

London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 5:32 PM
To: London, Sarah
Subject: FW: NGA/DGA press with GPS featured:

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 3:25 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: Lofy, Bill; GPS; MacLean, Alex
Subject: Re: NGA/DGA press with GPS featured:

Great! Gps was not on the formal "speaking program" after white house mtg but he fielded a question impromptu and his quote lead the others in the press! (because it was different and thoughtful)

Sent from my iPhone

On Feb 24, 2012, at 3:19 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

**Fyi, I'll reach out to these reporters in the future on health care issues (and other issues).
Sue**

LOS ANGELES TIMES:

Democratic governors to GOP White House hopefuls: 'Cheer up'

By Michael A. Memoli

February 24, 2012 11:31 a.m.

Reporting from Washington—

A group of Democratic governors sent a simple message to the GOP: "Cheer up."

"These Republicans that are running for president are so depressed," Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin said Friday after a White House meeting with fellow Democrats. "We've got some good news -- a great president creating jobs. And governors who are seeing job creation and therefore revenues."

Most of the state executives are in the nation's capital this weekend for the annual winter meeting of the National Governors Assn. It's meant to be a nonpartisan gathering, where the shared message is typically one that laments gridlock in Washington in contrast with progress being made at the state level.

But in an election year, the partisan lines are more sharply drawn. The group of Democrats, whose

numbers were thinned in the 2010 midterms, had their own meeting Friday with President Obama and members of his economic team at the White House.

Officially, the White House said the meeting was part of an "ongoing discussion with Democratic governors about the ways that the federal government and the states can work together to create jobs and grow the economy."

"We all feel a personal responsibility to partner with the president in order to accelerate our jobs recovery," Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, the Democratic Governors Assn. chairman, told reporters after.

But it also had the feel of a pep talk. Dannel Malloy, first-term governor of Connecticut, called it "one of the most inspirational meetings he'd ever attended."

"The leader of the free world has done something that no president has done in a long time, and that is back-to-back years of manufacturing job growth in the United States -- something that many of us would have thought just a few years ago was absolutely impossible to do," he said.

The governors can play an important role as prominent surrogates for the president's reelection campaign in their home states. Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper called his state the classic "purple state," and predicted Obama would again carry it this fall.

And now, many feel they have a positive case to make on his behalf when it comes to jobs, as Shumlin and Malloy in particular indicated.

"If the American voters vote on jobs, this guy is going to win with 75% of the vote," Malloy said.

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BLOOMBERG:

Revenue Eases Recession Budget Pain as U.S. Governors Gather

By William Selway and Mark Niquette

(Updates with Vermont governor's comment in sixth paragraph.)

Feb. 24 (Bloomberg) -- For the past four years, U.S. states struggled to close more than \$500 billion of budget shortfalls caused by the recession, ushering in tax increases, spending cuts and clashes with public-employee unions.

With the economy recovering, officials gathering in Washington today for the National Governors Association winter meeting are beginning to face a welcome choice: how to spend extra money.

Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, whose state is rebounding with the automobile industry, may use a possible \$670 million surplus to hire state troopers whose ranks thinned during the past

decade. Colorado may set more aside for education. New Jersey's Chris Christie is seeking to cut taxes and bolster an underfunded pension.

"After an extremely difficult period when revenues were crashing and a series of cuts had to be made quickly, state budgets are stabilizing," Scott Pattison, the executive director of the National Association of State Budget Officers in Washington, said in a telephone interview. "In some cases you're beginning to see improvement in revenues coming in ahead of forecasts."

After the Storm

State tax revenue has been rising at the fastest pace since 2006, before the housing-market collapse, U.S. Census figures show. In the three months through September, the first quarter in most states' fiscal years, such collections rose 5.6 percent from a year earlier, the seventh-straight gain. That outpaces the 1.6 percent revenue growth states assumed when drafting their budget plans, according to a Nov. 28 report by the NGA and the National Association of State Budget Officers.

Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin, who today joined Democratic governors at a meeting with President Barack Obama at the White House, said the revenue increases are evidence of an economic turnaround. The national unemployment rate in January was 8.3 percent, down from as high as 10 percent in October 2009.

"We've been having tough budgets," Shumlin told reporters. "We've had to make tough choices. But as this president helps us create jobs -- or as jobs are created in our states -- revenues are coming back and things are looking up."

Fiscal officers in 27 states and Puerto Rico think revenue is "stable" and should meet fiscal 2012 estimates, according to a survey in October and November by the National Conference of State Legislatures.

'Fairly Optimistic'

Officials in 16 states said they were "concerned" about meeting projections, while seven states are "optimistic" because collections exceed projections, according to the report.

"I'm fairly optimistic for the spring tax collection period, barring something unforeseen," said Pattison. "There's continued, gradual improvement."

The three-day NGA event starts today and features a governors-only meeting with Obama at the White House on Monday and a black-tie dinner with the president and Michelle Obama on Feb. 26. There will be private meetings among governors and their staffs and public-policy sessions including tomorrow's opening panel: "Growing State Economies."

In Michigan, where the unemployment rate dropped to 9.3 percent in December from a high of 14.1 percent in August 2009, the state ranked second for economic health from 2010's third quarter through the same period of 2011, according to the Bloomberg Economic Evaluation of States. It trailed only oil-booming North Dakota.

Stress Lurking

Still, states' tax collections have yet to fully rebound to 2008 prerecession levels, and budgets in more than half are smaller than in 2008, according to the November report by the Governors Association and budget officers.

"State policy makers have good reason to feel optimistic about the recent and positive economic news," said Kil Huh, who follows budgets for the Pew Center on the States. "But when it comes to budget matters, there may be reasons to hedge. There's stress still lurking in state budgets."

Ohio Governor John Kasich, a Republican, said that with the exception of \$2 million he promised to children's hospitals for research, he doesn't plan to increase spending this year. Tax receipts for fiscal 2012 are running \$147.1 million ahead of projections, according to the state Office of Budget and Management.

"This economy is still a roller coaster," Kasich told reporters in Columbus yesterday. "We're not going to be in the business of spending money."

Illinois Budget

The increase in collections hasn't lifted all states from their troubles. Illinois Democratic Governor Pat Quinn, who passed a record tax increase last year, this week proposed increasing spending by \$800 million, including a 1 percent jump for schools. With a \$9 billion backlog of unpaid bills, he still proposed a \$2.7 billion cut to Medicaid.

In California, Democratic Governor Jerry Brown is counting on a tax increase next year to forestall cutting \$4.8 billion from planned spending for schools.

Even so, any revenue increase is a welcome shift. When Michigan's Snyder took over last year, his first budget contended with a \$1.5 billion deficit. The state is now looking at a surplus.

In New Jersey, Christie proposed a \$32.1 billion budget on Feb. 21 that would cut income taxes 10 percent and raise spending \$2.4 billion over the budget he signed in June. The governor's budget would more than double to \$1.1 billion the state's pension payment and increase school aid by \$213 million.

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper has recommended restoring previously proposed cuts over two years that include \$97 million for primary and secondary education and \$30 million for college financial aid.

"We are able to recommend all of this because the economy has shown welcome improvement," Hickenlooper said in a press statement.

--With assistance from Chris Christoff in Lansing, Amanda J. Crawford in Phoenix, Terrence Dopp in Trenton, Jennifer Oldham in Denver and Roger Runningen in Washington. Editors: Stephen Merelman, William Glasgall

To contact the reporters on this story: William Selway in Washington at wselway@bloomberg.net; Mark Niquette in Columbus at mniquette@bloomberg.net

To contact the editor responsible for this story: William Glasgall at wglasgall@bloomberg.net

Governor Deval Patrick praises Barack Obama's economic achievements

By Tracy Jan, Globe Staff

WASHINGTON -- Governor Deval Patrick and his Democratic colleagues today lavished praise on President Obama and his economic record, following what Patrick characterized as a "productive and encouraging" meeting with the president and his economic team.

"This is a president who saved the auto industry from extinction, the financial industry from self destruction and the economy from depression," Patrick told a group of reporters gathered in front of the White House.

The governors were in town for the National Governors Association winter meeting. Patrick was joined by governors from Washington, Connecticut, Vermont, Colorado and other states to tout Obama's jobs record -- hailing no less than three times in eight minutes the 3.7 million jobs that have been created over the last two years.

"These Republicans running for president are so depressing," said Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin. "Cheer up. We've got some good news: a great president creating jobs and governors who are seeing job creation in their core revenue."

Washington Governor Christine Gregoire spoke about Obama's visit last week to the Boeing company, where she said his policies focused on increasing manufacturing jobs are happening on the ground. She commended his recent tax proposals to offer tax incentives for corporations to keep jobs in America.

"The president understands where America can get those middle class jobs going again," Gregoire said.

Dan Malloy, governor of Connecticut, cast Obama as a hero for creating back-to-back years of manufacturing job growth.

"What we see is an America on its way back because we made an election decision a few years ago that turned out to be really quite extraordinary," Malloy said. "This president is accomplishing things that quite frankly most people didn't think were possible."

Amid all the flowery talk, there was one moment of tension when a reporter grilled Patrick on how he reconciled his role as the president's campaign ambassador with his role in pumping up the mortgage bubble when he served on board of a holding company for Ameriquest Mortgage, a controversial subprime mortgage lender.

"It was work I was asked to do to help them deal with some of their fair lending issues and I'm proud of that work," Patrick responded. "I don't think anyone is proud of that part of the housing crisis which was caused by those so-called liar loans."

Tracy Jan can be reached at tjan@globe.com. Follow her on Twitter @GlobeTracyJan.

THE HILL:

Democratic governors discuss bypassing Congress with Obama

By Alicia M. Cohn - 02/24/12 03:02 PM ET

President Obama met with a group of Democratic governors on Friday and discussed plans to work around Congress toward policy goals.

Gov. Jack Markell, the Democratic governor of Delaware and the vice chairman of the National Governors Association, told The Hill that the meeting was "very good" and said many of the governors were responsive to ideas about bypassing Congress.

"There was a sense that none of us should wait, we can't wait for things to happen in Congress," Markell said of the meeting. "We're going to do what we can do [now]."

Obama has positioned himself against Congress as he runs for reelection, arguing lawmakers are failing to solve the country's problems. "Where Congress won't act, I will," he said in October when rolling out a series of executive orders aimed at creating jobs.

Markell said the conversation with Obama did not dwell on Republican opposition to the president's legislative proposals.

The tone of the meeting was positive, Markell said, and the governors agreed that the Obama administration has been "terrifically responsive" to their state governments.

The Democratic governors discussed the three major job goals from Obama's State of the Union address: building manufacturing, training workers and increasing American-made energy.

"We had a great conversation very focused, not surprisingly, on jobs," Markell said, calling jobs the "biggest issue for all of us in the room, no matter where we come from."

He noted that although they did not discuss the election, the sense in the room was that focusing on jobs is Democrats' best chance to win in the fall. That is the message the Democratic Party has been sending in full force this season, ranging from Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-Fla.) to Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley (D), who slammed the GOP presidential candidates Friday on CNN for failing to mention jobs in the most recent debate and instead talking about "divisive cultural issues."

Markell said the discussion with Obama steered clear of the transportation bills that are being fought over in Congress, though "it's certainly something we as governors feel strongly about."

The meeting, which lasted about an hour and fifteen minutes, took place in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building and involved more than a dozen Democratic governors and several members of the Obama administration.

Governors present included Govs. Jerry Brown (Calif.), Jay Nixon (Mo.), O'Malley, Christine Gregoire (Wash.), Bev Perdue (N.C.), Peter Shumlin (Vermont), Neil Abercrombie (Hawaii), Deval Patrick (Mass.) and Pat Quinn (Ill.).

The governors are in town for the annual winter meeting of the National Governor's Association. Markell, who attended the meeting for the first time as vice chairman of the NGA, also talked up the level of bipartisan cooperation between the governors, which he said contrasted with what has "not been a great level of cooperation between members of Congress."

"We don't really care where an idea comes from if it's a good idea," he said.

Governors from both parties will meet with the president on Monday.

London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 5:29 PM
To: London, Sarah
Subject: FW: Dem govs doing press at white house
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

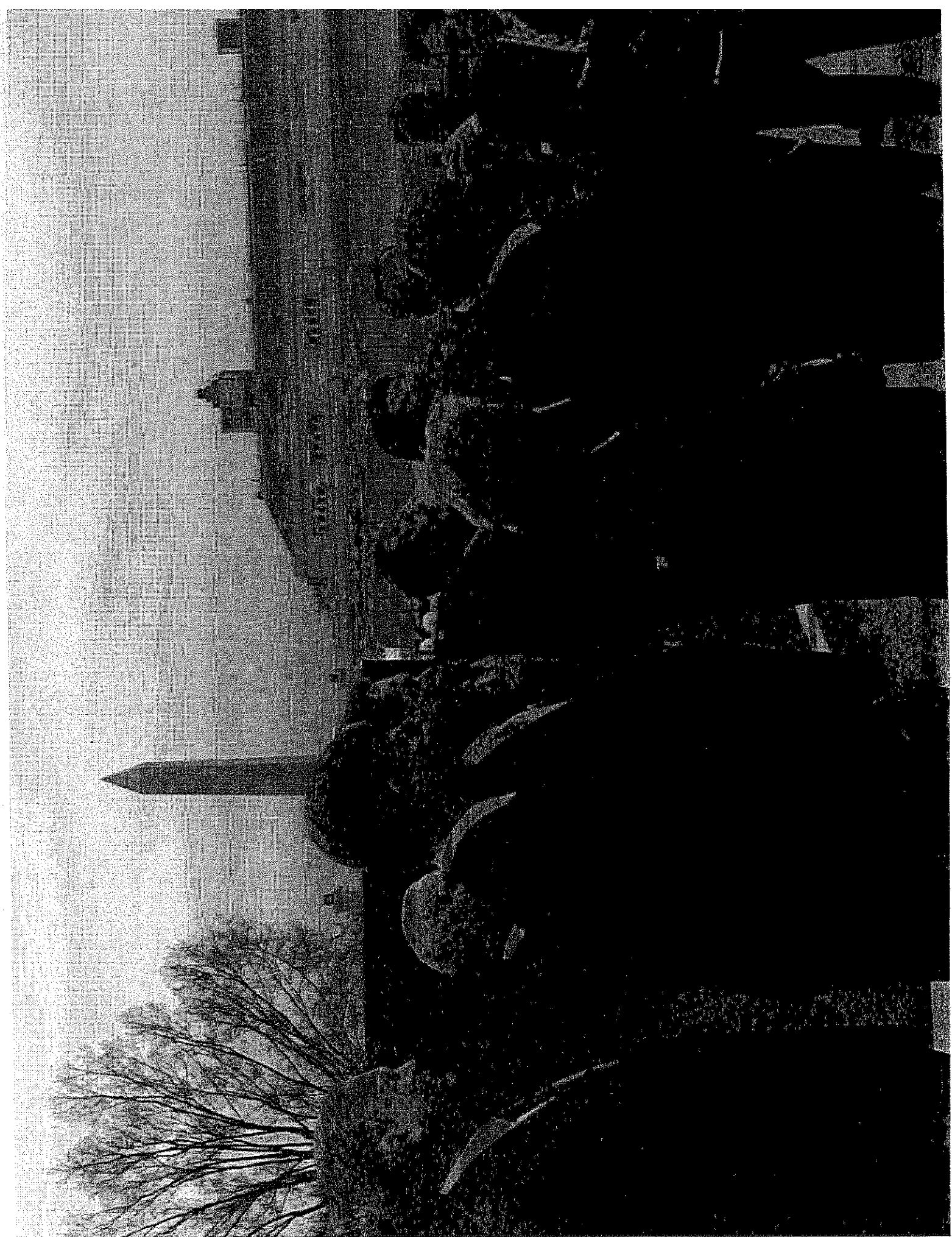
Photo 1

-----Original Message-----

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Allen, Susan
Subject: Dem govs doing press at white house

Just came out of meeting with president.

Dems are overseeing job growth, still long way to go, but moving in the right direction.
Bolstering manufacturing, adding jobs, putting veterans and long time unemployed to work
etc...



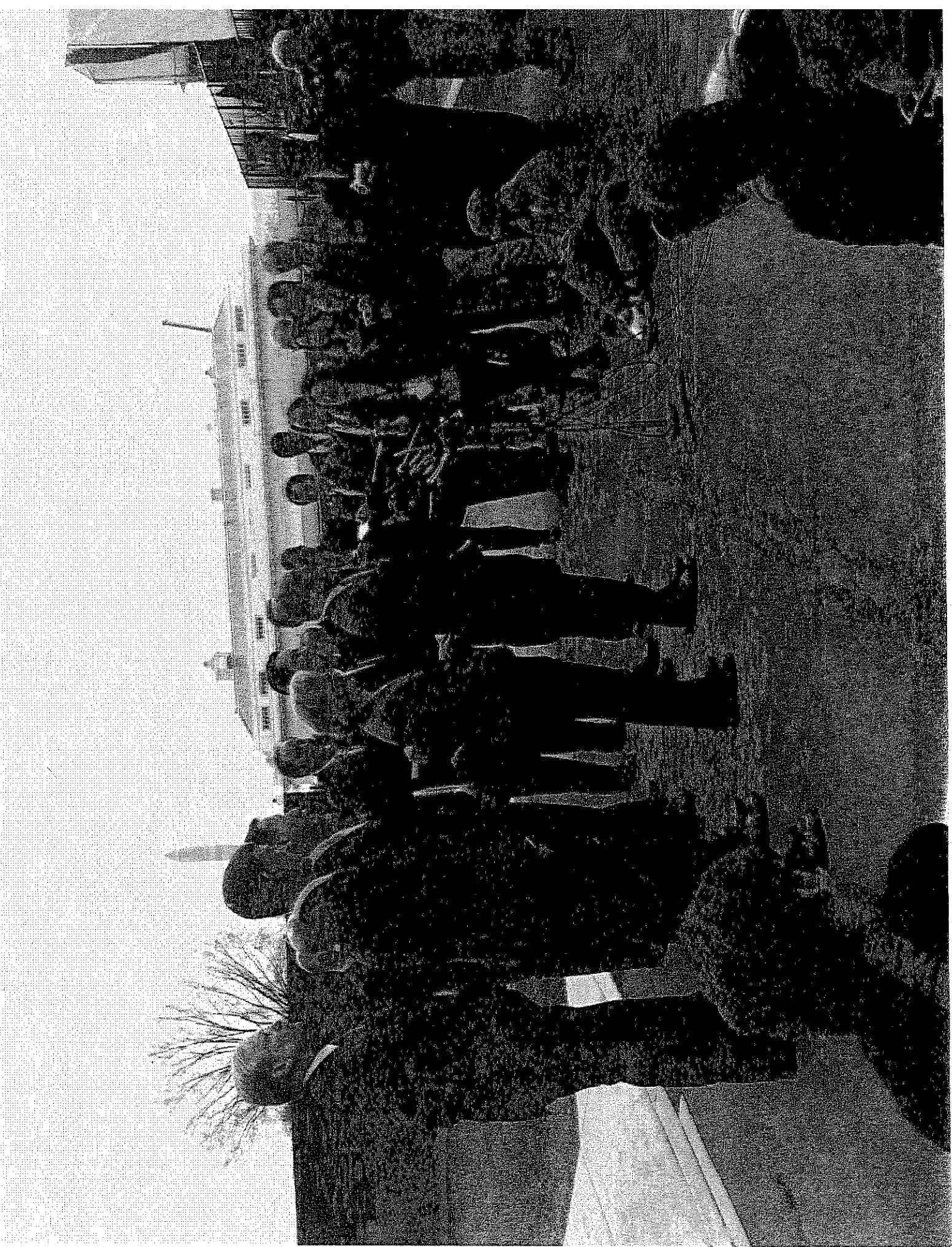
London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 5:30 PM
To: London, Sarah
Subject: FW: Another pic
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001..txt

Photo 2

-----Original Message-----

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 12:49 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Allen, Susan
Subject: Another pic



London, Sarah

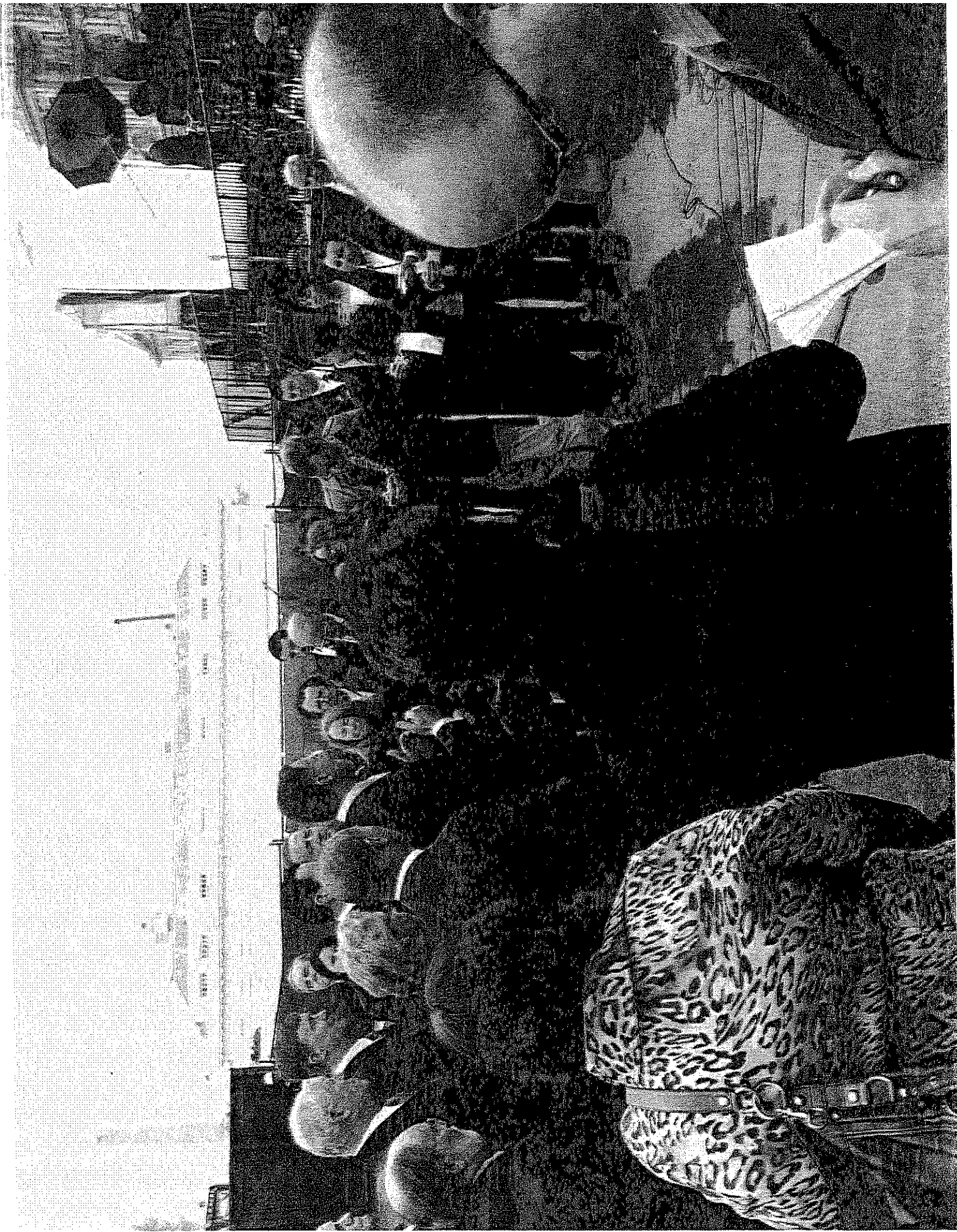
From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 5:30 PM
To: London, Sarah
Subject: FW: Gps answered question outside white house
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Photo 3

-----Original Message-----

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 12:54 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel; Allen, Susan
Subject: Gps answered question outside white house

We've got good news! President who is growing jobs, Governors seeing job growth in their states



London, Sarah

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Friday, March 09, 2012 5:30 PM
To: London, Sarah
Subject: FW: Gov at DGA
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001..txt

Photo 4

-----Original Message-----

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2012 2:01 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Subject: Gov at DGA

Talking about growing jobs. We're focused on education in VT because we're starting to have jobs and now we need to be sure we have people trained to fill them



London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Friday, March 02, 2012 6:24 AM
To: Allen, Susan
Subject: MEDIA CLIPS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 2:

WCAX:

Public service board denies decision delay on Yankee future

VERNON, Vt. -

The Vermont Public Service Board has denied a request from the owners of Vermont Yankee to delay a decision on the future of the nuclear plant.

In January, a federal judge ruled that the Vernon reactor can stay open, but the plant still needs to be issued a new permit from public service board.

Earlier this week, Entergy appealed the judge's ruling, saying the court didn't address the possibility that the state could close the plant by denying it permission to store radioactive waste on site.

Entergy asked the public service board to delay its decision, but the board says its review will continue.

The search is on for a new superintendent at the prison in South Burlington

SOUTH BURLINGTON, Vt. -

The search is on for a new superintendent at the prison in South Burlington.

The Corrections Department says David Turner notified officials a few days ago that he was stepping down for personal reasons. Turner has been the superintendent at the Chittenden Regional Correctional Facility since May of last year. The commissioner praised Turner's performance and says his resignation has nothing to do with a recent report criticizing the facility's conditions. Bob Arnell will serve as an interim superintendent for the next couple of months -- while Corrections launches a nationwide search for Turner's replacement.

"This job is incredibly hard. We haven't always been successful in getting good applicants. We did raise the salary level awhile back but I don't know if that will be enough to compete with other organizations or whatnot," said Andy Pallito, the Vermont Corrections Commissioner.

Pallito says the job pays a max salary of 80-thousand dollars.

Irene's impact on Town Meeting Day

By Susie Steimle

MONTPELIER, Vt. -

Town Meeting Day is fast approaching and Tropical Storm Irene will feature prominently on the agendas.

Taxes in those hard hit towns are expected to go up, but not by more than 3 cents.

Irene recovery officers met with lawmakers Thursday to answer questions and offer financial reassurance. They passed out packets to lawmakers from towns that face tight budgets this upcoming Town Meeting Day.

Most of the hard hit towns have completely exhausted their budgets for Irene-related repairs and will be raising town taxes to pay for the damage. However, state recovery officers reminded them Thursday that property taxes will not surpass three cents on their grand list. If repairs cost more than

that, the state will foot the remainder of the bill. Many towns have yet to see Federal Emergency Management Agency reimbursements either. The public assistance reimbursement for the state is expected to total \$165 million; only \$20 million of that has shown up. The state anticipates FEMA will pay 90 percent of town public assistance bills while individual towns and the state will each contribute 5 percent.

"Listen, we're not going to let the work you have to do that's reimbursable by FEMA for roads and bridge construction affect your grand list by more than 3 cents. After that the state pays and that's huge," said Gov. Peter Shumlin, D-Vermont.

"For many towns and many Vermonters Irene happened long ago and it's no longer a part of their lives but we want everyone to know there's a lot of Vermonters who are still really in need and were reaching out to them," said Sue Minter, Vermont's Irene recovery officer.

Shumlin says he plans to attend as many town meetings as possible Tuesday.

For many select boards this is an especially stressful Town Meeting Day as they're tasked with presenting a budget while facing significant debt and a lot of financial uncertainty.

Note errors in the story, pointed out by Sue Minter -- Biggest concern is that she inferred that if a towns tax rate increased by more than \$.03, the state would pay the rest. I tried to be clear that it only about if the FEMA-eligible expenses cost more than what \$.03 would raise. The Governor's comments are correct, but Susie's could easily be mis-interpreted. 2) She also said the state would pay \$165 million. That number is the estimate of overall FEMA Public Assistance cost, which would be paid by fed (not state) by either 75% or 90%.

Vt. Senate gives initial OK to vaccination bill

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - The Vermont Senate has given preliminary approval to a bill that would end the philosophical exemption that allows families to skip childhood immunizations for their children. But the bill advanced by senators left a religious exemption intact, meaning parents opposed to immunizations still could avoid their children having the shots.

Sen. Kevin Mullin, chief sponsor of the bill, said the portion of Vermont children getting all six required immunizations before entering kindergarten had dropped from 93% in the middle of the last decade to 83% as of 2010. He said other states that have gotten rid of the philosophical exemption have seen immunization rates climb back up.

Critics called the measure an infringement of parental rights. It needs final Senate approval before moving to the House.

3 state buildings in Waterbury renovated

BY SUSIE STEIMLE

WATERBURY, Vt. -

Three buildings have been completely renovated in the Waterbury Office Complex. The Public Safety building, Weeks building and the 8-9-10 south building renovations were contracted before Tropical Storm Irene. The storm postponed the project, but the state decided to continue renovations, like replacing windows and updating the heating systems even though the future of the complex is not clear. The state still pays for heating and electricity throughout the complex to maintain the buildings until a decision is made.

Workers are hoping the newly renovated spaces encourage the administration to rebuild there by showing what the rest of the complex could look like.

"Growing up here in town and I've worked here for many years and it's a part of the town. It'd be a shame to see it go," said Andy Metayer, the Waterbury complex clerk.

The lead consultant on what to do with the Waterbury office complex is expected to release potential plans to the administration March 9.

Shumlin tells GOP to 'Cheer Up'

BY SUSIE STEIMLE

WASHINGTON -

Gov. Peter Shumlin has a message for the Republican Party-- "Cheer up!"

The phrase caught attention at the National Governors Association conference. A reporter overheard Shumlin say he's tired of the doom and gloom in Washington, D.C. So, the Democratic Governors Association created some buttons to pass out at the weekend event.

"We're seeing it in Vermont. We've got a great president creating jobs, governors are focused on creating jobs, we are making progress, so stick with what we've got. Cheer up, we will be OK," said Shumlin, D-Vermont.

The national press corps has been reporting that the Shumlin administration created these buttons before the weekend. WCAX News confirmed Thursday that was not the case.

Vt. House approves mandatory recycling bill

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - The Vermont House has given preliminary approval to legislation that would push the state toward the goal of recycling and composting solid waste, with as little as possible going to landfills.

The bill would authorize the Agency of Natural Resources to write rules mandating recycling of materials ranging from batteries to paper.

And it says waste haulers must offer recycling at no additional charge.

The bill would prioritize disposal of organic waste. Food shelves would get first dibs if the material is left over but still useable food. Next down the list would be agricultural uses, including animal feed. Then would come composting and finally the material could be sent to a methane digester for energy production.

The House advanced the bill on a unanimous voice vote Thursday.

Vt. Common Cause launches campaign money database

MONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - The good-government group Common Cause of Vermont has set up a database of campaign contributions made to candidates in the state during the 2010 election cycle, and it's urging the state to do something similar.

Wally Roberts, executive director of the group's Vermont chapter, says Vermont is behind many other states in that it lacks a searchable online database that allows visitors to see easily which candidates are getting how much money from what sorts of groups.

Roberts says a record amount was spent on the 2010 gubernatorial campaign between Democrat Peter Shumlin and former Lt. Gov. Brian Dubie.

He says the current campaign finance system, in which candidates' raw reports are posted on the secretary of state's website, make tracking and comparing the money difficult.

London, Sarah

From: Wengroff, Ariel
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 3:39 PM
To: Allen, Susan
Cc: EXE
Subject: Re: Pic and blurb

Thanks!

Ariel Wengroff
Special Assistant to the Governor
109 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05609

Office: 802-828-3333
Cell: [REDACTED]

On Feb 27, 2012, at 2:42 PM, "Allen, Susan" <Susan.Allen@state.vt.us> wrote:

>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Richards, Alyson
> Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 2:08 PM
> To: Wengroff, Ariel
> Cc: Allen, Susan
> Subject: Pic and blurb
>
> Governor Shumlin speaks to reporters at the White House after meeting with the President
>
> <photo.JPG>
>
>
>
> Sent from my iPhone

London, Sarah

From: Allen, Susan
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 2:42 PM
To: EXE
Subject: FW: Pic and blurb
Attachments: photo.JPG; ATT00001..txt

-----Original Message-----

From: Richards, Alyson
Sent: Monday, February 27, 2012 2:08 PM
To: Wengroff, Ariel
Cc: Allen, Susan
Subject: Pic and blurb

Governor Shumlin speaks to reporters at the White House after meeting with the President

