

## The Hotline

October 28, 2004

### Neglected Friendship?

The BC'04 and KE'04 camps are "doing battle" over small business in NM. Bush and GOPers consider themselves "important friends of small business," citing tax cuts, reducing bureaucratic red tape, making loans more readily available and promoting minority business interests.

But some NM businesspeople contend Bush has "neglected that friendship." As the campaign winds to a finish, dozens of NM small-business owners are supporting Kerry. These Kerry supporters said Bush's tax relief has "done little to boost their bottom line" and they are "desperate for more help" providing health care to employees.

They also criticized Bush for slashing the overall U.S. Small Business Admin. budget by "25 percent," while at the same time providing tax breaks for big business. Small Business of America PAC Pres. **John Arensmeyer**: "The current administration has, despite rhetoric and perception to the contrary, not been a friend to small businesses." The group held a news conference in Albuquerque on 10/27 to say that at least 100 NM small-business owners have signed on to its cause, with more joining daily (**Coleman**, *Albuquerque Journal*, 10/28).