Our Impact on National and International Issues

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There are some areas in which the supply chain management academic community has started to have impact. The OR community points to airline yield management as an area where OR had impact and out community typically points to inventory management models and some transportation routing & scheduling as success stories.

Question 1: Is this success really wide-spread? Can we do more? What kind of business problems that we could work on are out there? What characterizes them?

Question 2: Are there areas of national interest that we could/should get more involved in? (examples include outsourcing policy; security; war on drugs; HIV and other epidemics; education delivery; etc.) The questions are what characterizes problems to which this community can contribute? Can we have more than an individual voice in this?

Question 3: Do we have a role in deciding what the right problems are, rather than what the right method/model solution is? (in other words, doing the right thing rather than doing it right?)