

TALKING POINTS -

1 of 2

To: CTH
Cc: LAL, JMK, TJ, JB
From: JS thru MMS
Re: Media Call - Thursday, August 3, 2006

TOPICS IN THE NEWS

National:

- The conflict between Israel and Hezbollah continues to escalate (**memo attached**)
- Continued violence in Iraq throughout the week (**memo attached**)
- Cuban President Fidel Castro temporarily gives up power to his brother Raul, while Castro is undergoing stomach surgery on Monday (**article attached**).
- Scorching heat has blanketed the entire U.S. in the last few weeks.

Nebraska:

- Wildfires destroy homes and property in Dawes and Sioux Counties (**memo attached**)
- USDA released Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage in Sioux County (**press release attached**)
- Japan re-opened its market to U.S. beef last Thursday (**memo attached**)
- Nebraska's U.S. Senate candidates are scheduled for their first debate on Friday, August 11 in Lincoln at the Nebraska Broadcasters Convention.

SENATE HEARINGS

- SFRC Business Meeting - Ambassador John Bolton's nomination vote was held at the committee (**Tuesday**)
- Banking Committee's Mark up of the Credit Rating Agency Reform Act of 2006 (**Tuesday**)
- Intelligence Committee Briefing to "discuss and vote on conclusions for Phase II" (**Wednesday**)
- Intelligence Committee Meeting to "discuss publication of Phase II" (**Thursday**)

SENATE FLOOR

- Spoke on the Senate floor about the current crisis in the Middle East on Monday (**floor speech attached**)
- The Senate passed The Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act (S.3711) by a vote of 71 to 25 on Tuesday. You cosponsored the bill (**press release attached**)
- The Senate is considering the FY 07 DoD Appropriations bill (**memo will be provided tomorrow morning**)

- The Senate is considering the Minimum Wage/Estate Tax/Tax Extenders bill. The bill is being referred to as the "Trifecta" (**memo attached**).
- Next week the Senate will be adjourned for August recess

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS

- Spoke and briefed on the wildfires by Al Berndt, Assistant Director, Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (**Monday**)
- Spoke at the 2006 Summer Intern Lecture Series (**Monday**)
- Met with Randall Fort, Nominee for the Assistant Secretary of State for Intelligence and Research (**Monday**)
- Met with Tim Adams, Undersecretary for International Affairs, United States Treasury Department (**Monday**)
- Met with Chairman Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board (**Tuesday**)
- Met with Chan Heng Chee, Singapore's Ambassador to the U.S. (**Tuesday**)
- Spoke with Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson (**Wednesday**)
- Meeting with Miss Carla Jazzar, Charge d' Affairs at the Embassy of Lebanon (**Thursday**)
- Meeting with the new Ambassador to the U.S. from New Zealand, Ambassador Roy Ferguson (**Friday**)
- Meeting with Deputy Secretary of the Treasury Bob Kimmitt (**Friday**)

NEXT WEEK'S HIGHLIGHTS IN NEBRASKA

- You will be traveling the next 2 weeks throughout the state during August recess.
- Next week you will travel to: Omaha, Lincoln, Broken Bow, North Platte, Grand Island, Kearney, Chadron, Lexington and Columbus.
- The following week you are also scheduled to travel to: Norfolk, South Sioux City and Murdock

Please note: This will be the final conference call until the Senate is back in session following August recess on September 5th.