

The Wall Street Journal
Letter to the Editor
April 23, 2008

I nodded in agreement with Nobelists David Baltimore and Ahmed Zewail (“We Need a Science White House,” Opinion, April 17) until I got to the sentence “Today we do not have a presidential science adviser and there is no office of science in the White House.” While I had much evidence to the contrary, a Google search on “presidential science adviser” reassured me that my office and I do in fact exist in the virtual as well as in the real world. A few more clicks took me to the “American Competitiveness Initiative” right there on the White House (not Congress’s) website, complete with a downloadable copy of the ACI brochure with “Office of Science and Technology Policy” right there on the cover. I agree with Baltimore and Zewail that we would be much better off today if Congress had funded the ACI in 2006 when the current resident of the White House proposed it. He has proposed it for the third time this year. We don’t need to overhaul national science policy, Congress needs to act on it.

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