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all the administration says, well, he misspoke and he didn't get it altogether. They smooth it over so nobody feels bad and that person retains his credibility. This is what the article says, "White House Press Secretary Al Fleischer said Monday that Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman was speaking in 'confusion' Sunday when she announced that a White House Energy Task Force would not recommend oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." Fleischer then directly contradicted Whitman, saying the task force will recommend the old drilling. They don't directly contradict white members of the administration. Going back to the article, "On Sunday, appearing on CBS' 'Face the Nation' Whitman said that Vice President Dick Cheney's Task Force on Energy would not recommend to Bush that the drilling be allowed. Although Bush campaigned heavily on such a proposal, it has little prospect of passage in Congress." Deviating from the article, do you think this woman would create a position like that out of whole cloth? Do you think she would make that up off the top of her head? I don't. "Somebody may have made a decision somewhere, but as far as our report goes, we did not specifically say we...you must drill in ANWR"...that's the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge...Whitman said." We did not recommend that to the...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...to the President. Within hours of Whitman's statement a White House official told reporters that no such final decision had been made. On Monday, Fleischer repeated that position in even stronger terms, "There was confusion created as a result of the question as a result of what had been brought to her attention," Fleischer said, "and I think she readily clarified it. Whitman "was presented with one reporter's version of another's words," he said. And as you know, any time that happens, it's always best to accurately assess the information which is exactly what EPA did and release that information later in the afternoon. The woman lacks standing and credibility now. Who will accept anything she says? They did their job on her. She now knows her place.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Vrtiska.