that they have the necessary legal backgrounds and right temperament for the job. I look forward to President Bush's choice," Domenici said.

Bibb, who was the Republican nominee for Attorney General of New Mexico in 2006, has been an Assistant U.S. Attorney and is a Major in the New Mexico Army National Guard. In addition to two years in private practice, he was a Special Agent for the FBI and an Assistant District Attorney in the 4th Judicial District. He gradated from UNM School of Law.

Ellington currently is in private practice with Ellington & Ellington, L.L.C. Prior to that, he was Secretary of Taxation and Revenue for the state of New Mexico, and has served as a District and Appellate Judge. He is a graduate of UNM School of Law.

Peifer is an attorney with the Albuquerque firm of Peifer, Hanson and Mullins, where he has been a litigator for the past sixteen years. He also served as Chief Assistant Attorney General for New Mexico, where he supervised the four civil divisions of the New Mexico Department of Justice. He holds a law degree from Cornell Law School.

Rogers is a longtime member of the Albuquerque firm Modrall, Sperling, Rochl, Harris and Sisk, where he serves on the Executive Committee. He has served as General Counsel to the New Mexico Republican Party and was on the Board of Directors of the Mountain States Legal Federation. He graduated from Georgetown University Law Center.

The nation's 93 U.S. Attorneys, under the direction of the Attorney General, are the chief federal law enforcement officers of the United States. The position has three statutory responsibilities: the prosecution of criminal cases brought by the federal government; the prosecution and defense of civil cases in which the United States is a party; and the collection of debts owed the federal government which are administratively uncollectible.

From:

Sampson, Kyle

'ariffin

Sent:

Friday, February 16, 2007 8:45 AM

To:

Subject:

Fw: Fyi from today's Arkansas paper

Tim, I'm out of the office, but want to talk to you abt this. I'll call next week.

----Original Message-----From: Goodling, Monica

To: Sampson, Kyle

Sent: Fri Feb 16 08:12:06 2007

Subject: FW: Fyi from today's Arkansas paper

FYI

From: Oprison, Christopher G. [mailto:Christopher\_G.\_Oprison@who.eop.gov]

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2007 7:48 AM

To: Goodling, Monica

Subject: FW: Fyi from today's Arkansas paper

fyi

From: Tim Griffin

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2007 אב:נא AM

To: 'Karl Rove'; 'Sara Taylor'; 'Scott Jennings'; 'Jane Cherry'; Oprison, Christopher G.

Subject: Fyi from today's Arkansas paper

Fyi. I am glad I did this especially because Pryor says in the article that Gonzales told him he wouldn't send me through the process and Pryor says he was asking Gonzales for my name to be submitted. Crazy. The swipe at Pryor at the very bottom is in response to a question about whether the White House did me a disservice. I said that Pryor did me a disservice, etc. I am going to go back to focusing on my job until I am told otherwise. Thanks, TG

Prosecutor Griffin now rejects post Interim appointee blames Senate flak DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Tim Griffin, whose December appointment as U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas sparked a national outcry about surreptitious changes made to a law affecting federal prosecutors, says he no longer wants the job permanently.

"I have made the decision not to let my name go forward to the Senate," Griffin said Thursday evening.

He was referring to the U.S. Department of Justice's stated intention, amid heavy criticism, to subject Griffin and others recently appointed to interim federal-prosecutor posts to the standard process of being nominated by the president, scrutinized by the U.S.

Senate Judiciary Committee and then voted on by the Senate.

Griffin, 38, a former military prosecutor, was appointed Dec. 20 by U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales under a little-noticed provision tacked onto the 2006 reauthorization of the USAPATRIOT Act that allows the attorney general to fill prosecutorial vacancies on an interim basis without Senate approval.

Griffin's predecessor, Bud Cummins, later acknowledged that he was asked to step aside from the job he got five years earlier after going through the Senate confirmation

process, not because of performance issues but to make way for Griffin, who worked briefly in the White House under presidential adviser Karl Rove and was a political director for the Republican National Committee.

The new language concerning appointments, which even the Republican sponsor of the 2006 legislation now says he didn't notice at the time, replaced a provision that limited the interim appointments to 120 days. It had the effect of allowing appointees to serve indefinitely for the rest of the current administration, which in this case ends in early 2009, without the usual scrutiny.

Griffin on Thursday blamed "the partisanship that has been exhibited by Sen. [Mark] Pryor [D-Ark.] and other senators on the Senate Judiciary Committee in the recent hearing" for his decision to bow out.

He referred to a hearing last week on Capitol Hill on legislation proposed by Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., and supported by Pryor, as well as Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., and others, to reinstate the original language governing such appointments.

The legislation was proposed after at least seven U.S. attorneys across the country were ousted to make room for Republican political allies. Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty acknowledged in the hearing that in Arkansas, Cummins was forced out simply to make room for Griffin.

Griffin said Thursday that if he were to go through the confirmation process, "I don't think there is any way I could get fair treatment by Sen. Pryor or others on the judiciary committee."

He said he will continue to serve in the top law enforcement position in the state's eastern district as long as the White House keeps him there under the interim title or "gets someone else that I can help transition into this job.

"But to submit my name to the Senate would be like volunteering to stand in front of a firing squad in the middle of a three-ring circus."

Meanwhile, The New York Times reported Thursday that Cummins was ousted after Harriet E. Miers, the former White House Counsel, intervened on Griffin's behalf.

Miers' role was disclosed Wednesday by Justice Department officials during a private briefing for senators on the Judiciary Committee, the Times reported. The officials denied that the White House played a part in any of the other dismissals, the newspaper said. Officials at the White House and Justice Department declined to comment on Miers' role in the matter, and Miers, whose resignation took effect Jan. 31, could not be reached for comment Thursday, according to the Times.

Pryor's spokesman, Michael Teague, told the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette on Thursday, after Griff in said he was withdrawing his name from consideration, that Gonzales himself had called Pryor earlier Thursday "and told the senator he was not going to submit Tim Griffin's name."

Teague said Gonzales "didn't give a reason," but said he would confer with Rep. John Boozman, the state's only Republican in the delegation, to find someone else to nominate. During that conversation, "the senator told the attorney general, 'It's my preference that you send him through the confirmation hearing.'" Teague said.

He said Pryor made that statement despite his complaints about the way Griffin got the job "because that's the process. That's the way the founding fathers set it up."

Griffin said that neither Gonzales nor anyone else told him or suggested to him that he bow out.

"I made up my mind two weeks ago not to allow my name to go forward," he said. "I have informed people both at the Department of Justice and the White House that I do not desire to have my name submitted. .... I don't want to be part of that partisan circus." Teague called Griffin's remarks about partisanship "baseless." He said Pryor is well-known and has even been criticized by fellow Democrats for being "fair and open" about President Bush's judicial nominees, of whom he has supported more than 100 and opposed fewer than a dozen.

Teague pointed out that Pryor even testified that "the way the White House has handled this has been a disservice to Tim Griffin."

Teague said Pryor has encouraged Griffin to go through the confirmation process, to clear up any questions about his background and his experience. The spokesman emphasized that Pryor's concerns were "not about a nomination" but "about the administration circumventing the process."

Griffin later responded, "It's unfortunate that Sen. Pryor is blaming the administration for using a law that he voted for to appoint me, apparently with the excuse that he didn't know what he was voting for when he voted. I think it's been a disservice to me the way my home-state senator has treated a fellow Arkansan, and an Arkansan who grew up in south Arkansas, 30 miles from his dad's hometown of Camden."

Griffin also said, "I spoke to Sen. Pryor when I was serving in Iraq [in 2006], and later Spoke to him in his office in Washington, and on both occasions the senator directly questioned my credentials and indicated it was 'mighty presumptuous' of the White House

and me that I could do the U.S. attorney job."
Teague insisted that Pryor's diligence in pursuing the matter is neither partisan nor personal.

Washington, Tracy T From: Friday, February 17, 2006 1:37 PM Sent: Williams, Jan To: RE: Fwd: Bio for Subject: Sure thing. Tracy T. Washington Staff Assistant Office of the Attorney General U.S. Department of Justice RFK Building, Room 5114 (202)/5 ----Original Message----From: Williams, Jan Sent: Friday, February 17, 2006 1:37 PM To: Washington, Tracy T Subject: FW: Fwd: Bio for Can you set up a call? ----Original Message-----From: MDavis@gwb43.com [mailto:MDavis@gwb43.com] Sent: Friday, February 17, 2006 11:25 AM To: Williams, Jan Cc: jcherry@gwb43.com Subject: FW: Fwd: Bio for Do you mind calling this guy and seeing if there is a DOJ board for him? Thank you! ----Original Message----From: Scott Jennings Sent: Friday, February 17, 2006 10:28 AM To: Mike Davis Subject: FW: Fwd: Bio for Take a look at this bio, and get it to the approrpriate PPO folks (Becker, I am sure). I'd like to make sure the guy gets a call back either from us or PPO so we can tell Karl and Jim Brulte that we are following up. jsj ----Original Message----From: Sara Taylor Sent: Fri 2/17/2006 10:26 AM To: Scott Jennings Subject: FW: Fwd: Bio for ----Original Message----From: Karl Rove Sent: Friday, February 17, 2006 10:25 AM To: Sara Taylor

Subject: Fw: Fwd: Bio for

From: JimBrulte | | <JimBrult <<Bio for Mike Ramos>> e@

To: Raul Damas <RDamas@gwb43.com>
CC: Karl Rove <KR@georgewbush.com>
Sent: Fri Feb 17 09:42:03 2006
Subject: Fwd: Bio for

| would be an excellent candidate for a part -time board or commission.....

From: Roehrkasse, Brian

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2007 10:48 AM

To: Elwood, Courtney; Goodling, Monica; Scolinos, Tasia; Hertling, Richard

Cc: Sampson, Kyle

Subject: RE: NM USATTY - urgent issue

My question is why would members of Congress and a U.S. Attorney be discussing the timing on a criminal indictment? Doesn't it seem odd that he would even acknowledge that?

Monica, can you please call me?

From: Elwood, Courtney

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2007 10:34 AM

To: Goodling, Monica; Roehrkasse, Brian; Scolinos, Tasia; Hertling, Richard

Subject: FW: NM USATTY - urgent issue

I have spoken to McNulty, who will reach out to WH Counsel's Office.

Courtney Simmons Elwood
Deputy Chief of Staff and
Courselor to the Attornay

Counselor to the Attorney General

U.S. Department of Justice

(w) 202 (c) 202

From: Jennings, Jeffery S. [mailto:Jeffery\_S.\_Jennings@who.eop.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2007 10:30 AM

To: Elwood, Courtney

Subject: FW: NM USATTY - urgent issue

Importance: High

From: Jennings, Jeffery S.

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2007 10:17 AM

To: 'KR@georgewbush.com'; Fielding, Fred F.; Sullivan, Kevin F.; Perino, Dana M.; 'kyle.sampson@usdoj.gov'

Cc: 'Sara Taylor'

Subject: NM USATTY - urgent issue

Importance: High

I just received a telephone call from Steve Bell, Sen. Domenici's CoS, who urgently reported the following:

Outgoing USATTY David Iglesias is holding a press conference at 11:30 Eastern this morning.

2. He is allegedly going to say that he was contacted by two Members of Congress last Fall regarding the investigation into the courthouse construction corruption case. Information on this is in the following article: <a href="http://www.abqtrib.com/news/2006/dec/19/federal-attorney-plans-step-down-iglesias-investig/">http://www.abqtrib.com/news/2006/dec/19/federal-attorney-plans-step-down-iglesias-investig/</a>

OAG000001758

- 3. He is allegedly going to say that the Members urged him to deliver indictments before November's election. He will further say that one of the Members, frustrated with his answer, hung up on him in anger.
- 4. He is allegedly going to link these phone calls with the current news saying that he believes this ultimately led to his being asked to resign by DOJ.

Bell said Domenici's idea is not to respond, and hopefully make this a one day story. They have already been contacted by McClatchey Unfortunately, I do not think that they can make an allegation such as this go away so easily. They have not confirmed to the reporter they were one of the Members.

I am available to discuss further – clearly, once this happens in Albuquerque the reporters will be asking DoJ and the White House

J. Scott Jennings
Special Assistant to the President and
Deputy Director, Office of Political Affairs
(202)

0	IP
$\mathbf{-}$	

From: Elwood, Courtney

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2007 10:35 AM

To: Moschella, William; McNulty, Paul J; Sampson, Kyle

Cc: Elston, Michael (ODAG)

Subject: FW: NM USATTY - urgent issue

I have alerted Richard and OPA.

Please let me know if there is anything further I can do to help.

Courtney Simmons Elwood
Deputy Chief of Staff and
Counselor to the Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
(w) 202

(c) 202 (fax) 202

From: Elwood, Courtney

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2007 10:34 AM

To: Goodling, Monica; Roehrkasse, Brian; Scolinos, Tasia; Hertling, Richard

Subject: FW: NM USATTY - urgent issue

I have spoken to McNulty, who will reach out to WH Counsel's Office.

Courtney Simmons Elwood
Deputy Chief of Staff and
Counselor to the Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
(w) 202
(c) 202
(fax) 202

**From:** Jennings, Jeffery S. [mailto:Jeffery\_S.\_Jennings@who.eop.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2007 10:30 AM

To: Elwood, Courtney

Subject: FW: NM USATTY - urgent issue

Importance: High

From: Jennings, Jeffery S.

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2007 10:17 AM

5/21/2007

To: 'KR@georgewbush.com'; Fielding, Fred F.; Sullivan, Kevin F.; Perino, Dana M.; 'kyle.sampson@usdoj.gov'

Cc: 'Sara Taylor'

**Subject:** NM USATTY - urgent issue

Importance: High

I just received a telephone call from Steve Bell, Sen. Domenici's CoS, who urgently reported the following:

- Outgoing USATTY David Iglesias is holding a press conference at 11:30 Eastern this morning.
- 2. He is allegedly going to say that he was contacted by two Members of Congress last Fall regarding the investigation into the courthouse construction corruption case. Information on this is in the following article: http://www.abqtrib.com/news/2006/dec/19/federal-attorney-plans-step-down-iglesias-investig/
- 3. He is allegedly going to say that the Members urged him to deliver indictments before November's election. He will further say that one of the Members, frustrated with his answer, hung up on him in anger.
- 4. He is allegedly going to link these phone calls with the current news saying that he believes this ultimately led to his being asked to resign by DOJ.

Bell said Domenici's idea is not to respond, and hopefully make this a one day story. They have already been contacted by McClatchey Unfortunately, I do not think that they can make an allegation such as this go away so easily. They have not confirmed to the reporter they were one of the Members.

I am available to discuss further – clearly, once this happens in Albuquerque the reporters will be asking DoJ and the White House

J. Scott Jennings
Special Assistant to the President and
Deputy Director, Office of Political Affairs
(202)

From: Jennings, Jeffery S. [Jeffery\_S.\_Jennings@who.eop.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2007 1:21 PM

To: Jennings, Jeffery S.; KR@georgewbush.com; Fielding, Fred F.; Sullivan, Kevin F.; Perino, Dana M.; Sampson, Kyle;

Mamo, Jeanie S.; Oprison, Christopher G.; Elwood, Courtney

Cc: Sara Taylor

Subject: RE: NM USATTY - urgent issue

# **McClatchy New Service**

Political interference alleged in sacking of a U.S. attorney

By Marisa Taylor McClatchy Newspapers

**WASHINGTON** - The U.S. attorney from New Mexico who was recently fired by the Bush administration said Wednesday that he believes he was forced out because he refused to rush an indictment in an ongoing probe of local Democrats a month before November's Congressional elections.

David Iglesias said two members of Congress separately called in mid October to inquire about the timing of an ongoing probe of a kickback scheme and appeared eager for an indictment to be issued on the eve of the elections in order to benefit the Republicans. He refused to name the members of Congress because he said he feared retaliation.

Two months later, on Dec. 7, Iglesias became one of six U.S. attorneys ordered to step down for what administration officials have termed "performance-related issues." Two other U.S. attorneys also have been asked to resign.

Iglesias, who received a positive performance review before he was fired, said he suspected he was forced out because of his refusal to be pressured to hand down an indictment in the ongoing probe.

"I believe that because I didn't play ball, so to speak, I was asked to resign," said Iglesias, who officially stepped down Wednesday.

Iglesias acknowledged that he had no proof that the pressure from the Congress members prompted his forced resignation. But he said the contact in of itself violated one of the most important tenants of a U.S. attorney's office: Don't mix politics with prosecutions.

J.S. attorneys are appointed by the president in a political process that includes Senate confirmation. But is soon as they assume office they are expected to refrain from being politically active and to resist the irge to allow their political leanings to affect the outcome of a case.

Democrats have described the mid-term firings of the Republican-appointed U.S. attorneys as inprecedented and questioned whether the firings were politically motivated to root out moderates and install candidates loyal to the administration.

OAG000001762

Justice department officials have defended the firings as legitimate administrative decisions meant to improve the workings of the Justice Department. Deputy Attorney General Paul McNulty told the Senate that most of the forced resignations were motivated by "performance-related" reasons.

Iglesias' allegation raises new questions about the nature of the firings and seems to undermine the theory that the administration only singled out moderate Republicans. Iglesias, a former military lawyer whose work helped inspired the Tom Cruise character in a "Few Good Men," describes himself as a social conservative who strove to loyally implement the administration's policies. Iglesias also was the first Hispanic to serve as U.S. attorney in his state in decades.

"I represent three huge voting blocks of the Republican party," he said. "I don't know why they would let someone go with those political credentials who has demonstratively done a good job."

Iglesias said the two members of Congress not only contacted him directly but also proceeded to try to wrest details about the case from him. Iglesias would not comment on the case to McClatchy, but the local media has reported on aspects of the ongoing investigation, including allegations that a former Democratic state senator took money to ensure an \$82 million courthouse contract would go to specific company.

Congressional questions about ongoing cases are supposed to go through a special office within the Justice Department to avoid the appearance of impropriety. Corruption cases in particular are treated as especially sensitive.

"I was appalled by the inappropriateness of those contacts," Iglesias said of the calls.

Iglesias said they called during the lead up to the Congressional elections that gave the Democrats control of the House and Senate. The Republican Party loss was blamed in part on several ongoing criminal corruption cases against Republican members of Congress.

Jude McCartin, a spokeswoman for New Mexico's Democratic Senator <u>Jeff Bingaman</u>, said she had not heard of the allegations and could not comment on them.

"It wasn't us - that's all I can say," she said.

Bingaman worked with Iglesias on crafting certain legislation, but McCartin said Bingaman would never attempt to push an ongoing case for political purposes.

'U.S. attorneys have a job to do and he does not want to interfere," she said. "He's a senator and his job is to craft legislation, not involve himself in ongoing cases."

Other members of the New Mexico delegation could not be immediately reached for comment.

Senator <u>Pete Domenici</u> was not facing re-election, but the state's two other Republicans, U.S. Representatives <u>Heather Wilson</u> and <u>Steve Pearce</u> were up for election. Both won, but Wilson beat her opponent by 875 votes out of nearly 211,000.

Local media reports had speculated that Iglesias' office might issue an indictment before the elections.

5/9/2007 OAG000001763

- But Iglesias said he refused to tell the members of Congress when it would be issued, although he had decided the investigation needed more time.
- "You never rush any case to trial, especially political corruption cases," he said. "There is always the charge that the real basis of the prosecutions is politics and you want to avoid that."
- He said he now regrets that he did not report the calls to the Justice Department as required by policy.
- "I thought it would blow over," he said. "But I was wrong."
- In the last several weeks, other U.S. attorneys have spoken out against the administration to dispute that they were fired because of the way they handled their job.
- The administration has only acknowledged that politics played a part in the firing of former U.S. Attorney Bud Cummins in Little Rock Arkansas. In his case, officials have said he was removed to make way for Tim Griffin, a former aide to Rove. Griffin has since said he will not seek Senate confirmation because of the controversy.
- The firings have put Justice Department officials in the unusual position of having to defend the ouster of Republican-appointees against Democratic criticism.
- Similar to six other U.S. attorneys, Iglesias said when he was called and fired December 7, he was not given any reason other than that said the order "came from on high."
- Iglesias and several other U.S. attorneys have been contacted by the House's Subcommittee on Commercial and Administrative Law about possibly testifying before Congress on the firings. Iglesias said would only testify if he were subpoenaed.
- U.S. Attorney Daniel Bogden, who also stepped down Wednesday after being asked to leave in December, said he had no idea why he was asked to resign.
- Like Iglesias, he received a positive performance evaluation. But unlike him, he said he never clashed with elected officials about an ongoing investigation. Bogden, a prosecutor with more than 16 years of experience, prosecuted county officials in a case connected to a San Diego indictment of several local elected officials. Carol Lam, the U.S. attorney in San Diego, was also asked to step down in December.
- "As an office we thought we were functioning at a very high level," Bogden said. "You would think that if you're doing the job you should be doing you should remain in your place."
- Last week, the Wall Street journal reported the FBI was investigating allegations whether Nevada Governor Jim Gibbons performed any official acts on behalf of a contract in exchange for gifts or payments. Gibbons, a Republican, has denied any wrongdoing.
- Bogden said he hoped that the ongoing case did not have anything to do with his ouster, although critics of the administration have raised questions.
- "You would like to think that the reason you're put in the position as U.S. attorney is because you're 5/9/2007

willing to step up to the plate and take on big cases," Bogden said. "It's not a good thing if you begin to wonder whether you'll lose your job if you pursue them."

## **END**

From: Jennings, Jeffery S.

Sent: Wednesday, February 28, 2007 10:17 AM

To: 'KR@georgewbush.com'; Fielding, Fred F.; Sullivan, Kevin F.; Perino, Dana M.; 'kyle.sampson@usdoj.gov'

Cc: 'Sara Taylor'

Subject: NM USATTY - urgent issue

Importance: High

I just received a telephone call from Steve Bell, Sen. Domenici's CoS, who urgently reported the following:

- 1. Outgoing USATTY David Iglesias is holding a press conference at 11:30 Eastern this morning.
- He is allegedly going to say that he was contacted by two Members of Congress last Fall regarding the investigation into the courthouse construction corruption case. Information on this is in the following article: <a href="http://www.abqtrib.com/news/2006/dec/19/federal-attorney-plans-step-down-iglesias-investig/">http://www.abqtrib.com/news/2006/dec/19/federal-attorney-plans-step-down-iglesias-investig/</a>
- 3. He is allegedly going to say that the Members urged him to deliver indictments before November's election. He will further say that one of the Members, frustrated with his answer, hung up on him in anger.
- 4. He is allegedly going to link these phone calls with the current news saying that he believes this ultimately led to his being asked to resign by DOJ.

Bell said Domenici's idea is not to respond, and hopefully make this a one day story. They have already been contacted by McClatchey Unfortunately, I do not think that they can make an allegation such as this go away so easily. They have not confirmed to the reporter they were one of the Members.

I am available to discuss further – clearly, once this happens in Albuquerque the reporters will be asking DoJ and the White House

J. Scott Jennings
Special Assistant to the President and
Deputy Director, Office of Political Affairs
(202)