

MARCH 26, 2003

## State think tank goes to White House

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DAILY SUN

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THE VILLAGES — James Madison Institute representatives recently attended a private White House briefing on domestic policy, according to the think tank's president.

Institute president Jim McDowell, executive vice president Curt Leonard, and founding chairman Stanley Marshall were invited to the White House Thursday by former U.S. Sen. Malcolm Wallop's Frontiers of Freedom

Foundation.

McDowell, Leonard and Wallop joined leaders from 36 center-right think tanks in attending the domestic policy briefing with Senior Advisor to the President Karl Rove and other top administration officials.

"Our groups could not have been made to feel more welcome," said Freedom Foundation President George Landrith.

"Despite the war with Iraq, the president is clearly focused on the domestic

agenda as well," Landrith said. "Important issues of economic policy certainly filter down to the state level, and those dots were surely connected today."

While in The Villages Tuesday, McDowell declined to talk about specifics of the conversation but said topics ranged from homeland security to the economy.

"I came away from there, Jim McDowell-public citizen, that we have some statesmen there. I'll even go as far as say, 'adults.'"