



## OTS Closes Up Shop Early, Gruenberg and Curry Confirmation hearings scheduled For Tuesday Next Week

Even though the statutory termination (transfer date ) of OTS is not till the end of next week, the OTS succumbed for all practical purposes as an operating entity this week. All the Washington staff not retiring or taking other agency jobs have been moved to the OCC headquarters building. The OTS building at 17th and G streets is now vacant of all OTS personnel and the OTS sign has been removed leaving a faint stain on the brickwork.

Meanwhile the Senate Banking Committee plans to complete hearings on the Gruenberg and Curry nominations by next week. However, the nomination of Richard Cordray to head the CFPB has polarized relations between the White House and the Republicans even further. Cordray is being pointed to as responsible for convincing the White House to exercise President Obama's only pocket veto since taking office. He did so in connection with a Bill requiring the acceptance of state notary seals on mortgage documents in foreign states. His nomination is perceived as a stick in the eye of Senator Shelby. Given the Republican threat to block all nominations until the CFPB structure is changed to a 5 member Board it is doubtful that the Gruenberg or Curry nominations will clear the committee in the short term. Even more doubtful is that anything will happen until the debt ceiling impasse is resolved. Unfortunately, the gridlock in leadership continues to worsen and it is unlikely any initiatives of substance will emerge from the agencies soon. The worst scenario is that the stalemate will continue until the elections.