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## Main course at White House lunch with CEOs: energy

By JENNIFER A. DLOUHY Copyright 2010 Houston Chronicle  
Jan. 26, 2010, 11:04PM

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WASHINGTON — The heads of Exxon Mobil Corp. and Anadarko Petroleum Corp. joined four other business leaders to discuss energy and the economy during a lunch meeting at the White House on Tuesday.

The closed-door summit — the fourth in a series of gatherings President Barack Obama has held with corporate executives — came as energy industry leaders press the White House to make more federal lands and waters available for drilling and to defer hiking taxes for oil and gas producers. It also coincided with the White House's last-minute fine-tuning of the State of the Union

speech that Obama will deliver to a joint session of Congress and a national audience tonight.

Executives at the White House lunch Tuesday included Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson and James Hackett, CEO of Anadarko, as well as Mortimer Zuckerman of Boston Properties, Ed Rust of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co., Shelly Lazarus of Ogilvy & Mather Worldwide and Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan Chase & Co.

"This is part of a continuing effort" to "discuss a wide range of topics — primarily on the economy — with leaders of business and industry throughout the country," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said.

In December, Larry Nichols, CEO of Devon Energy Corp., complained that a White House summit on jobs had overlooked the oil and natural gas industry.

"I felt we had a positive meeting with President Obama," Hackett said in a statement. "We candidly discussed a number of challenges facing America and ways to further energize the economy and build job growth. We talked about natural gas and the role it can play as a secure, domestic form of energy that facilitates a lower-carbon future and spurs economic development."

American Petroleum Institute President Jack Gerard told reporters Tuesday that he hoped Obama will use the State of the Union speech "to recognize the potential of energy development to create more jobs."

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