

CIRT Conference Report

Washington, DC — 2003 Spring Conference

A beautiful spring day in Washington, DC provided an idyllic setting for members and guests attending the Construction Industry Round Table's Spring Conference. This view (*right*) greeted everyone from the rooftop terrace of the office of Wayne Valis, who graciously hosted the CIRT reception.



Karl Rove Headlines Opening Session

Called "the President's most trusted political strategist and arguably one of the shrewdest men in Washington..... and self-described 'very competitive guy'," CIRT was fortunate to have **Karl Rove** headline the Opening Session. Despite being delayed because of a meeting with the President, once he arrived, **Rove** stayed to talk to the group well beyond what was anticipated.

*Karl Rove, Special Assistant to the President, is introduced by CIRT Chairman, **Peter Vigue**, President & CEO of Cianbro Corp.*



The Indian Treaty Room located in the EEOB was filled to capacity.

Rove impressed the members by the breadth of knowledge he displayed from tax matters to infrastructure needs. In particular, his passion and commitment to addressing the litigation "explosion" was greatly appreciated.



Administration Officials Tout President's Agenda

Filling-in for Treasury Secretary John Snow (who had committed to join CIRT, but was called away to testify on the President's behalf on Capitol Hill), members and guests heard from the Assistant Secretary for Economic Policy, **Richard Clarida**, who spoke about the President's tax plan to stimulate the economy. In turn, **Clarida** was told by CIRT that the ability to stimulate economic growth and create jobs is closely tied to the level of activity and funding for infrastructure projects.



Jack Kalavritinos, Associate Administrator for Competitive Sourcing at the Office of Management and Budget, commented on the competitive sourcing initiative, which is one of the President's five Management Agenda goals, as well as the revisions and improvements to the OMB Circular A-76. **Kalavritinos** told CIRT that the A/E process will be recognized in the final document which will call upon contracting officers to follow the Brooks A/E Act.

Program Highlights

Former Pentagon Renovation Program Manager Tells His Story

In what surely was a conference highlight, **Lee Evey**, the former Program Manager for the Pentagon Renovation Program, provided a fascinating insight into the Pentagon Renovation both before and after 9/11. Unlike anything we've seen, **Evey**, who now is a Sr. Vice President with 3D/International, showed picture after picture depicting the Renovation Program and in particular, the Phoenix Project, which was the incredibly successful effort to stabilize, demolish and rebuild the structure that was most severely damaged in the September 11 attack. In his presentation, Lee also talked about the steps the Renovation Office took to reduce the schedule, improve contracting methods as well as how they measured progress against goals which included award and incentive milestones to ensure success. What really was made evident by **Evey's** remarks is the extraordinary spirit and perseverance of the American people. CIRT was fortunate to have had him share his story with us.



Lee Evey captivated dinner attendees with first-hand accounts of his experience as the former Pentagon Renovation Program Manager.

Save the date!

**2003 Fall Conference
October 28 & 29, 2003**

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Sept. 12, 2003**



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Department of Transportation—John Flaherty, Chief of Staff, commented on the TEA-21 Reauthorization, both its substantive provisions and the likely timing on the Administration bill.

Department of Justice—Assistant Attorney General for Office of Legal Policy, Viet Dinh, talked about liability exposure to such open-ended claims as asbestos, and acknowledged that with the growing threat of mold-based claims, the design/construction industry is a natural ally in finding ways to control ruinous litigation practices.



Director of Homeland Security for the EPA—Bob Bostock addressed the environmental related portions of homeland security which were both informative and of particular interest to our members as they will be called upon, in ever increasing numbers, to assist their clients in addressing needed security measures.

Department of Labor—Deputy Secretary Cameron Findlay comments were extremely clear in helping members to better understand the important policy and philosophy changes that have occurred at DOL since the new Administration.



Member Breakfast Speakers



During the membership breakfast we had two presentations about issues of importance to the members. They included:

- **Ric Jackson**, Director of the FiaTech Consortium, who roll out a plan for increasing investments in technology research, development and deployment.

- **Tim James**, Director, Department of Politics, Corporate & Governmental Affairs for the International Union of Operating Engineers, discussed the political and legislative matters surrounding T-21 Reauthorization and the issues we hold in common with the unions.

