

February 1, 1999

I met with George W. Bush on Saturday, January 30, 1999, at the Capital Hilton hotel from 8:00-10:45 a.m.

He had asked me to brief him on the Ballistic Missile Threat Commission, ballistic missile defense and the intelligence community. I did much of the talking during the first part of the meeting. He asked a lot of good questions.

During the last half of the meeting he did most of the talking. He was clearly selling. He demonstrated his seriousness of purpose, his abilities in the state, his decisiveness, the fact that he has run something, which is not true of a lot of other candidates, and done it successfully. He explained how he planned to run for President, if he ran, and talked about fund raising. He gave me the names of a number of people who were involved in his campaign. He said he is not going to take matching funds.

I came away with the following impressions: he handles himself well, good body language. He is comfortable with himself. He clearly understands that he has to keep his father's political and economic people off to the side. [REDACTED]

He said that George Shultz had pushed him four times to see me.

I had not realized he had been an Air Force pilot. He took pains to point out that he was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth -- that he grew up in Midland, Texas, not the East Coast, and that he is not part of that Eastern establishment -- the subliminal message being he is more conservative and tougher.

He thinks it is pretty much going to be over March 7th, 2000. He can raise \$20 million between the time he starts and March 7th, and then raise the next \$10 or \$20 million after that, without taking matching funds. I don't know how much money he has, but he didn't seem to indicate that he was going to spend a lot of his own money. He says he has a mailing list of 18,000 people who gave him \$1,000 a crack for governor over these past five years, so he has little doubt in his mind but that he can raise the money.



[REDACTED]

Later, Marty Anderson called me to see how I felt about the meeting. Michael Boskin saw me at Alfalfa that night and asked me how I felt about the meeting.

Marty Anderson said Boskin is deeply involved.

He also said that he remembers hearing a story about Jack Kennedy. When someone met him when he was young, he said he was just a young kid. Two or three years later he said, "My God, he's grown." Marty feels that almost everyone who sees George Bush feels that way.

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