Policy, Politics, and Science in the White House: Conversations with Presidential Science Advisors

Bobbie Klein
What is the purpose of this series?

This series explores the role of science in policy and politics at the highest levels of government. Through this series we seek to document how science is used and perhaps sometimes misused in policy and politics. Using an interview format we will articulate the theme by discussing with each presidential science advisor a significant science policy issue or issues that arose during his tenure.
History of Science Advice to the President

- Post-WWII – Growing recognition of importance of scientific and technological developments to government
- 1950 – Truman approves presidential science advisor position
- 1957 – Eisenhower fully implements science advisor position
- 1962 – White House Office of Science and Technology established
- 1973 – Nixon abolishes science advisor position and White House Office of Science and Technology
- 1976 – Congress creates current Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) forcing president to have some form of formal science advice
- 1980 – Reagan considers abolishing science advisor position
- Bush I elevates science advisor’s position to Assistant to President
- Bush II abolishes Office of Assistant to the President for Science and Technology
What does the science advisor do?

- Serves as Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).
- Advises President on scientific, engineering, and technological aspects of issues that require attention at the highest levels of Government.
- Advises President of scientific and technological considerations involved in areas of national concern including the economy, national security, health, foreign relations, the environment, and the technological recovery and use of resources.
- Advises President on scientific and technological consideration with regard to Federal budgets, assists the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) reviewing R&D funding proposed in all Federal agency budgets, and aids OMB and the agencies throughout the budget development process.
Who Are the Science Advisors?

- **Truman** - Oliver E. Buckley (1951-52); Lee DuBridge (1952-53)
- **Eisenhower** - Lee DuBridge (1952-56); Isidor I. Rabi (1956-57); James R. Killian, Jr. (1957-59); George B. Kistiakowsky (1959-61)
- **Kennedy/Johnson** - Jerome B. Wiesner (1961-64)
- **Johnson** - Donald F. Hornig (1964-69)
- **Ford** - H. Guyford Stever (1974-77)
- **Carter** - Frank Press (1977-81)
- **Bush I** – D. Allan Bromley (1989-93)
- **Clinton** - John H. Gibbons (1993-98); Neal F. Lane (1998–01)
- **Bush II** - John H. Marburger III (Oct. 29, 2001 – present)
Series Schedule

- February 14 - Dr. John Marburger (Bush II)
- April 28-29 - Dr. John Gibbons’ visit (Clinton). Date of lecture TBD.
- September 14 - Dr. Edward David (Nixon), 7:00 pm. Old Main Auditorium.
- October 5-6 - Dr. Neal Lane’s visit (Clinton). Date of lecture TBD.
- November 28-30 – Dr. George Keyworth’s visit (Reagan). Date of lecture TBD.

Related Event
- April 11 - Dr. Robert Palmer, Democratic Staff Director of the Committee on Science, U.S. House of Representatives, 1993-2004. 2:00 pm, CIRES Auditorium

Check the series website at http://sciencepolicy.colorado.edu/scienceadvisors/ for up-to-date information about dates and locations of events.
Speaker – Dr. Edward David

- July 29, 1969 – Apollo Moon Landing
- 1969 – Pushed Supersonic Transport (SST) project
- 1970 – Creation of NOAA, EPA
- 1973 – Energy Crisis spurred development of solar, nuclear energy, Alaskan pipeline
- 1973 – Termination of science advisor position
Speaker – Dr. George Keyworth

- 1983 – Strategic Defense Initiative (“Star Wars”)
- 1984 - Space Station
- 1986 - Superconducting Super Collider (SSC) project launched
- 1986 – Space shuttle Challenger explosion
- 1988 - Ban on fetal tissue transplantation research
Speakers – Drs. John Gibbons and Neal Lane

- Superconducting Super Collider terminated
- Cost of Space Station
- Emphasis on technology research
- AIDS research
- Abolition of Congressional Office of Technology Assessment
- Climate Change
Speaker – Dr. John Marburger

- Terrorism/homeland security
- Politicization of science – UCS report, role of science advice in this administration
- Stem cell research policy
- Climate change policy
- Moon/Mars exploration/NASA priorities
Policy, Politics, and Science in the White House: Conversations with Presidential Science Advisors

SCHEDULE

John H. Marburger III
Feb. 14, 2005

John H. Gibbons
April 28-29, 2005

Edward E. David, Jr.
Sept. 14, 2005

Neal Lane
Oct. 5-6, 2005

George Keyworth II
Nov. 28-30, 2005

To gain perspective on the role of science in policy and politics at the highest levels of government, the CIRES Center for Science and Technology Policy Research is sponsoring a lecture series featuring current and former presidential science advisors.

Through this series we seek to document how science is used and perhaps sometimes misused in policy and politics. Using an interview format we will articulate the theme by discussing with each presidential science advisor a significant science policy issue or issues that arose during his tenure.

For more information please contact Roger Pielke at pielke@colorado.edu or Bobbie Klein at bklein@colorado.edu.