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The Pulse of the Institution

Description of the work of the Science Committee staff.

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One of the main things that we were kind of held to account for is come in and kind of get a feeling for what the day was going to be. What's happening on the floor? What's happening in the Senate? What's happening committee-wide to get a handle on what we're doing on committee? You look outside of your little realm, and keep tabs on who's and what's going on that may be of interest to someone that you're working with, or something that you need. And then, you'd step back and you'd actually go through, I would sit down and I would go through the *Congressional Record*, looking for statements that were made on the floor by a Ranking Member, or any of the Members on our committee—looking for other issues that pertain to the jurisdiction of our committee. Flag those, highlight those, and then send out a little summary to the staff saying *Congressional Record*, such-and-such a date, here's a couple of bullets that you might want to look at—you know, not giving them the whole thing, but everybody got a *Record* at the time, but not everybody had time to go through it and read it. And the more you did it, the more you realized somebody would come to you and say, "Will you keep an eye out for anything on aviation that has to do with blah-blah-blah? Just keep an eye out on that, because I don't know, that may come up on the floor, another committee may have a hearing," and that kind of thing.

So, you're kind of staying on the, a pulse on the institution. And that would be the beginning of your day, and then your day would take off from there with hearings, and the process of setting up for a hearing, and breaking down from a hearing, and getting witnesses' statements out to them after the fact, and transcripts out to them after the fact, and making sure things are posted to the web in a timely fashion. It just goes on from there. And then you end your day, and you start all over again the next day.