

CORRIDOR Business Journal

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\$1.50

CEDAR RAPIDS/IOWA CITY CORRIDOR'S INDEPENDENT, LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS WEEKLY

Nov. 1 - 7, 2004

Bush official visits In Tolerance

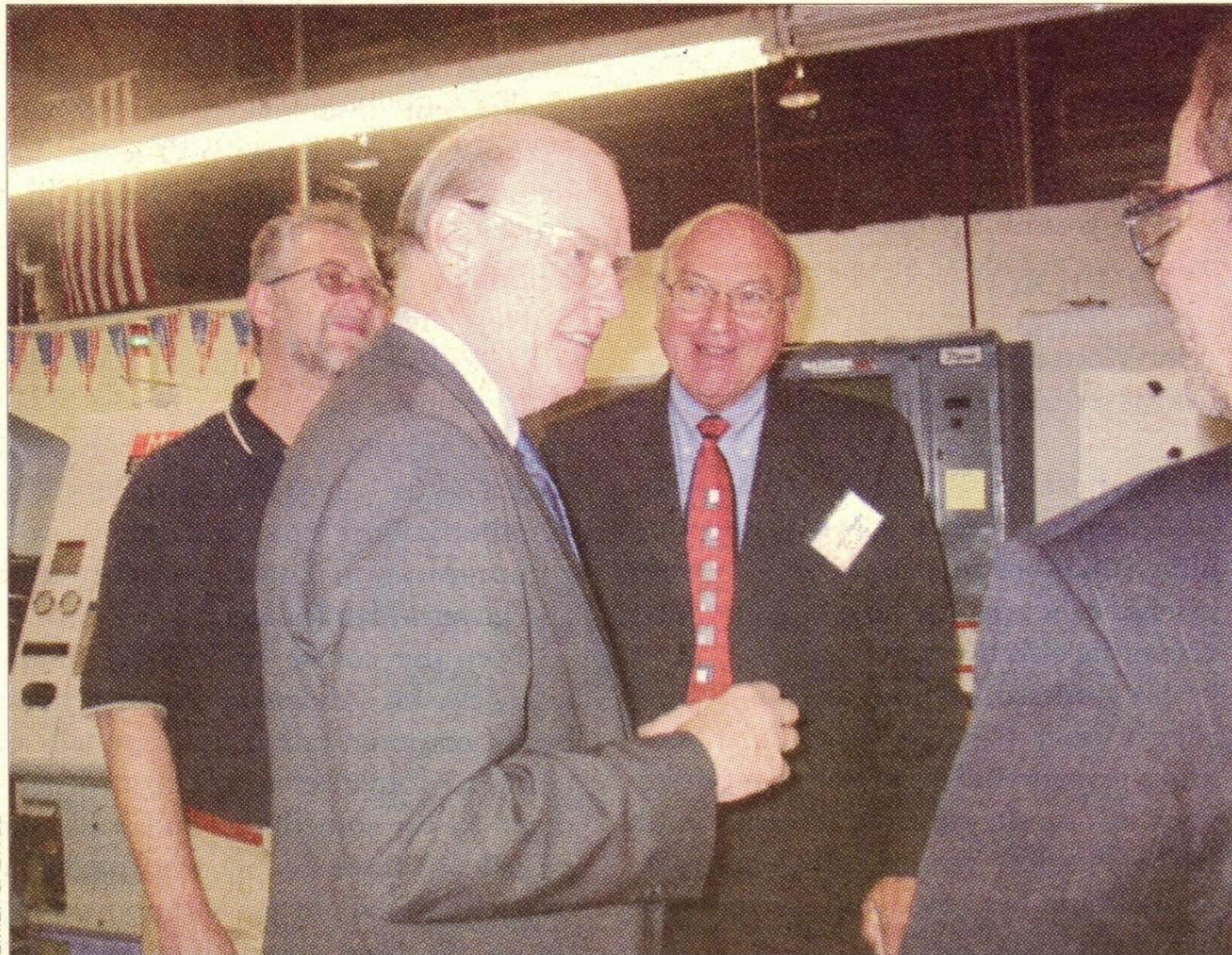
Emily Gabriel

Days before the presidential election, Treasury Secretary John Snow met with local business leaders at a Cedar Rapids business last week to discuss the Bush Administration's efforts to strengthen the economy and create jobs.

Mr. Snow's visit to In Tolerance, a precision contract manufacturer at 126 29th Street Dr., included a tour of the facilities and a roundtable discussion with over 40 business leaders, hosted by Robert Becker, president of In Tolerance.

Mr. Snow said that his visit was a chance for him to get out and hear from people who are directly affected by government policies to better gauge how the administration is doing. During the roundtable luncheon, Mr. Snow credited attendees and others like them across the country for being the reason America survived after September 11, 2001, citing them as "the engine of the economy."

Despite unemployment rates falling from 6.23 percent to 5.4 percent is low by historic standards, he said he still believes the number can be lower without threatening inflation rates. He credits the 1.9 million new jobs created since August 2003



EMILY GABRIEL

Treasury Secretary John Snow meets with In Tolerance employees during his visit to Cedar Rapids last week.

under Bush's Jobs and Growth program.

With the help of the Senate Finance Committee, the Bush Administration has passed tax legislation that "takes a

smaller bite out of the income of the American people," he said. He hopes these tax cuts will become a permanent measure in the future.