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No. 108

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, at 12 noon.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2005

Pursuant to section 2 of House Concurrent Resolution 225, 109th Congress, the House met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DELAY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 2, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM DELAY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.
J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

NOTIFICATION OF REASSEMBLING OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair lays before the House the text of the formal notification sent to Members on Thursday, September 1, 2005, of the reassembling of the House.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, September 1, 2005.

DEAR COLLEAGUE: Pursuant to section 2 of House Concurrent Resolution 225, after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives and the Minority Leader of the Senate, we hereby notify the Members of the Senate to reassemble at 10:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 1, 2005, and the members of the House of Representatives to

reassemble at 1:00 p.m. on Friday, September 2, 2005.

Sincerely,

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House.
WILLIAM H. FRIST, M.D.,
Majority Leader of the
Senate.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: The Nation, Lord God, is overwhelmed today by the mournful sound that comes from the Deep South.

Like a familiar songstress who knows the fragile pain of us all, her prayer, if set to music, would hold us as an audience on suspended notes that would lift us beyond present expectations.

From New Orleans and cities, towns, and rural areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, there rises a soulful lament born of the blues now turned black.

The dreadful hurricane has swept over the South as a violent baptism. As witnesses, all of us turn to You, O Lord. You alone can renew faith and bring these people to new and promising life.

The cries of the poor over their families, their homes, their past and their future can sway any indifferent heart in America to be moved to prayer, solidarity, and generosity.

Until the South can sing again Your praises in her churches, on front porches, in the fields and the shipyards once again, we will hold onto the words of Your Song of Songs: "Deep waters can-

not quench love; nor floods sweep it away."

Help us, Lord, to trust in Your faithful love and deepen our love for one another, especially those most in need of the kindness of strangers.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 51. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate, and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 29, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Today, the U.S. Senate voted to confirm me for the position of Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. As a result, I must submit to you herewith my resignation as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, effective as of 6 p.m. pdt on Tuesday, August 2, 2005. I have also written to Governor Schwarzenegger to advise him of my resignation.

Mr. Speaker, even more significant than the privilege of serving for 17 years in the House of Representatives has been the opportunity to serve with you in the elected Majority Leadership for the last 10 years. Thank you, again, for your friendship, your courage under fire, your wisdom, and your sterling example over so many years.

I very much look forward to continuing to work with you and serving the Nation in my new position.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER COX,
U.S. Representative.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 29, 2005.

Hon. ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER,
Governor, State of California, State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA.

DEAR GOVERNOR SCHWARZENEGGER: Today, I have been confirmed by the U.S. Senate for the position of Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Accordingly, I am writing to inform you that, effective as of 6 p.m. pdt on Tuesday, August 2, 2005, I will resign my seat as the Representative of the 48th District of California in the U.S. House of Representatives. I have also written to House Speaker Hastert to inform him of the timing of my resignation.

For the past 17 years, I have had the great privilege and honor of representing the people of Orange County, California in the House of Representatives. My service in the Congress has been a truly rewarding experience, and I am grateful to Orange County's citizens for putting their trust and faith in me. As a member of the elected Majority Leadership and Chairman of three House committees, I have been especially privileged to have had the opportunity to work closely with you and our other elected California leaders on so many shared priorities.

Thank you, again, for your friendship and support. I look forward to continuing to work with you, and to serve California and the Nation in my new position.

Sincerely,

CHRISTOPHER COX,
U.S. Representative.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from California (Mr. Cox), the whole number of the House is 433.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 29, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 29, 2005 at 6:50 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to the conference report H.R. 3.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3512.

With best wishes, I am sincerely,
JEFF TRANDAH,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, August 2, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on August 2, 2005, at 1:40 pm:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1132.

Appointments: Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group.

With best wishes, I am sincerely,
JEFF TRANDAH,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled bill on Friday, July 29, 2005:

H.R. 3512, to provide an extension of administrative expenses for highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the highway trust fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century;

and the following enrolled bill on Wednesday, August 10, 2005:

H.R. 3, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes;

and Speaker pro tempore TOM DAVIS of Virginia signed the following enrolled bills on Wednesday, August 3, 2005:

H.R. 6, to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy;

H.R. 1132, to provide for the establishment of a controlled substance monitoring program in each State.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IM-
MEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM
THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRI-
CANE KATRINA, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider H.R. 3645 in the House; the bill shall be considered as read; the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except (1) 10 minutes of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit; clause 10 of rule XX shall not apply to the question of passage of the bill; and all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I do not intend to object; but I think it would be helpful for Members to understand that if this proposal is agreed to, and I expect it to be, that there will be 5 minutes of debate on each side of the issue, and then any Member who wishes to comment will have an opportunity on a Special Order, which immediately follows, to do so.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. I appreciate the gentleman yielding. I just wanted to emphasize a comment you just made that the limited debate of 10 minutes is designed to have us expedite the paperwork and otherwise from this process. In the meantime, we know the Members want to be heard so there will be a Special Order following the passage of the bill so that we can move forward with the paperwork and make sure the President gets this on his desk as quickly as possible.

Mr. OBEY. Continuing under my reservation, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that if this motion is agreed to, I do think that the situation in the Gulf Coast is serious enough that it warrants more than a dog and pony show and that it warrants some thoughtful discussion of how problems like this might be avoided in the future. I would simply say under my reservation that I have been horrified watching my television set over the past few days as I moved around my district in Wisconsin to see the absolute inadequacy of the Federal response to what has occurred. I would hope that the magnitude of the disaster which we have seen would make

us all think through the degree of lack of discipline and denial that has marked this country's preparation for not just natural disasters but disasters of other origins as well.

Point one: I was personally appalled to see an interview with a representative of the Army Corps of Engineers in which he explained away our failure to prepare for anything worse than a level three hurricane for the New Orleans area by saying in essence that a cost-benefit analysis had been done, and it was concluded that it was not cost beneficial for us to prepare for anything above a level three hurricane. What that in essence says is that you are not going to worry about the biggest disasters that can occur; you are only going to worry about the smaller ones.

Whether it is with a hurricane or whether the action of the Mississippi River a number of years ago, how many times do we have to see disasters overwhelm our preparedness before we recognize that we are playing Russian roulette with people's lives, with their livelihood and with the life of whole communities if we do not prepare for the worst?

Point two: I think it is fair to say that the administration and the Congress itself has not covered itself with glory in terms of anticipating problems like this. We have seen the Congress in fiscal year 2004 cut the budget request by \$170 million for FEMA. We have seen an amendment by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) to try to supplement FEMA funding several years ago turned down by the House. We have seen flood control projects in the Gulf short-sheeted in Federal budget requests from the executive, and we have seen now stories, one by Sidney Blumenthal, which makes the point that in early 2001, FEMA management issued a report saying that a hurricane striking New Orleans was one of the three most likely disasters in the U.S., including a terrorist attack on New York City.

Yet the Federal budget has not demonstrated any serious response to that warning. And we have seen other comments as well in the paper, including a number by Louisiana papers, documenting the lack of effective Federal response. Another statement in the New York Times indicated that 5 days after Katrina hit, the response from our government was still spectacularly inadequate and in the words of the editorial amounts to a stunning lack of both preparation and urgency in the Federal Government's response. I would hope that the pictures that we have seen on our television sets would change that.

□ 1315

Continuing under my reservation, the third point I would simply make is that I think the devastation and utter destruction that we have seen indicates that we have a serious problem not just with respect to our response to natural disasters but in response to other po-

tential disasters. I would hope that we would take to heart the lessons that this disaster ought to teach us about the need for more adequate preparation across the board, including potential terrorist attacks.

There are those of us in the Congress who still believe that we are not doing enough to secure our borders.

There are those of us who still believe that we are not doing enough to protect this country against terrorist attacks from air cargo.

There are those of us who believe that we are not doing nearly enough to protect this country against terrorist attacks by the use of containers in our ports; and in my view, the response of the administration and the Congress since 9/11 on that score has been totally inadequate.

I think that this disaster in the Gulf demonstrates the importance of ending the practice of casual thinking on these potential problems.

Point four: and I do not know the answer to this, but I know questions have been raised about whether or not the heavy involvement of our Guard and Reserve forces in Iraq is in any way linked to the fact that we have had so few Guard and Reserve personnel being used in response to this disaster. I do not know whether there is a direct causation or not, but I do know that there are some 11,000 Guard and Reserve forces from the affected States now in Iraq and those are obviously troops that cannot be used on their home ground.

I think we need to examine very carefully whether or not this demonstrates that we need to do more to build up the size of our regular Army forces so that we do have a greater capacity to use the Guard and Reserve forces at home when they are needed.

I would also say that every time that we have a disaster, Congress responds by tossing together an appropriation bill for an emergency appropriation. It would seem to me after all of the disasters that we have had that we should have a more regularized approach to the problem. I have introduced in the past, and I will introduce again, legislation asking that we establish an experience-rated insurance fund from which all States can purchase insurance coverage against future disasters so that you have a ready-made source of funding the moment these disasters hit.

There are five or six States in the Union that experience disasters on a fairly regular basis, and it seems to me that we need to have an experience-rated insurance system so that we take into full account the cost of hurricanes and the cost of other disasters that might occur. If we did that, we might see a greater level of preparation with respect to, for instance, long-term planning by the Corps of Engineers to deal with the most severe hurricanes.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation obviously has to pass, but I hope this represents just the beginning of some new

thinking so that we do not wind up 3 or 4 years from now facing yet another problem as unprepared as we apparently were for this unfortunate and heart-rending incident.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I will not object, I want to say that I appreciate the fact that there will be a Special Order after this bill is debated where Members can say how we feel about it, but I really think it is inappropriate. I think that there should be substantial debate on this bill itself, not that we want to slow down any kind of funding, but frankly we fiddled and faddled for days and days, and now we are told that we can only have 5 minutes per side to debate this bill. I think it is wrong. I think Members of Congress who have rushed back here, who want to help, who want to make sure that the people of the Gulf are given their due and the moneys, we should have the right to debate this bill now. We watch TV and we see the looters and much has been made about the looters who are coming and looting in New Orleans. I think quite frankly with the prices of gas rising, the real looters are the big oil companies. They are looting the American people. It is unconscionable that we have had a spike of 30 to 50 cents in gasoline prices 2 days after this disaster happened. There is no way that that could have been reflected at the pump so quickly. So it is looting the American public, and I think these are the issues that Congress should debate. I am glad that our Energy and Commerce Committee is having a hearing on this on Wednesday, but the American people ought to hear Congress debating this. What are we going to do to bring relief to our people with these huge and unconscionable gas prices? We are doing nothing. We are fiddling while Rome is burning. So while I say that it is very important that we are passing this legislation quickly today and we should be doing this, I wish that we had had hours of debate on this, yesterday or today. It should not be where we have 10 minutes of debate because we quickly have to get the bill to the President. We need to get the bill to the President as quickly as possible but Congress needs to debate the issues of the day.

So while I will not object because we have to get the relief to the people of the Gulf, the fact is that Congress needs to debate the issue of high gas prices. Our constituents all across America are suffering. The oil companies are making record profits. Frankly, they ought to turn some of those profits back to the American people to try to keep the price of gasoline down. This is all tied in, and how dare they use this terrible disaster, this terrible tragedy to loot the American people and to spike the prices of gasoline higher and higher.

I hope this Congress can have a full and free debate on this. I do not object because I want to get the money there as quickly as possible, but this Congress needs to do and this President needs to do something about the high price of gasoline.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House, I call up the bill (H.R. 3645) making emergency supplemental appropriations to meet immediate needs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3645

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, namely:

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE
DISASTER RELIEF

For an additional amount for "Disaster Relief", \$10,000,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the amount provided herein is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress).

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide", \$500,000,000 for emergency hurricane expenses, to support costs of evacuation, emergency repairs, deployment of personnel, and other costs resulting from immediate relief efforts, to remain available until September 30, 2006: *Provided*, That the Secretary of Defense may transfer these funds to appropriations for military personnel, operation and maintenance, procurement, family housing, Defense Health Program, and working capital funds: *Provided further*, That funds transferred shall be merged with and be available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriation or fund to which transferred: *Provided further*, That this transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority available to the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back to this appropriation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall, not more than 5 days after making transfers from this appropriation, notify the congressional defense committees in writing of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That the amount provided herein is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress).

This Act may be cited as the "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act to Meet Immediate Needs Arising From the Consequences of Hurricane Katrina, 2005".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

We have come together today, for all of us in the House of Representatives know that words are not adequate to begin to deal with this horrendous natural disaster that has beset all Americans but particularly those people in the region of the Gulf.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to speak extensively here today but to say that the bill is designed to make sure that all of us understand that America will respond to this tragedy. Money is not going to make the difference in the final analysis. This bill provides for \$10 billion to make sure that FEMA has enough flexibility and adequate dollars will be available to flow in the very near term as we really assess the cost moving forward. This will not be the last time we discuss this issue in terms of both financial strain and also the horrid strain it is placing upon those Americans who are directly affected. The bill beyond that provides \$500 million that will also be available for the Department of Defense to, in a flexible fashion, be of further assistance in this tragic disaster.

With that, I hope that the Members will participate in the Special Order that will follow this very brief debate in order to make sure that there is a complete airing as the House would seek its will.

Mr. Speaker, words cannot begin to describe the toll Mother Nature has taken on the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. The levels of desperation and human suffering from Hurricane Katrina are unlike anything we have seen in our country.

I do not intend to take much time today for the need in the affected region is so great. This is not a time for words or political rhetoric. It is a time for action. We need to move quickly, to save lives, and help the people of the region get back on their feet. The President has promised an unprecedented level of immediate aid. Congress is backing that promise with the funding and resources to keep the aid flowing.

This is a simple 2½-page supplemental. It contains two sections: \$10 billion for FEMA within the Department of Homeland Security; and \$500 million for the Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide account within the Department of Defense. The \$10.5 billion figure was determined based on what FEMA is now spending on a daily basis and how much is needed to take us out a few weeks until we get a better assessment of what the long-term funding needs will be.

At the beginning of this week, FEMA had roughly \$2.6 billion in its Disaster Relief Fund and \$1.5 billion in the Flood Insurance Program. In recent days, FEMA and OMB concluded that these funds were being utilized at a rate of between \$500 and \$750 million per

day. President Bush and our leadership made the decision to convene the Congress in an emergency session and move this supplemental to the President for his signature today.

We do not yet know how much the recovery from this disaster is going to cost. Our resolution today provides an immediate infusion of money to allow FEMA and the Department of Defense to address the most immediate needs resulting from this natural disaster. Costs associated with evacuation, emergency repairs, deployment of personnel, and other costs resulting from immediate relief efforts are included in this package.

This initial step today will ensure that there is no disruption in funding for relief efforts. We fully expect to be approving additional emergency funding in the coming weeks. Quite frankly, it will take some time to assess the full scope and cost of this disaster. Much of the damage is still underwater and the full extent is still unknown. Damage assessments will be collected from a great many Federal entities—FEMA, the Corps of Engineers, the Coast Guard—and others.

The destruction that has overtaken New Orleans and the Gulf Coast will require months, and even years, of intense effort to recover and rebuild. It will take nothing less than a domestic Marshall Plan to rebuild new roads, utilities, homes, and businesses. On this point, let me be very clear: Rebuild, we must. Rebuild, we will. Congress and the Bush administration is one-hundred percent committed to the rebuilding process and today's action is the first step.

One final thought as I conclude my remarks: There is no greater spirit than the American spirit responding to citizens in need. When we see suffering, we want to do something. We want to lend a hand. Many people are responding to this tragic circumstance by offering their prayers and opening their hearts and their checkbooks to organizations like the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross. I encourage my colleagues and our citizens to do the same in the days and weeks ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, by way of explanation, this bill provides \$10.5 billion, \$10 billion of which will go to FEMA, half a billion dollars to DOD. It provides for relief efforts for the aftermath of the Katrina hurricane. The funds to DOD will go to the operation and maintenance account with broad transfer authority. They will eventually wind up, I am certain, being used for procurement for housing and matters like that. The funds for FEMA may be used for any traditional purpose under the FEMA legislation, including public assistance, shelter, food, et cetera.

Let me simply say that I hope that we recognize this is just the initial downpayment in the costs that are going to be associated with this incredible disaster. I would also hope that we would recognize that we have for a long time been making inadequate investments in activities that could lessen the impact of disasters such as this, and I would hope we would recognize that values such as preventing this

horrendous event from occurring again ought to be much higher on our values scale than they have been in past months and certainly in past recent years.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge support of the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the distinguished gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the minority leader.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time, and I thank him for his very strong statement. I wish to right off the bat associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Wisconsin, our ranking member on the Appropriations Committee, his remarks that he made in reserving the right to object. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), who knows firsthand as do I what an impact a natural disaster is to a State and how important it is to hear right away from the Federal Government as to what our commitment is to recovery.

I remember, as I am sure the gentleman from California does, when the Loma Prieta Earthquake hit Northern California, it was such a shock and such a surprise as with our colleagues today. We could see in my area of San Francisco parts of the city burning, bridges down and impassable, the people in need, without adequate shelter and the rest. The San Francisco Bay Area, let me broaden it, Loma Prieta is in the southern part of the bay area, as the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) is reminding me.

Jamie Whitten came to the floor that day and said, Last night there was an earthquake in San Francisco. I immediately called in my staff and said, what is it that we can do to help. We want to remove all doubt in anyone's mind that we understand the gravity of the situation, that the social compact that the people have with the Federal Government will be one that will be honored and that this will not be part of their problem, the same thing that I know that the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) understood at the time of the Northridge Earthquake in Southern California where the response was one that helped remove doubt as to the fact that we are one Nation and that we are always moving to be a more perfect Union.

That challenge that our Founding Fathers gave us in the Constitution's preamble, to form a more perfect Union, it is the first responsibility listed there, is one that we must remember now, because we are faced with a situation where so many people in the Gulf States, in Louisiana and Mississippi and Alabama and Florida, are affected by this. In other natural disasters, as with our earthquakes in California, certain parts of the community were affected and other parts of the community helped the emergency relief and the recovery. Here we have a situation where we have a total devastation of a region. Who is there to

help? All the more reason for us as the Congress of the United States to come together, to give hope to these people, to say to them that we hear your cries.

□ 1330

We hear them and we are told about them, also, from our distinguished Members of Congress from the region. The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) lost his home, his only home, and those of many of his staff did as well. The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) has been manning an emergency center to help people get help. The list goes on. The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) saw his whole city practically get wiped out. But I am sure that everyone on each side of the aisle has stories that they know firsthand. The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the ranking Democrat on our Committee on Homeland Security who knows full well what our capability is as a country and what an attack this is of nature and therefore what more we need to do to get this all done. The list goes on. There are many heroes in this.

So when I hear my distinguished colleague for whom I have great esteem, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), say that we cannot have a full debate on this, we will just do it as a Special Order because we have got to get this to the President right away, that would have been a very good argument to have this special session of Congress much earlier this week, because it was clear that although we did not have all of the facts, we knew that people were hurting very badly in our country, that there was a need for additional resources, and it was important to bring the considerable talent on both sides of the aisle together in Washington, DC to make a judgment about the facts and to allocate the resources.

Just a couple of days ago it was thought that there was enough money to cover until next week, until we came back. So what? As it turns out, that was not a correct assessment. But even if it had been, why should we not have been here to give hope, to give inspiration if we are capable of that, but at least to remove all doubt in everyone's mind that this is the first order of business for us and that is to protect our people and try to make them whole in time of a natural disaster.

But we are here, and what we need to do and what we need people to hear is the strongest bipartisan cooperation, whatever the timing, on how we address their needs. Their needs have been referenced in terms of energy. Energy is important, not just at the pump, although let me say about that, pox on those who would price gouge at the pump to our people in our country who are already suffering from debilitating prices at the pump that enable some not to even be able to get to work, and now in this tragic time we do not want matters made worse with price gouging and there will be a price

to pay for that. But energy for many reasons. Energy to get product, plywood, whatever it is, to where it is needed, to rebuild in the Gulf States, energy to keep the lights on, too. Such a high percentage of people, there are probably 5 million people, without electricity as we gather here today. Two million homes, 5 million people without electricity as we gather here.

Energy, and I know others will address it more specifically, is a very important part of this, especially since the Gulf States are such an important source of production and transport of energy to the rest of the country.

Our children. Think about the children. Right now they are supposed to be starting school. Instead, they are starting to wonder where their homes are, where their loved ones are, if their parents have jobs and if indeed they even have a school to go to. We have an enormous task ahead of us. Our children will forever be marked by the trauma of this hurricane unless we quickly take them to a place that says, there was a tragedy, people responded, you were considered a priority. Hopefully, they will get through. My own grandchildren who live in Houston and see all these children coming into the Houston area, Mr. Speaker, your area, they are becoming afraid of rain. If it rains, will our house be washed away? Just after 9/11 when kids were saying if a plane goes overhead, should we be afraid of that? We must reassure our children and eliminate the traumatic effect on top of the physical displacement that they are suffering here.

So whatever the allocation of these resources are, I hope it is enough. And if it is not, again with the facts as our friends, we must allocate the resources to make sure these children are in school.

I was telling some of the leaders yesterday in a conference call that when I visited Macedonia and other places in the Balkans, when these children were displaced and they did not have any classroom situation, it compounded the terrible experience that they had until a school situation was created for them. Think of what this is going to mean with people who have been sent to other States. How are those schools going to absorb all of these children even within their own States, but in two different school districts. In the allocation of our resources, I hope that we will have children first in terms of their education, their health.

That takes us to the significant public health issues that we are facing there. Dead bodies floating in the water, some say that is not a danger. I do not know. It sounds dangerous to me. The chemicals that are in the water. There are so many things that we do need the facts on. So it is not a question of speculation. What are the facts? What is the public health challenge that we face? How do we allocate the resources to stop that immediately, because if our children are sick and they see death around them, much

of the rest that we do is not going to seem as relevant.

We know that the list goes on. Shelter, people losing everything. I can tell you from my earthquake experience, and this is a little discouraging, you really are never made whole. The history of your family, the photographs, the sentimental attachment that you may have, some of that is just now to be forgotten. But if we cannot make them whole in the same way, we certainly have to give people hope in a new way that the life that they will lead will be something that not only replaces, but enhances, their experience, because they have been through a lot and in our perfect Union, as we embrace each other as people of America, we have to do so in a way that honors the social compact between the people and the government.

That means all people. It does not mean people who have the wherewithal to get away to a second or third home. It does not mean people who can get helicoptered out, and God bless them for their success in being able to do that. God bless them for taking that route. But it does mean that if people are left behind because of their economic status, then that is wrong. That is wrong and that is not something that this \$10 billion should support.

We must, if this is not enough, do more. It is all an investment. It will cause an economic growth in the region as we rebuild, creating jobs, giving hope, bringing people home that I think will more than return to the Treasury what we are putting out there. But right now they need our help and they need it in a very substantial way. They need it for their health, for their housing, for their jobs, the education of their children, for the environment in which they live so that it is healthy and not again a public health hazard. They need to be considered full participants in this great country that we are.

Let me say that there are many heroes in all of this. I named some of our colleagues, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON), the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR), the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN), those whose experiences I know firsthand. The list goes on and on. Again, others will speak from their firsthand experience about it. But the biggest heroes of course are the people who are on the front line all the time working very hard. I would hope that as we did in our earthquake situation, and forgive me for keeping returning to it, but it is an experience that we thought was the most desperate until we saw what we are seeing now, and this goes beyond anything I think that anyone can imagine, that the disaster assistance centers must be established, that people have to know what they have a right to in terms of their emergency assistance and that what people have a right to in terms of recovery, in terms of SBA loans and the rest of that.

There are some things in place that can help people right away if we can get FEMA in place to help them. But again we must remove all doubt that we are there for all people. It cannot be viewed as for those who will receive assistance and those who have not will go by the wayside. This issue of social justice, of economic justice, of the economic life of a city, of a State that rests on the fullest participation of all of its people must respond in the fullest way to all of its people.

I will say once again that I regret we could not have come here sooner with fuller participation of Members who have, again on both sides of the aisle, enormous experience in public health and energy issues and housing issues and education issues and the rest; but let us say that we get this running start now, and I have asked the Speaker that when we come back next week with the full participation of our membership that we establish a hurricane task force that would include the ranking members, the chairmen of the committees of jurisdiction relevant to this emergency relief and recovery and that that task force will immediately move forward in an expedited manner and not be slowed down by business as usual, but instead again give hope to these people.

Again, I associate myself with what the gentleman from Wisconsin said. Even 4 years later after 9/11, there are still many things that have not been done, that have been clearly indicated are necessary. We have the resources to do it. It is just a question of priorities. That takes us to what this is about, what our priorities are as a country. How we allocate our resources is a statement of our values. As we leave here today and we go forward in the weeks ahead, we must make sure that everyone understands that a statement of our values is to form a more perfect Union by meeting the needs of our people and not having half a loaf when they are all Americans and entitled to full recovery.

If we can spend \$20 billion on reconstruction in Iraq, we can certainly use that as a start on reconstruction in America. I say that with the fullest appreciation for the importance of the reconstruction of Iraq. I respect that that is important to stability there. I respect that it is important to stability here, for us to do that. Again, I wish we were here sooner. We are not. Let us go forward. Let us do it in a bipartisan way. I think the last thing that the American people need to see is any kind of partisan bickering about how we go forward, but nonetheless we have to have a strong commitment to these people.

In the Bible, Isaiah tells us that to minister to the needs of God's creation is an act of worship. To ignore those needs is to dishonor the God who made us. Let us make the work that we do here an act of worship to the God who made us and an act of respect for the people who sent us here.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the distinguished majority whip.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. We are dealing with perhaps the worst natural disaster in our Nation's history. Residents of the Gulf Coast States affected by the hurricane have lost loved ones, have lost homes, have been displaced from their communities, not just by the thousands or the tens of thousands in terms of displacement but by the hundreds of thousands and by the millions.

I am committed and I hope we all are to making sure that we have the full support of the Federal Government, that they have the full support of the Federal Government to get the responses they need to begin to recover and rebuild from this catastrophe.

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I also understand that the Federal Government is only part of the answer. The severity of this tragedy demands something from each of us. We must answer the call to personally give to those in most need of our help. The American people are generous, and we know that Americans will come to the aid of those in need. While our thoughts go out to those who are suffering in the loss of this catastrophe, it is critical that we respond to this in an organized manner, addressing the most urgent needs first.

It has been said in the last few minutes that we should have had this session earlier this week. But being here yesterday, I believe at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, the number that we decided we needed today was bigger than it was at 12 o'clock yesterday. We were hopeful that of course we could go until Tuesday based on funding that was available and come back and deal with these problems as they need to be dealt with.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, you and others have directed the committee chairmen to do everything they can to move forward on every front, to look at where their committee might make the best recommendations to this body. That is why today we are passing this supplemental to get FEMA through the process of next week.

We all need to be committed to making sure that the people affected will have the full support of the Federal Government. We need to look at what has happened to States whose revenue base has been decimated. We need to look at what is happening to our economy. We need to do our job. We need to do it in a manner that is not partisan, and we need to move forward to take this first step today.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close the debate on this measure and in doing so suggest that those who are looking with interest that one of the great things that has happened in recent years is that we often televise

our discussions here. While that theoretically would build a base of support on the part of Americans for the Congress, it is strange to me that the polling would suggest that many Americans are very disconcerted by the tendency for extreme rhetoric on both sides of the aisle often carrying on partisan battle for the sake of it and so the polls are just seen as coming down, down, down.

The reality of that is that the American people expect better of us than that. But Americans respond in times of crisis and tragedy. There is not any doubt that this tragic event that has been experienced by the people on the Gulf Coast is beyond imagination, but in reality also the public will see the Congress reflecting the best of our people. They do not want us pointing fingers at each other, trying to figure out who you can blame besides myself. They want us to recognize that we have a responsibility to serve our people, and in times of crisis especially respond to their basic needs, saving lives, extending those lives, helping them to begin to rebuild.

The destruction that has overtaken New Orleans and the Gulf Coast will require months and even years to completely respond to recovery. It will take nothing less than a domestic Marshall Plan to rebuild our roads and utilities and homes and businesses. On this point, let me be very clear. Rebuild we must. Rebuild we will. The majority whip suggested that Americans themselves are already responding individually. Indeed, as we responded to the tsunami in spades, Americans are already responding, with their hearts, with their prayers and indeed with their pocketbooks to the Salvation Army, the Red Cross and otherwise. They are going to make sure that money is not the question. We are beginning that process by way of our public responsibility today with this bill, but indeed in the weeks and months and years ahead, we will demonstrate as a Congress that America does its best work when we come together as Americans and not as partisans.

With the passage of this bill, this task is just beginning. I urge people on both sides of the aisle in the weeks ahead to make certain that we are holding hands with those victims and all of our Americans who want to see us respond in the way that we can respond and we are doing our best.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, after seeing the heart-wrenching images of so many of our fellow Americans in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who have lost everything and are unfed, thirsty, suffering from oppressive heat in unsanitary conditions and waiting in desperation for help from their government, this bill is a truly no-brainer.

Every American is united in the heart-felt desire to help the hundreds of thousands who are literally crying out for assistance. \$10.5 billion is not nearly enough to get the job done, even in the short term. So far, judging from the horrible suffering of thousands of people that Americans see every night on their tele-

vision screens, our government has not been handling this crisis very well.

I hope that this money will have some impact in finally getting some aid to the needy. Before Katrina, who among us would have thought that Americans would be begging for food and water and become refugees in our own country? Yet that is exactly what has been happening for days in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Thousands of these people are within blocks of aid, but for days no aid has been provided to them.

However, it is not enough to simply vote for funding bills. We have to make sure that the relief money we are appropriating today and that we will be appropriating in the weeks, months and years ahead actually gets to the victims, and is not skimmed off by fast-buck artists and unscrupulous contractors.

This crisis is so enormous and so devastatingly serious that it is without precedent in our history. For these reasons, we need to get out of a "business as usual" frame of mind and implement some bold new approaches to helping our people in their time of dire need.

First, the Speaker should immediately create a Task Force or Special Committee with the power to cut across overlapping jurisdictional lines to prevent duplication and expedite needed legislation. This Committee should draw on and coordinate the expertise of the House standing committees in the areas of public health, housing, food and nutrition, safety, social services, energy, transportation and commerce. There is precedent for this approach. In 1977, Speaker O'Neil set up the Ad Hoc Committee on Energy, with legislative authority to deal with the energy crisis. I think we should use the same approach today.

Second, Congress should provide additional resources to the office of the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to help insure that the hundreds of billions of dollars that will likely be necessary to care for our people and rebuild our country are not wasted through fraud, abuse, overpayments or ineffective government management.

We have many good reasons for concern about wasteful spending. In the three years since the Department of Homeland Security was created, numerous reports by the Congress, the Department's Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office have detailed instance after instance of contracting deficiencies, fraud, wasteful or lavish spending, lax oversight and management, procurement shortcomings, blurred lines of responsibility and lack of accountability.

In addition, the case of U.S. government spending in Iraq is instructive in what we don't want to do in the hurricane areas, where multi-billion-dollar contracts were given to big companies like Halliburton with little oversight or accountability. Pentagon investigators found over one quarter of a billion dollars in unacceptable or unsupported charges by Halliburton in a contract they had to restore Iraqi oil. Hundreds of millions more in other contracts have simply disappeared or cannot be accounted for.

These practices have not only cheated the taxpayers, but they cheat the people who need help from getting the benefits that these funds should have provided.

I believe that this Congress must make sure, to the greatest extent possible, that the funds that we are appropriating today and in the coming months to help the Hurricane

Katrina victims are directly squarely at helping the victims and not those who seek to profit at the expense of the victims.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, our country is once again devastated by a tragedy and our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and families who have been affected. I would like to wish the best to the Members of this House and their staffs from the affected areas; our prayers are with you and your families as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize and praise my constituents in El Paso, Texas, who like many other citizens have begun to organize efforts to send relief to those in need. Just yesterday, I helped kick off an initiative being called "48 Hours of Giving", a joint effort by the El Paso Sheriffs Department, the El Paso Chapter of the American Red Cross, the El Paso Salvation Army, and Bassett Place to raise money to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The El Paso County Sheriff's Department has also offered to send their Search and Rescue team to the area to provide assistance and the El Paso chapter of the American Red Cross has begun signing up and training volunteers to send to the Gulf Coast for relief. It truly is heartening to see communities come together in times of great need. It is my hope that we continue this spirit of generosity as we overcome this tragedy.

The passage of this Emergency Supplemental Appropriation will help continue the efforts to provide aid in a timely matter. While our communities are opening their hearts and doing whatever possible, it is our government's job to be doing everything it can with all resources to provide for the well-being of its own people. It is unconscionable that we are not taking care of our own, and that there are still Americans who have not been fed or sheltered or reunited with their families for five days now. It is embarrassing that this mighty nation that sends relief around the world has failed its own people so miserably.

I hope that this House and this government can rebuild our own devastated areas with the same enthusiasm and resources dedicated to rebuilding governments and nations abroad.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina is the largest natural disaster in the United States in decades, impacting large parts of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi. There has been enormous damage to homes and businesses in the Gulf Coast region, as well as a significant loss of human life. Both the mayor of New Orleans and the governor of Louisiana now estimate that the number dead in New Orleans alone could be in the thousands. That estimate, if correct, would make Katrina the Nation's deadliest natural disaster since the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, which killed up to 6,000 people.

As co-chair of the Congressional Hazards Caucus, I unfortunately know firsthand how damaging natural disasters can be. While I am devastated by the enormity of this tragedy, I know that our faith, tenacity and determination ensure that we will work, as a Nation, to do all that we can to stem the crisis and help those in desperate need. Therefore, I rise today in full support of Congress's initial payment for disaster relief for the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

This supplemental appropriations bill contains \$10 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and \$500 million

for the Department of Defense, for a total of \$10.5 billion in relief aid. This funding is desperately needed. Currently, FEMA is spending \$500 million a day to aid victims. If this supplemental spending bill is passed, the \$10 billion allotted to FEMA will enable it to assist the people affected by the hurricane for another 20 days. This aid will focus on critical areas, including public health and sanitation, public safety, housing, energy supplies, national transportation infrastructure, commerce, and the safety and adequacy of food supplies.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina and are turning to their elected representatives for assistance. We must do all we can to ensure an immediate and thorough response to these needs, and I fully support the \$10.5 billion supplemental appropriation for disaster relief.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, "National Preparedness Month," an initiative of the Department of Homeland Security and the American Red Cross to "encourage Americans to take simple steps to prepare for emergencies in their homes, businesses and schools" began on September 1st. As the Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security, I serve as the Honorary Congressional Co-Chair.

I was filled with sadness and disbelief when a press release from the Department came across my desk on Thursday announcing the initiative, saying that it would help Americans take simple steps such as "get a kit, make a plan, be informed, and get involved." The release seemed hollow and inappropriate in light of the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana and my home State of Mississippi.

My message to the Department and others in government is simple: we will need more than a few emergency kits and press releases to ensure that our Nation is adequately prepared to respond to a natural disaster or terrorist attack.

Hurricane Katrina was an unprecedented natural disaster, but to government officials tasked with protecting our Nation's communities, it should not have been a surprise.

Risk assessments have long told us that the Gulf Coast was in danger. The New Orleans Times-Picayune did a series of articles as early as 2002 about the risks to New Orleans from a hurricane. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has created reports and conducted exercises on Gulf Coast preparedness and response issues. Yet, it pains me that here we are a week after the hurricane struck with potentially thousands of deaths, communities razed, a city underwater and under siege, and gasoline shortages and price gouging across the Nation.

From what I am seeing here in Mississippi, our government failed in both its preparedness and its response to this disaster. I also believe that if terrorists, rather than a hurricane, had attacked the Gulf Coast—the result would have been no different.

It appears our preparedness plans did not anticipate that thousands of people would be stranded in a stadium or convention center. Or that citizens would be roaming the streets begging for food and water and seeking shelter wherever they can find dry spots—as they're doing in Mississippi.

Instead of a well-prepared plan, victims have had to rely on ad hoc charity from cities with big hearts such as Houston that are

opening up venues to house now-homeless evacuees.

I have even heard that people are being put on two-day bus rides to Washington, DC, for shelter. While Washington should be commended for opening the DC Armory to victims, there is something wrong with having to put evacuees who have lost everything on buses for several days so far from what might be left, if anything, of their communities.

How will families and friends of these evacuees know how to find them? The same could be asked of those who are being turned away from the Astrodome and moved on to Dallas or San Antonio.

I also wonder how an electrical outage could take down such critical infrastructure as two oil and gas pipelines servicing a large section of the country? In 1998, President Clinton issued a presidential directive that required the government to look at pipeline and electrical grid security. In December 2003, President Bush issued a homeland security directive that repackaged the government's efforts.

The last several years in Congress, we have continually heard that the administration and private sector are working to secure our critical infrastructure. Yet, a power outage managed to cripple the pipelines, resulting in skyrocketing gas prices across the Nation. Overnight, some communities saw gas prices rise 40 cents, others \$2.00.

What message does this send to terrorists if our petroleum systems are so vulnerable? I also wonder what extra steps the Federal Government and the energy sector are taking today to ensure that these facilities are bolstered against attack from terrorists who might try to exploit the current situation.

Despite the increasing threat of hurricanes, especially this year, our government continued to cut the funding of the Army Corps of Engineers, thereby cutting the funding for flood control projects. In 2005, President Bush only requested \$3.9 million for the floor projects in New Orleans, although the Army Corps of Engineers said it would be able to spend \$20 million if the funds were only provided. Congress increased the funding to \$5.5 million, which still was insufficient to fund new construction contracts to secure the levees. For Fiscal Year 2006, the President has asked for even less, requesting only \$3 million. Allowing dams and levees to remain vulnerable to disaster and attack simply is unacceptable.

The administration must focus on the very real threats to our communities, towns, and cities if we are to secure our Nation. Preparedness is our prime defense against natural disasters and terrorist attacks. What Americans face today is a result of what happens when our government fails to prepare.

Natural disaster or terrorist attack—our government must do better. We all deserve better.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the United States is facing one of the most difficult challenges in its history, and I applaud the Congress for acting swiftly to introduce and pass H.R. 3645, a bill that will provide \$10 billion in relief money to the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to bring relief to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. As the Representative of the 18th Congressional District that includes Harris County, the local government that has given the most support to the displaced residents of New Orleans, LA, Alabama, and Mis-

issippi, this supplemental appropriation has tremendous meaning and value.

The Washington Post called the effect of Katrina "[t]he largest displacement of Americans since the Civil War reverberated across the country from its starting point in New Orleans yesterday, as more than half a million people uprooted by Hurricane Katrina sought shelter, sustenance and the semblance of new lives." Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this appropriation because it is a very important first step to other very necessary ones to address the direct effects on Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana and the indirect effects on local governments that have stepped up to provide solace, safe haven, and hope such as my District of Houston, Texas and Harris County in particular. I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the City of Houston, its teams of first responders, and the compassionate taxpayers who exhibited leadership in spiritual, physical, and economic assistance to their brothers and sisters from Louisiana.

I am disheartened by my colleagues among us who ask the question of what sense it makes to spend billions of dollars to rebuild a city that lies six feet below sea level. As leaders of the legislative branch of the federal government and as the people responsible for making policy, we must be very careful not to show insensitivity or the semblance of arrogance since our own family members or close friends are not among the sufferers of this historic tragedy. Today's Houston Chronicle reads "Weary refugees grateful to arrive at resting place: The next step for many is finding family members." [1][1] Thousands of displaced persons—this time not in the context of Sudanese refugees but American refugees, have been bused and helicoptered from New Orleans to Houston's Reliant Astrodome where some are now abused, raped, and assaulted because many of these individuals no longer have hope. Ten billion dollars is hardly enough to restore lives that have been lost, medical records that float in what used to be New Orleans, or homes where memories were created.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I am pleased that, through the lessons learned from the attacks on 9/11, this Nation is at least well-versed on centralizing resources and manpower to respond as quickly and strongly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I support this very critical legislation, and I hope that my colleagues will show their compassion by joining in this support.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation to provide \$10 billion in emergency supplemental appropriations for the relief effort in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Without question, this appropriations bill is only an early estimate of the funding needs along the Gulf Coast and will most likely be only the first installment of federal funds dedicated to this devastated region.

As Houstonians learned in June 2001 during Tropical Storm Allison, it takes quite a while to accurately assess the damage and determine just how much is needed to repair that damage after a natural disaster such as Hurricane Katrina. We remember all too well the flooding and destruction that Houstonians endured during Tropical Storm Allison. The memory of our pain and frustration during that time puts Houston in a unique position to empathize with and help our neighbors in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

Houstonians are selflessly rising to the occasion and helping hurricane victims in need. Our hospitals within the Texas Medical Center are using their resources to evacuate the critically ill in Louisiana's hospitals and have done an admirable job of reuniting evacuated patients with their families. The good-hearted members of our community are coming out in droves to volunteer, to help in any way they can. And our schools are opening their doors to the children of Hurricane Katrina, so that the devastating events of the past week will not thwart their education and the bright future that lies ahead of them.

As we applaud the overwhelming generosity of the people of the Houston area—as well as communities all across the country who are coming together to provide much-needed help—it is critical to remember that the responsibility for relief ultimately lies with the federal government. There is no question that the federal government was unprepared for the kind of devastation that has ravaged Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. As we support the local governments who have, without hesitation, stepped in and played a tremendous role in the relief effort, we must ensure that the generosity of these communities is met with a federal commitment to reimburse them for the expenses they've incurred as good Samaritans.

Across our country, American hearts ache as we witness the extreme suffering of our fellow Americans in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. I am proud to support this \$10 billion disaster relief bill, which will be the first step in helping our brothers and sisters to rebuild their lives. Yet as we sympathize with their plight, it is impossible to deny that a majority of Katrina's victims fell through the cracks of our country's safety net long before the hurricane hit land. The faces of Hurricane Katrina will long be branded in our memory. Let us not forget those faces as we address future issues facing our country's safety net—a safety net that we know all too well can mean life or death for the disadvantaged in our country.

Mr. PLATTS. Mr. Speaker, the ongoing scenes of devastation and despair caused by Hurricane Katrina are heart-wrenching and unprecedented in our Nation's history. We must and will unite in a national effort to assist our fellow citizens in these hours of overwhelming need.

Our condolences and prayers go out to all individuals who have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina, especially those who have lost loved ones in this horrific tragedy. Passage of this legislation makes it clear that all members of Congress, Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike, are indeed united in our prayers for and commitment to the victims of this devastating event. We are also united in our admiration of the military and emergency services personnel who are working tirelessly to save lives and maintain order. Their heroic efforts, matched with the outpouring of support from the American people, are a testament to the character and compassion of our people.

While the days, weeks, and months ahead will be long and difficult, our Nation will meet this unprecedented challenge with unwavering determination, compassion, and courage. May God watch over the victims of this tragedy during this time of tremendous loss and suffering.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, my deepest condolences go to the victims of

Hurricane Katrina who have lost their lives, their homes and their livelihoods. For many, it did not have to be this way.

I represent south Florida, an area with a great deal of experience with hurricanes. Frankly, the planning and response efforts that I have seen from FEMA and the rest of the Federal Government leaves my confidence in our ability to respond to any kind of domestic disaster shaken and makes me fear for my constituents should a hurricane, or other disaster of this magnitude strike south Florida.

There are some serious questions to be asked: Why with several days' notice about this storm, were more people not evacuated? Where was the plan to evacuate people who did not have the money or ability to evacuate themselves? When the size and strength of the storm was known, why wasn't a response team in place to go into affected areas immediately? Why was Federal funding to reinforce the levee system cut when it would have saved thousands of lives and billions of dollars? And, given that this disaster was the first large scale test of the new Department of Homeland Security and their Federal Emergency Management Agency, does this new structure improve or hamper disaster prevention, response and relief?

Yesterday morning, President Bush went onto NBC's Today Show and made the following statement: "The critical thing was to get people out of there before the disaster. Some people chose not to obey that order. That was a mistake on their part." President Bush's statement shows a complete lack of understanding of, and insensitivity to, the plight facing so many American families today, or why those families died or are now suffering in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The United States Census Bureau reports that in 2004 over 23 percent of the population of the city of New Orleans was living at or below the poverty level. The poverty level is \$12,334 a year for a family of two, or \$19,307 a year for a family of four. Mr. President, when a husband and wife only make \$12,334 they very likely do not have a car, or money for gasoline, or even money for a bus fare to get out of town. It was not a mistake on their part, but rather Mr. President, a mistake on your part that you did not have a plan to evacuate these families from the path of imminent danger.

One thing is very clear; poor planning, and a slow response to an imminent disaster has cost hundreds of people their lives and hundreds more will die if the Government does not significantly increase its response. Even today, there are over 200,000 National Guard troops that have not been called up to help in the relief efforts. Even today, the Navy's Hospital ship *Comfort* remains in Baltimore Harbor, and will not set sail for the Gulf until Saturday and will not reach the Gulf for a week after that.

Our government must be better prepared to plan and respond to disasters of every kind in this country. But for right now, we must mobilize the incredible resources of the Federal Government and respond to this crisis in a manner that recognizes that people are dying as we speak because not enough has been done to help them.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 225 and ask for its immediate adoption so that the people of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama can get the relief they

sorely need through funding from the Federal Government.

I offer my prayers to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and my thoughts and condolences are with the many families who have lost loved ones and family members.

During turbulent times such as this, I have witnessed the generosity of great Americans from across our country who have come to the aid of their fellow citizens. Now is the time those citizens of the Gulf Coast communities need our help. In my home State of California, those citizens who in recent years have suffered through devastating earthquakes, mudslides and brushfires know firsthand how natural disasters can dramatically impact their lives and how challenging it can be to rebuild homes, communities and families. Already the people in southern California and in my district are hard at work donating both time and resources to the many victims in the impacted Gulf Coast communities.

We Californians have a long tradition of helping our neighbors through devastating tragedies and disasters. And in that spirit, I call on all Americans to help support the rescue and recovery efforts that are under way in the region affected by Hurricane Katrina.

I applaud the leadership of Congress in convening this special session today to ensure that funding will be made available to help rebuild the lives of the families affected and the communities in which they live.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to say that our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have suffered through the catastrophic event of Hurricane Katrina. I also rise today in support of the \$10 billion supplemental spending bill to help deal with the ravages left in its wake. This category 4 Hurricane has laid waste to our Gulf Coast region, including the city of New Orleans. Today, I am outraged, outraged at the failure of our Federal Government to have planned for and adequately responded to a disaster we all knew could happen.

I join millions of Americans who have been stunned by the television coverage showing the desperation of thousands and thousands of our citizens and the failure of our Government to provide them with essential services—food, water, medical care, and sanitary conditions.

Today, I want to talk about the situation in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast and the immense suffering and desperation that the people there are experiencing. It has been 5 days since Hurricane Katrina slammed into the region and yet tens of thousands of Americans are without food and water. Lawlessness has settled in New Orleans and we have not provided the support necessary to secure the region. Tens of thousands of citizens are still stranded in shelters and we have not been able to evacuate them to safer areas; and thousands of residents of New Orleans are in need of rescue from their flood-filled homes and we have not mobilized the personnel necessary to search for them and bring them to safety.

Today, as thousands of residents of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast region face the possibility of death, I am outraged that the Federal Government failed to adequately plan for the hurricane as it approached this very vulnerable region. Last Friday, the hurricane's potential danger was clear, yet we did a poor job of getting resources in place.

After the hurricane struck, we did not activate the full resources of the Federal Government to assist the region. Instead, we relied on local and State governments, entities that were clearly overwhelmed and did not have the resources necessary to deal with a catastrophe of this magnitude.

Today, I am outraged at the failure of government to protect our citizens. Last year, James Lee Witt, former head of FEMA, testified before a congressional hearing, saying: "I am extremely concerned that the ability of our Nation to prepare for and respond to disasters has been sharply eroded. I hear from the emergency managers, local and State leaders and first responders nearly every day that the FEMA they knew and worked well with has now disappeared."

Today, we must bring the full weight of the Federal Government to bear in this crisis. I call on the Federal Government to send in the necessary personnel to rescue those in need and to restore order to the region. I also call on the Federal Government to open its facilities in order to share the burden of providing temporary housing for those who have been displaced.

Once we deal with the human tragedy that is now taking place, I call for congressional hearings that will examine what went wrong. Why our most vulnerable citizens were left to fend for themselves and why an entire region was not prepared for such a catastrophic event. I also call for congressional hearings to investigate the gas gouging that has spread across the Nation—taking advantage of human tragedy to make a profit. Hurricane Katrina has inflicted grievous pain on our country. I want to be sure that in the future we are prepared to deal effectively and competently with any catastrophic event that should occur.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of such a grave humanitarian catastrophe, one of the worst in our Nation's history, our thoughts and prayers are with those touched by tragedy and coping with loss.

Relief efforts for Hurricane Katrina are being carried out unabated in the face of great destruction, and much more needs to be done. Relief workers are locating survivors, evacuating those in harm's way, finding temporary shelter for the displaced and beginning to clean up debris. Over 20,000 National Guard troops and thousands of local law enforcement are working hard to maintain order and keep victims safe.

For this massive undertaking to continue and improve, it is essential that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has the funds needed to carry relief efforts through these crucial early days, as well as the long weeks ahead. Congress stands united with the President and with those affected in Gulf Coast States. The speaker has used his emergency powers to call us back to Washington to appropriate a supplemental \$10.5 billion to FEMA and the Department of Defense. As the scope and scale of this tragedy become clearer, we will be ready to take additional action.

Under desperate and trying conditions, the soul of the South remains strong. In large measure, the people of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, as well as Florida, are coping with lost lives, flattened houses and flooded businesses with great dignity and perseverance.

The Gulf Coast and the Port of New Orleans are vital to our economy and home to

many important industries. Oil refineries, grain shipments, tourism and international trade are all affected by this natural disaster. While we urgently cope with the suffering of our fellow Americans, Congress is also mindful of the hurricane's economic fallout. We are committed to minimizing the adverse national and international economic affects of Katrina.

The lesson of past national tragedies, most recently September 11, 2001, is that when this country faces calamity, the American people and their elected representatives respond with overwhelming generosity, compassion and action. We also saw this with the response to the December 2004 Asian tsunami. So to those who are still in dire need of help, I can say with confidence that help is on the way. And help will not end with the rooftop rescue or the evacuation to another city. Congress, the President and FEMA will see this effort through until the very end.

There is still much hardship, loss and grief to endure, and the road to reconstructing lives, communities and jobs will be difficult. But, as we have before, this country will come together to aid those now suffering. We will get relief on the ground so the Gulf Coast region can begin rebuilding from the ground up.

Accordingly, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this necessary and important appropriations measure.

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, nothing tears at our hearts or bruises us emotionally as much as the pain and suffering of people trapped by the horrific natural disaster in our southern Gulf States this week.

Each of us watches helplessly from our living rooms, as TV screens fill with the faces of young and old, and we hear the voices, all beseeching us for the very basics of life: water, food, shelter, and safety.

These images and sounds fill us with pain, frustration and dismay. Our voices blend with those of our American brothers and sisters who need a helping hand: "Do something."

Like every other American, I wanted to load up my car with food and water and drive to New Orleans or one of the other cities so badly damaged and be there not only to give them sustenance, but also to tell them that we care about them and what has and is happening to them.

But the truth is that if we all did what we want to do, we would just magnify the problems.

And so we do what we can: we send donations of money and supplies, we send our National Guard and local law enforcement and emergency workers. And we yell at the government because we believe that in America, we ought to be better equipped to deal with such emergencies.

You know what? We should be better prepared. That is an issue we will deal with in the weeks and months ahead. The victims of Hurricane Katrina need us today, and our initial focus should be to meet their needs. Congress, by approving this major financial aid package, is responding with the rest of America to the immediate need.

Our first priority is saving lives and making sure these American citizens have their basic needs met. Once that occurs, we can move forward with long-range planning for these citizens who lost so much, and communities struggling with recovery.

Mr. Speaker, there is a time for campaigning and a time for governing, a time for

leadership and compassion and a time for congressional hearings. Today is a time that we pull together with love of our neighbors and the love of our Nation to bring relief, safety and security to our fellow Americans in need.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my condolences to the families who have lost loved ones in the natural disaster we have witnessed over the last 5 days. Our hearts go out to them and we are working desperately to address this desperate situation.

I pay tribute to Democratic Leader PELOSI for giving this effort to provide for supplemental funding relief for the hurricane victims in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida the priority attention and urgency it deserves. Because of her forward thinking and sensitivity to the scope of this disaster, we are here today in this special session of Congress doing what we should be doing: responding to the needs of the thousands of victims of this natural disaster to make sure the money is available for food; water; emergency supplies; temporary shelter; command, control, and communications networks; public safety; public health and sanitation; and other forms of emergency assistance.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for acceding to the gentlelady's call to convene the House to pass this \$10 billion package. Today, we demonstrate that partisan politics stop when it comes to responding to the needs of thousands of Americans who find their very lives imperiled by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath. We are showing that Congress can lead and provide a rapid response when misfortune strikes.

This is not the time for recriminations. There will be plenty of time for that when Congress reconvenes next week to review the slowness and inadequacy of the response and consequence management efforts of the natural disaster that struck our Gulf Coast. The experience of my congressional office in trying to contact responsible Federal agencies involved with the effort shows that communications between congressional offices, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, and other responding Federal agencies has not improved since 9/11.

What shocks us as Americans is that the we are witnessing human tragedies on our television screens on a scale we do not expect to see in America. It is hard for us to accept a human tragedy like we see in the third world happen on our own shores. It is even harder for us to accept that our response to this human tragedy is no better than what we see by lesser and undeveloped countries. The lack of an effective response and plan of action has us all in shock.

While no class has escaped the human tragedy, the disproportionate numbers of victims are black, poor, aged, disabled or otherwise physically debilitated. These are the people who are the lowest priority in emergency evacuation plans because we do not know how to address their fundamental needs. They are the first who depend on the Government for services, the first at the mercy of the elements but the last on civic emergency action plans.

Our hearts go out to those who are stranded and dispossessed. We need leadership to address their needs. The private sector like the hotel industry and the civic community

must step up to offer assistance. The city of Detroit has offered to transport 500 families to Detroit to shelter them and meet their basic human needs. The Mayor of Detroit, the Honorable Kwame Kilpatrick, has worked with FEMA, local hotels and food manufacturers to provide temporary shelter for an estimated 500 families. He has gained the cooperation of the city of Detroit School District to accommodate the children of dislocated families. We need more State and civic leaders to step up.

I also want to acknowledge the offers of assistance our government has received from the international community. Governments from other countries have offered their expertise in airlifting residents and in other humanitarian response recovery techniques in our time of need. I hope we are big enough to accept these offers where there is a need.

Again, I thank Democratic Leader PELOSI and the Speaker for seeing that Congress does its part to respond quickly. To all the victims, their families and loved ones, please know we stand with you in our actions and prayers.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, this amount of money is only a fraction of what is needed and everyone here knows it. Let it go forward quickly with heart-felt thanks to those who are helping to save lives with necessary food, water, shelter, medical care and security. Congress must also demand accountability with the appropriations. Because until there are basic changes in the direction of this government, this tragedy will multiply to apocalyptic proportions.

The administration yesterday said that no one anticipated the breach of the levees. Did the administration not see or care about the 2001 FEMA warning about the risk of a devastating hurricane hitting the people of New Orleans? Did it not know or care that civil and Army engineers were warning for years about the consequences of failure to strengthen the flood control system? Was it aware or did it care that the very same administration, which decries the plight of the people today, cut from the budget tens of millions needed for Gulf-area flood control projects?

Countless lives have been lost throughout the South with a cost of hundreds of billions in ruined homes, businesses, and the destruction of an entire physical and social infrastructure.

The President said an hour ago that the Gulf Coast looks like it has been obliterated by a weapon. It has. Indifference is a weapon of mass destruction.

Our indifferent government is in a crisis of legitimacy. If it continues to ignore its basic responsibility for the health and welfare of the American people, will there ever be enough money to clean up after their indifference?

As our government continues to squander human and monetary resources of this country on the war, people are beginning to ask, "Isn't it time we began to take care of our own people here at home? Isn't it time we rescued our own citizens? Isn't it time we fed our own people? Isn't it time we sheltered our own people? Isn't it time we provided physical and economic security for our own people?" And isn't it time we stopped the oil companies from profiting from this tragedy?

We have plenty of work to do here at home. It is time for America to come home and take care of its own people who are drowning in the streets, suffocating in attics, dying from ex-

posure to the elements, oppressed by poverty and illness, wracked with despair and hunger and thirst.

The time is now to bring back to the United States the 78,000 National Guard troops currently deployed overseas into the Gulf Coast region.

The time is now to bring back to the U.S. the equipment which will be needed for search and rescue, for clean up and reclamation.

The time is now for Federal resources, including closed Army bases, to be used for temporary shelter for those who have been displaced by the hurricane.

The time is now to plan massive public works, with jobs going to the people of the Gulf Coast States, to build new levees, new roads, bridges, libraries, schools, colleges and universities and to rebuild all public institutions, including hospitals. Medicare ought to be extended to everyone, so every person can get the physical and mental health care they might need as a result of the disaster.

The time is now for the Federal Government to take seriously the research of scientists who have warned for years about the dangers of changes in the global climate, and to prepare other regions of the country for other possible weather disasters until we change our disastrous energy policies.

The time is now for changes in our energy policy, to end the domination of oil and fossil fuel and to invest heavily in alternative energy, including wind and solar, geothermal and biofuels.

As bad as this catastrophe will prove to be, it is in fact only a warning. Our government must change its direction, it must become involved in making America a better place to live, a place where all may survive and thrive. It must get off the path of war and seek the path of peace, peace with the natural environment, peace with other nations, peace with a just economic system.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina has caused unprecedented destruction to our neighbors to the south. We in North Carolina understand the destructive power of hurricanes and floods, and our thoughts and prayers are with all the victims who suffered through the storm and suffer in its aftermath.

I am pleased that Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI called for Congress to reconvene early in order to provide the needed personnel, equipment and resources for this disaster.

We must immediately devote the personnel, resources and funding necessary to help these people get the food, health care and safe shelter they need before rebuilding can begin, and this \$10.5 billion is a good start.

The recovery from the Hurricane Katrina disaster will be long and difficult. I commend all the brave first responders, FEMA employees and volunteers with the Red Cross and other charitable agencies as they work to provide relief to the hurricane victims. People's lives have been changed forever, and the American people have responded with their money, time and prayers to help our neighbors.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the bipartisan leadership—both for the whole House and for the Appropriations Committee—for this urgent response to our neighbors and families in the Gulf Coast region.

The notion of refugees in America is a foreign concept for us, but I know the American family will respond fully and completely in relo-

cating the people who have fled the Gulf region; and who must now necessarily migrate north and make temporary lives somewhere else for at least the next few months.

I want to note something interesting to my colleagues. Just last week before the Base Closure and Realignment Commission, BRAC, I pointed out to the commissioners that the Gulf of Mexico has serious security needs.

With the BRAC recommended closures of Naval Station Ingleside and Ellington Air Field in Texas, and the closure of NS Pascagoula in Mississippi, we were leaving the Gulf of Mexico vulnerable to an attack that could disrupt our oil supplies—both the wells in the Gulf and the refineries along our southern coast—and our vital trade routes. Post-BRAC, we will have not a single surface Navy ship in the Gulf of Mexico.

Mother Nature painted a very vivid picture for all of us of how a major disruption in the Gulf can affect our Nation and our economy.

I will be talking to DOD officials and my colleagues on the House Armed Services Committee to pursue a Center of Excellence for Homeland Defense and Security in the western Gulf of Mexico.

Again, I thank the House for this rapid attention to the dire need for relief to our neighbors in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. I support the bill, and urge swift passage.

We must come to grips now with the fact that this is just our first drop in the bucket; this ongoing rescue and relief effort will be monumental and long term. It will be years before New Orleans and the Gulf Coast can be rebuilt. It will take our money, it will take our energy, and it will take all our hearts.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this emergency supplemental for the millions of Americans affected by the devastation stemming from Hurricane Katrina.

It is important that the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Defense, and all other federal agencies involved have all monies necessary to do the recovery and reconstruction effort the right way.

This supplemental is a down payment to ensure that the recovery effort is not halted due to a lack of money. But, it is only a down payment. We must work in the coming months and years to make sure that Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and all the other states dramatically affected by Hurricane Katrina are rebuilt and that the survivors are given the means necessary to begin their recovery.

I ask Americans all across this great country to open their hearts and donate to the effort to help their fellow citizens in their time of need. The recovery effort demands that private business, private charities, private citizens, and the government come together to help those in their time of crisis.

I applaud Leader PELOSI and Speaker HASTERT for bringing the House back into session today to pass this supplemental. It is one small way we in the Congress can ensure that the money from the federal treasury remain flowing so our first responders can do the work that needs to be done to help the survivors of this terrible disaster.

Mr. Speaker, this is a time for all Americans to come together and help those in need. It is time to get the survivors to safety, provide them with food, water, and shelter, and to ensure that their basic needs for survival are taken care of.

I rise in strong support of this supplemental and ask for all Americans to help their fellow citizens in their time of need.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solidarity with the Members of this body—Republican and Democrat, liberal and conservative, southerner and westerner, black, white and brown—in support of the Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill for Hurricane Katrina. Just as all of you were there for my constituents last year after an unprecedented four hurricanes devastated my home state of Florida, I stand here today with you to offer my full support for all of those affected by Hurricane Katrina.

On the eve of August 25, 2005, Katrina first made landfall in South Florida. Broward and Miami-Dade Counties were the first to witness the strength of this devastating storm. As a result of her strength and ferocity, more than 150 families saw their homes, some even in my district, receive major damage or were completely destroyed. Tens of thousands of homes and businesses were out of power for days and many in South Florida remain homeless today because of Katrina.

Despite this obvious disaster, I find myself today infuriated that FEMA has denied individual assistance to the residents of Broward and Miami-Dade Counties. The agency claims that the magnitude of the disaster in South Florida does not merit Federal assistance. I disagree. It does not matter if 1 or 100 homes are destroyed because of a natural disaster. Federal emergency disaster assistance exists to help those in need when they have no one but the Federal Government to turn to. It is beyond irresponsible for FEMA to neglect the needs of my constituents simply because the extent of the damage does not reach some artificial and fluid threshold.

My thoughts and prayers remain with the residents of Florida who have been affected by the storm, as well as the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. As this great body convenes today, I am deeply troubled by the pictures that I see on television and in the press. Our fellow citizens are in a battle not only with the elements of Mother Nature but also homelessness, disease, starvation, and dehydration.

I am pleased, Mr. Speaker, that this body is heeding the call of the Democratic Leader and meeting today to pass this emergency supplemental. But I am shocked that in the richest country in the world with our vast resources, our own fellow citizens are literally dying in the streets of New Orleans because we cannot get them food to eat and water to drink. I've even heard that organizations such as the American Red Cross are being prohibited from delivering essential humanitarian assistance to New Orleans residents because they are being prohibited access to downtown. I am outraged.

Making matters worse, our news programs now refer to the residents of New Orleans as refugees, as if they are not American citizens. Our words are extremely powerful, and the use of the term "refugee" suggests that Katrina's victims are second class individuals who rather than expecting the assistance from their fellow citizens instead should be grateful for anything they receive. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Americans must answer the calls of civic and moral responsibility that comes during a tragedy such as Katrina. Do all that you can—

donate money and supplies, open your homes, say a prayer—so that the lives of those who have lost so much can return to some form of normalcy.

We have a responsibility to do all that we can to help those most in need, and our government must do everything in its power. If the roads are flooded and we are unable to drive people out of downtown New Orleans, then airlift them out. Figure out a way to get water and food to those who need it. Do it quickly, and do it now. The lives of our fellow citizens are at stake.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, our first concern over the coming weeks must be assisting those who need to be rescued, who need essential supplies and medical attention, and who need temporary shelter to survive these difficult days. I am committed to helping provide that assistance and Congress was correct to pass this aid package today to ensure that immediate resources are available for those efforts.

However, as the recovery continues and we begin the rebuilding process, we cannot forget about the problems that have plagued our response to the hurricane. It is not too soon to ask what went wrong so that we can avoid those missteps in the coming weeks and in future disasters.

Early indications point to the fact that once again, our response teams have been hampered with the inability to effectively communicate with one another. In Oklahoma City in 1995, at Columbine in 1999, and then again in New York in 2001, our first responders were unable to communicate. The administration has done little to address this problem despite my efforts over the last four years. We must find out exactly how communications deteriorated as quickly as they did and put in place a real interoperability plan.

In addition, there appears to be a massive disconnect between the information the government has issued on the aid effort and what individuals on the ground have experienced. We have to make sure that aid gets to those in need immediately—right now, too many still lack basic necessities and that is simply unacceptable.

We have known that the levees in New Orleans could not withstand the most severe storms. Former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director James Lee Witt recently stated that in the 1990s, planning for a New Orleans nightmare scenario included the pre-deploying nearby of hospital ships and ships with pumps to remove water from the below-sea-level city. We have to ask—why was this not done? Was it incompetence, a lack of leadership or has the deployment of National Guard troops to Iraq slowed recovery efforts?

We also need to ask if reorganizations of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) offer us the best protection against all hazards. Prior to the creation of DHS, FEMA was largely viewed as a very effective organization. Since it has been placed in DHS, FEMA's role in preparedness and response has changed. Does the current departmental organization offer the best model of response to any type of hazard, be it a natural disaster or man-made?

These are difficult questions but they are necessary ones. In the coming weeks, I will push for answers even as I work with Members of the Homeland Security Committee to make sure that the current crisis is addressed

and victims are given the assistance they still so desperately need.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers today, and for the last few days, have been with the people of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama and their family members. The Gulf Coast region has experienced what will long be remembered as one of the worse natural disasters in our country's history. In the weeks, months and years to come a massive clean up will occur and then we will work to rebuild the homes, roads, businesses, and schools affected. But we will not be able to forget the death, the destruction or the emotional toll this terrible tragedy has inflicted on the people affected and across the Gulf Coast.

I am glad that we in Congress are providing the Federal Emergency Management Agency with the additional funds required to ensure that the needed rescue and recovery mission continues unimpeded. We have all seen on the television and read in the newspapers about the current situation in the Gulf Coast. The images and stories are heartbreaking and deeply troubling, but they are of people we know and they are our fellow citizens. Many of us know people who live in New Orleans, might have been vacationing there, or were supposed to return to college this fall. These are our family members, our friends, and our neighbors, and we cannot let them down. My own sister lives in the heart of New Orleans and as we meet now she still waits for evacuation—for the fifth day without running water or power.

The essential role of government is to provide for its citizens in their time of need. Today, we cannot say that we have done a good job in that critical task. Too many of our own people are suffering in horrific conditions and there exists a general state of lawlessness in a few areas and more concerning is that many feel they have been abandoned. If we cannot meet the needs of these clearly desperate citizens in the Gulf Coast, we need to seriously reconsider our budget priorities and what we value as a society. I am troubled that the pleas of regional officials and those from cities like New Orleans for an increased Federal commitment to guard against such storms have not been heeded over the past few years.

It is my deep hope that the Federal Government, with the money we are providing today, will ensure that order is restored to the affected region and that no one anywhere in the Gulf Coast is without food, water or shelter. But in the weeks and months ahead we need also to ensure that the proper resources are dedicated to guarantee that a tragedy like this and its indescribable scale is not repeated again. What that means is a commitment by the Federal Government to the people of America to meet their domestic needs. For too long this government has tried to do more with less, it has tried to provide for our people on the cheap. But this week has reminded us that there are too many critical tasks and services that only government can provide and that we ensure that the Federal Government provides the essential funding that these services require.

This terrible tragedy has also reminded us of the generous and compassionate nature of the American people. Already the Red Cross has received well over \$100 million in donations to the relief effort. People all across America are emptying their coin jars and offering empty rooms to help in anyway they can.

I know that this compassion will continue and I encourage all Americans to do what ever they can to help our fellow citizens in their most desperate time of need. However, I am troubled to see instances of greed in this time of desperate need. I have heard already from a number of my constituents who saw the price of gas skyrocket. I, along with other Members of Congress, will be looking into any instances of price gouging. In such a time of despair for so many, price gouging can not be tolerated.

Once again, I want to express my condolences to those who have lost loved ones in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and to share my prayers of hope for those who remain in despair. I know that much remains to be done and I am hopeful that the funding we are providing today will go a long way to meeting the desperate needs of those in the Gulf Coast. The full story of this disaster remains to be told, but I am confident that out of dark moments of this tragedy will come beacons of light for those affected and a serious discussion about our true national priorities.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers are with the families and individuals devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Reports that displaced residents in New Orleans and other parts of the Gulf Coast are unable to receive medical attention and basic supplies are truly horrible. This is an unacceptable situation for the wealthiest country in the world. The conditions are desperate and the full force of the Federal Government must be turned towards helping those in need.

The Federal Government is prepared to provide an unprecedented level of disaster assistance, starting today with a \$10.5 billion emergency aid package.

The recovery effort has raised several issues that must be addressed. First, once the immediate need for medical assistance, food and other resources is met, the massive job of providing housing in different communities throughout the country for the thousands of displaced victims must be undertaken. This will require an unprecedented level of coordination between federal, state and local governments and the private sector. Also, decisions must be made in terms of the reconstruction of the areas most devastated, in a manner that ensures that a tragedy of this magnitude will not repeat itself.

Second, the alleged unwillingness of the federal personnel assigned to the disaster to use the resources available to them in a timely fashion must be investigated. The fact that there was one instance of a military helicopter being fired upon is not an excuse for helicopters not to land or buses not to transport people. Questions with regard to class, race and discriminatory attitudes must be addressed in a candid and constructive manner.

Third, the personnel and agencies responsible for responding to this disaster are the same as the nation would call on in the event of a terrorist attack. Their present response, in the President's words, has been unacceptable and inexcusable. We must ensure that future responses are dramatically different.

In the coming days and weeks ahead, I encourage every American to consider volunteering to help our fellow citizens in this time of great need. My offices have received hundreds of phone calls from constituents who are eager to help in anyway possible, and this will allow the generosity of the human spirit to prevail.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the bill is considered read and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following privileged Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 51) providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate, and a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 51

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, September 1, or on Friday, September 2, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12 noon on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, September 2, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Senate concurrent resolution is concurred in.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HURRICANE KATRINA

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to show compassion and readiness to work with our neighbors who are in crisis. I represent a State, West Virginia, that has had numerous flooding disasters. Collectively, we will do everything we can to help those in need. The number one priority now is the families and children who are affected. The photos from

these areas are gut wrenching, and I am sure we are just beginning to hear the heartbreaking stories. Our responses must be quicker and stronger. I know our compassion as a Nation is incredible and we are frustrated by the enormity of this crisis.

As West Virginians, we have been helped time and time again. Like those affected in this disaster action, we are hardworking, country-loving, patriotic, respectful citizens. We now wish to return our compassion to those in need. Our State has started fund drives, deployed utility professionals, our National Guard, and other means of help. We will continue. Our hearts are joined in prayer to those who need prayers the most, to give them the strength and the willpower to rebuild and go on. We will stand together to recover and rebuild the lives and the cities. This is the nature of our country and its people.

It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to show compassion and readiness to work to help our neighbors who are in crisis. I represent a state, West Virginia, that has had numerous flooding disasters and collectively we will do everything that we can to help those in this devastating situation.

The number one priority right now is the welfare of the families and children in their time of need. The photos from the area are gut-wrenching and we have only just begun to hear the heart breaking stories of the destruction of lives and properties.

Our responses must be quicker and stronger as we reach out to the despair. I know that our compassion as a nation is incredible and we are frustrated by the enormity of the crisis. The funding we provide today will be significant but will only take us so far.

In recent disasters around this Nation we have seen the worst of destruction that can come from both man and from nature: but the best of society. We have seen the power of this Nation when it comes together to assist those in need. In the coming hours and days, we have got to press forward to help in every way.

As West Virginians, we have been helped time and again. Like those affected in this disaster, we are hard working, country loving, patriotic, respectful citizens. We now wish to return our compassion in your hour of need. Our State has started fund drives, deployed utility professionals, sent our National Guard and other means of help. We will continue. Our hearts are joined in prayers to give those in need the strength and willpower to rebuild and go on.

To that end, the Red Cross and the Salvation Army need our support to continue their efforts on the ground. We are grateful to those who are on the ground from all emergency organizations in the Gulf Coast area to assist those who have been affected.

We will stand together to recover and rebuild the lives and cities. That is the nature of this country and its people.

HURRICANE KATRINA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that FEMA's immediate focus is to provide relief for the victims in the Gulf States, but I take this time to ask the agency to reconsider its decision to deny South Florida individual assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. As my Florida colleagues and I stated in a letter to the FEMA director, he has the authority to provide such assistance and I urge him promptly to do so.

I commend our Governor, Jeb Bush, for his efforts in deploying personnel and equipment to the impacted States, and I especially applaud his strong actions against price gouging. Members of Florida's extensive team of emergency response vessel crews, search and rescue teams, National Guardsmen and emergency management officials will continue to deploy from Florida to support operations in the impacted areas. These efforts represent Florida's largest State-to-State assistance in history. South Florida was devastated by Hurricane Andrew 13 years ago. We understand how long it will take for these Gulf State victims to recover economically, physically, and emotionally.

Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to speak about the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

I come from an area and a State that knows first hand the tragedy and suffering that can be caused by a hurricane of the magnitude of Katrina.

It is therefore from within this deep understanding that we extend our thoughts and prayers to all whose lives have been affected by this deadly disaster.

I fully support providing all the necessary assistance and funding and emphasize the need to use every available resource to aid all the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

I recognize that FEMA's immediate focus is to provide relief for the victims in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama, but ask FEMA to reconsider its decision to deny South Florida Individual Assistance in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

As my colleagues and I stated in a letter to Undersecretary Michael Brown, FEMA has the authority to provide such individual assistance and should promptly exercise such authority.

I am pleased that the State of Florida has responded so quickly to New Orleans and Mississippi.

The State has deployed personnel, equipment and commodities to Mississippi to aid response and recovery from the overwhelming impact of Hurricane Katrina.

In the hours and days after the catastrophic storm, Governor Jeb Bush pledged the support of Florida to Mississippi Governor Haley Barbour.

I must commend Governor Bush for his outstanding efforts, especially for taking strong action against price gougers, and for expressing his solidarity with the people so severely impacted in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Resources from Florida were mobilized through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

Tons of food and money collected in South Florida are ready to be sent to ravaged Gulf Coast States.

Florida's State Emergency Response Team is supporting local officials and federal responders with search and rescue missions and emergency management operations in Mississippi.

Members of Florida's extensive team of emergency response vessel crews, search and rescue teams, National Guardsmen and emergency management officials will continue to deploy as needed to support operations in the impacted area.

These efforts represent Florida's largest State-to-State assistance in history.

I extend my most heartfelt gratitude to all those who have joined in efforts to provide assistance, especially all volunteers, representatives of the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, the National Guard, the Reserves, Emergency and law enforcement personnel, and Department of Health medical assistance resources.

Hurricane Katrina, and the devastating after-effects, has severely impacted many staff and Members of our own Congressional Community.

Specifically, the coastal districts of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi were most hard hit. Staff and Members from these areas have been personally affected and in some cases their district offices were either severely damaged or destroyed.

Although my home State of Florida, and especially my Congressional district in South Florida, were hit hard by Hurricane Katrina, we were fortunate that the damage was not as severe as was initially anticipated.

Yet, the damage incurred has serious long-term ramifications for the welfare of our State.

Thousands of constituents have suffered severe damage to their home and property, in addition to enduring power outages and lack of communications.

The Florida agriculture community was one of the hardest hit. Katrina's unexpected jog south caught many South Miami-Dade nurseries and groves unprepared.

As the agricultural community reels, the farmers, growers, and laborers who depend on the industry for their livelihood are tense with uncertainty.

Katrina's high waters and heavy winds inundated acres of agriculture.

Crop loss in Miami has been estimated at \$427 million and economic loss is estimated at \$691 million.

This loss will have far reaching effects as Miami-Dade's billion dollar agricultural industry is second to tourism as the areas top source of income.

It is clear that this is a nationwide issue that requires a nationwide response.

Our country's strength has always derived from the character, courage, and compassion of our people and, together, we will help each other through this difficult period and prevail over the devastation.

HURRICANE KATRINA

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in January I traveled to Aceh, Puquet and Colombo and saw American

foreign aid save the lives of tens of thousands of people ravaged by the tsunami. Two weeks ago, I was in Darfur, Sudan and visited refugee and IDP camps in that war-ravaged area and saw firsthand U.S. taxpayer funds and U.S. leadership saving and rebuilding the lives of hundreds of thousands of Africans. But charity begins at home, Mr. Speaker, and we must leave no stone unturned in our effort to save the lives of Americans, our neighbors, devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Today's appropriation is a downpayment. It is a beginning of an aggressive humanitarian effort that will take months, even years, to rebuild the lives of those shattered people. Today we say to the suffering, we will do whatever it takes to save lives, to mitigate disease, and rebuild.

HURRICANE KATRINA

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, we heard today the majority whip describe a domestic Marshall Plan for rebuilding the southeast United States and particularly the Port of Orleans and the city of New Orleans. I want to just mention how proud I am of the State of Texas, the Governor of Texas, who opened his arms to refugees from Louisiana 400 miles away. We have refugees from Louisiana all over north Texas right now, right next to my district office in Fort Worth, Texas. Last night I spent time with a mother who had been separated from her newborn baby, spent time with a child who had been separated from his parents, truly heart-wrenching stories from this area that were so badly hit by the hurricane.

I want to thank Attorney General Greg Abbott for his strong stand against price gouging. I want to thank American Airlines for freeing up assets to fly equipment down to New Orleans or to Baton Rouge and to bring people back. I want to thank DFW Airport for stepping up to the plate immediately and offering their assistance. This has been a widespread effort across North Texas. People have opened their hearts, their homes and their wallets. I trust this exercise will continue. I am now glad that the Congress is here and passed this money to help with the recovery.

□ 1400

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

OUR TROOPS ARE STATIONED IN THE WRONG GULF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the amount of money that the House just appropriated is only a fraction of what is needed, and all Members know that. Let it go forward quickly, with bipartisan cooperation and with heartfelt thanks to those helping to saving lives with necessary food, water, shelter, medical care and security.

Congress must also demand accountability with the appropriations because until there are basic changes in the direction of this government, this tragedy will multiply to apocalyptic proportions.

The administration said yesterday no one anticipated the breach of the levees. Did the administration not see or care about the 2001 FEMA warning about the risk of a devastating hurricane hitting the people of New Orleans? Did it not know or care that civil and Army engineers were warning for years about the consequences of failure to strengthen the flood control system? Was it aware or did it care that the very same administration which decries the plight of the people today cut from the budget tens of millions needed for Gulf area flood control projects?

Countless lives have now been lost throughout the South in the cost of hundreds of billions in ruined homes, businesses and the destruction of entire physical and social infrastructure.

The President said a couple of hours ago that the Gulf Coast looks like it has been obliterated by a weapon. It has. Indifference is a weapon of mass destruction. Our indifferent government is in a crisis of legitimacy. If it continues to ignore its basic responsibilities for the health and economic welfare of the American people, will there ever be enough money to clean up after their indifference?

As our government continues to squander the human and monetary resources of this country on the war, people are beginning to ask: Is it not time we begin to take care of our people here at home? Is it not time that we rescue our own citizens? Is it not time that we feed our own people? Is it not time that we shelter our own people? Is it not time that we provide physical and economic security for our own people? And is it not time that we stop the oil companies from profiting from this tragedy?

We have plenty of work to do here at home, and it is time for America to come home and take care of its own people who are drowning in the streets, suffocating in the attics, dying from exposure to the elements, oppressed by poverty and illness, racked with despair by hunger and thirst.

The time is now to bring back to the United States the 78,000 National Guard troops currently deployed overseas. Many of our troops are already stationed in the wrong Gulf.

The time is now to bring back to the U.S. the equipment needed to search and rescue for clean up and reclamation. The time is now for Federal resources, including closed Army bases, to be used for temporary shelter for those who have been displaced by the hurricane. The time is now to plan massive public works with jobs going to the people of the Gulf Coast States to build new levees, bridges, roads, libraries, schools, colleges and universities, and to rebuild all public institutions, including hospitals. Medicare ought to be extended to everyone so every person can get the physical and mental health care they need as a result of the disaster.

The time is now for the Federal Government to take seriously the research of scientists who have warned for years about the dangers of changes in the global climate, and to prepare other regions of the country for other possible weather disasters until we change our disastrous energy policies. The time is now to change our energy policies, to end the domination of oil and fossil fuel, and to invest heavily in alternative energy, including wind and solar, geothermal and biofuels.

As bad as this catastrophe will prove to be, it is in fact only a warning. Our government must change its direction. It must become involved in making America a better place to live, a place where all may survive and thrive. It must get off the path of war and seek the path of peace, peace with a natural environment, peace with other nations, peace through a just economic system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUNT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time assigned to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

EMERGENCY RELIEF TO VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today we come to the floor of this body not as Democrats, not as Republicans, but as Americans, united in an effort to find a solution to find help for the people affected by the wrath of Hurricane Katrina.

Today, Mr. Speaker, we unanimously passed financial assistance to the vic-

tims of Hurricane Katrina and this Nation stands united. This entire Nation stands ready and willing to help the many thousands of victims in Hurricane Katrina's wrath. But first, let me extend my deepest sympathies to those who have lost loved ones in the rising flood waters and the devastation of this storm. We all share the grief they are feeling during this tragic time.

Our most immediate concern is the safety and security of the people of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama who are fighting this very day, this very hour, this very moment to survive.

Many Nevadans have stepped up to offer their help in this effort. We have contractors in Nevada who have donated construction material, concrete, steel to help rebuild. We have banking institutions like Wells Fargo that have offered emergency financial assistance, emergency financial support and processes by which these people can access financial assistance.

Members of the National Guard in the State of Nevada have also been called up, both from the 152nd Air National Guard Medical Group based in Reno and the Army Guard's Medical Detachment 5 headquartered in Reno. And Las Vegas were among the 100 already-deployed Nevadans assisting in the emergency response currently underway.

The emergency team doctors, nurses and other medical specialists and their equipment left Reno on a C-130 with less than 24 hours' notice. The team will spend up to 2 weeks aiding the victims of Hurricane Katrina. As the recovery effort continues, Congress took the necessary steps today as a united body to enable these communities to begin to rebuild.

Thousands of residents in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama have had their lives shattered, have lost their homes, their businesses, and entire livelihoods have been swept away.

Rebuilding these cities like New Orleans, Gulfport, and Biloxi and the many other once-bustling resort towns will not be done overnight, but the people of these Gulf Coast communities should know that the American people stand united, united not just with our rhetoric but with our action; and we will work with them to rebuild these cherished communities.

The people and businesses of Nevada, like Albertson's, which will provide \$9 million in water and food, have given generously to the relief effort and will continue to do so.

May our thoughts and our prayers be with the victims of Hurricane Katrina as they work to find the strength to overcome the devastation Mother Nature has wrought upon them.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless this great country and assist these people.

WAKE-UP CALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, like all Americans, my heart goes out to the millions of people displaced and suffering from one of our largest national catastrophes in our history. I hope the victims of Hurricane Katrina know that our prayers are with them in this most difficult hour, and I strongly support today's initial package to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

However, the administration's response to this catastrophe is nothing short of a national disgrace itself. How is it possible, how is it possible that the administration did not realize earlier what a catastrophe this is? There is a 90,000 square-mile footprint of disaster, and yet last night FEMA's director, Michael Brown, admitted that the administration had no idea exactly how bad the situation was. Even worse, he had previously characterized the security situation in New Orleans as "pretty darn good," and stopped just short of blaming the residents of New Orleans themselves for not evacuating.

The Bush administration failed the American people in advance of this hurricane by cutting critical funding in spite of the pleas by the Army Corps of Engineers, money that would have been used to reinforce the very levees that broke and flooded New Orleans.

We had plenty of money to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, but none apparently to save the poorest Americans with an ounce of prevention.

In terms of the response to the disaster itself, what we have seen is unquestionably too little too late. While the President today said relief efforts so far were "not acceptable," how can he possibly be surprised by this deplorable response? How can he say that flooding was not anticipated? Quite to the contrary, it was expected. It was predicted. What is not acceptable is the President's response.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago we had an opportunity to learn from the disasters in my home State of Florida. Floridians experienced the consequences of FEMA's failure to deliver aid to communities who needed it the most. We saw the most vulnerable in our society, the elderly and the poor, being left out and overlooked. Last year we had the opportunity to prevent this from happening again. At the time I called for the resignation of the head of FEMA, Michael Brown, because of his grievous mismanagement in Florida. The President did not heed that call, nor did he see fit to make any substantial changes in FEMA.

Last year when the President's election was in question, his response to the hurricanes in the swing State of Florida was tremendously fast, even passing out ice in the immediate aftermath. Where was he in the immediate aftermath in New Orleans? Where were the trucks of food, where were the water buffalo? Where were the tents of aid that are just now being established and delivered?

When the issue was the medical condition of Terry Schiavo, the President

and the Congress flew back to Washington on Palm Sunday to intervene.

Why did the President delay so long for an entire American city in crisis? These have desperate people who need food, water, shelter and safety, not a photo opportunity, which even itself comes 5 days too late.

Every asset of the great American military in this hemisphere should have been devoted to America's humanitarian crisis starting on Monday at 5 in the afternoon.

I was in Aceh in Indonesia last month. I saw firsthand the greatness of the American aid efforts. Our response in the aftermath of the tsunami was one of America's finest hours. I was extremely proud as an American to see all the work that Americans and our country have done to stave off famine and disease for tens of thousands of desperate people.

Our aircraft carrier was off the Aceh coast within 2 days. If we can do that 12,000 miles away in Indonesia, why not in New Orleans? If we had even met that same standard, help would have been in New Orleans on Wednesday. We would not be seeing the horrific scenes we saw yesterday and today. It should have been self-evident on Monday that now is the time to use our enormous strength for the benefit of our own people.

Mr. Speaker, now is a wake-up call for America. This should never happen again. It should not have happened this time.

□ 1415

HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, a disaster of this magnitude can be hard to comprehend. Convinced of our mastery of the physical world, we too often underestimate Nature's horrible, irresistible power.

A storm like Hurricane Katrina should puncture that hubris and occasion in its wake a humble assessment of our plans and preparations to meet the catastrophes Mother Nature sends our way.

As our fellow citizens in affected States struggle to cope, now is not the time to compound their fears with criticisms and second guessing about rescue and recovery efforts. But gaps and flaws in the joint local, State and Federal response are clearly showing. Today the President concluded those efforts so far were "not acceptable." They are not acceptable.

In the weeks and months ahead, those of us charged with oversight of homeland security issues will be asking hard questions about the effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, commonly referred to as FEMA, for their response, planning and execution.

Streams of refugees and reports of lawless gangs terrorizing the streets of New Orleans convey images more commonly associated with the Third World than with a major commercial port in the New World.

When a catastrophe, natural or man-made, rips through the social fabric, the first obligation of governments at all levels is to maintain order and deal with the short-term needs of the populace. The capability to reestablish public safety and protect the lives and property of law-abiding citizens must be brought to bear visibly and promptly.

Katrina's destruction took just hours, but reconstruction will take months and years. Together, we must work overtime until homes are built and people are back to work. We must continue to provide all the government support, money and manpower they need. We must continue to encourage private donations of food, blood, funding and services.

Although the burden of this storm has been borne by those who live in the region, this is truly a national challenge. I have heard from so many of my constituents, and all want to express their love and concern and convey their desire to be of help by lending their skills, opening their homes, providing financial assistance, and doing whatever else they can.

Two wonderful organizations in our district, Save the Children and AmeriCares, are working around the clock to provide relief. On our Web site, we have provided information on ways to donate money, food and water to the efforts.

Since Katrina washed away homes, businesses, families and lives, America has grieved deeply. We all mourn those who lost their lives, and we grieve with those who have lost their loved ones and friends.

While we cannot reverse Katrina's damage, we can begin to repair the region, which sustains millions of Americans and is vital to our Nation. Today's legislation will help us begin that process of rebuilding the area, providing support to law enforcement and getting Gulf Coast residents back to the business of their lives. In the days and weeks to come, there will be much more that follows.

HURRICANE KATRINA SUPPLEMENTAL RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of San Jose, California, I extend our deepest condolences to the thousands who have lost family and friends, and to those who are still searching for loved ones. As the chairperson of the California Democratic Congressional Delegation, I want to let the people suffering today know that we care and that we Californians stand with them.

The people of California have also faced natural disasters in the form of earthquakes, floods, and fires. I recall the Loma Prieta Earthquake on October 17, 1989, that measured 7.1 on the Richter scale. Sixteen years have passed, but everyone who lives in the bay area remembers where they were when the earthquake struck. Americans everywhere stood with Californians, and this gave us the strength we needed to recover, rebound and rebuild.

As difficult as that earthquake was for us in California, the situation in the Gulf Coast is infinitely more challenging. Homes across the Gulf Coast are gone. People are left with nothing but the clothes on their back. Biloxi, Gulfport, Pass Christian, Bay St. Louis, Waveland, Kiln, Slidell, and other towns barely exist.

Our Nation has never had a city in the desperate shape that New Orleans finds itself in right now. The rule of law has broken down. People at the Superdome and the Convention Center are suffering in ways that are just not seen in our country in the 21st century. Mayor Nagin has said that thousands may be dead in New Orleans. This is an unprecedented human tragedy.

As a Nation, we must be steadfast and commit ourselves to save these people. We must stand with all of the people of the Gulf Coast and let them know that we are here today to help them get back on their feet. We are here to lend them a shoulder to lean on. We will be with you as long as it takes to get your lives in order, as long as it takes to get our cities back.

The people of the Gulf Coast have experienced hell on earth over the past week. They will face challenges in the coming days, weeks and months that are almost unimaginable. People are hungry, sick, homeless, and desperate. The storm has hit everyone hard and it has hit the poor hardest of all. The Federal response to this disaster has been too little and too slow. The situation must change and it must change right now.

Last night I flew across our great country to be here today to participate in this emergency session of Congress. It is important that the necessary resources be provided for this disaster, but actual leadership by the administration is desperately needed right now. There are dead bodies floating in New Orleans as we speak. There are tens of thousands of our fellow Americans who have been without the help that they need for this entire week.

I do not believe that our Federal Government is incapable of mobilizing to meet this disaster. The problem is that we have not yet done so as comprehensively as is necessary. Even the President stated today that the response of his administration has been inadequate.

There will be plenty of opportunity in the months to come to analyze what we could have done better, but today our task is simply to do better, to engage in a massive mobilization to save

the lives of our fellow citizens and to end the chaos that has descended upon New Orleans and other areas devastated by this hurricane.

Our Nation stands united with the victims of this ruthless storm. Our fellow citizens from Mobile, Alabama, to New Orleans, Louisiana, need to know that they have our commitment to do all that we can. The bill we passed today is just a start. We will recover. We will rebuild. We will prevail.

In the days and weeks to come, the Congress will have many tasks before it, from fully funding the Army Corps' efforts, to revising the bankruptcy laws so the victims who have lost their homes can have a fresh start. But today, we call on you, Mr. President. Article 2, section 1, the executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States. We expect that the resources, the food, the water, the health care, the evacuation, the shelter will be brought to bear so our fellow citizens can end their suffering.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. HARRIS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. HARRIS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

HURRICANE KATRINA SUPPLEMENTAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ENGLISH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of a crisis, a crisis of crushing proportions in terms of lives lost and property destroyed. Time is clearly of the essence, and I commend Speaker HASTERT for calling Congress back into session over this holiday weekend.

While we are still assessing the full extent of the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina, we know that the damage is severe and that the response must be strong and steady. The legislation that we have just passed in the House will provide financial assistance to the victims who have borne the brunt of this devastating storm.

It will allow the Federal Emergency Management Agency adequate resources to continue operating and to restore order in the affected areas. Rescuing and evacuating those who are trapped, getting food, drinking water

and medical care to those who are stranded, should be our top priority, and this funding is essential to accommodate some of those basic initiatives.

The image we have all seen on television and in the newspapers only begins to convey the desperation of those in and around the areas that have been hit. My heart goes out to those families, and I am pleased that Congress has answered the call here today and sent and guaranteed the much-needed resources.

On behalf of western Pennsylvania, an area where we are familiar with Mother Nature and how tough she can be, I am here to express our solidarity with the people in those communities that have been hardest hit. The economic impact of Katrina also looms over us as we move forward, and as gas and other oil prices spiral out of control this natural disaster certainly has the potential to become a serious economic challenge as well.

We need to take action in Congress to alleviate the short-term crisis that has been caused by Katrina. It will likely take the next several weeks and perhaps longer before we know the full extent and the true extent of the damage and begin to repair our critical energy infrastructure.

We recognize already that electricity remains sparse in some communities, limiting the capacity of refineries to operate. In addition, distribution pipelines also lack capacity, so refined products are unable to reach local gas stations. The production and delivery problem will, without a doubt, have significant impact on consumers and a ripple effect on the economy. We in Congress I think need to anticipate that and respond. I think it is essential that we act to address any fuel shortage and act decisively to blunt its nationwide consequences.

While our supply chain is coming back online, Congress needs to carefully consider options for managing the energy supply and the price of gasoline, such as giving the President the authority to fight price gouging for oil and oil by-products, and manage strategy fuel supplies.

Further, we ought to consider a temporary suspension of the Federal gas tax to give consumers at least a small break from the unanticipated increases. Any temporary measures we can engage will ameliorate the enormous impact of the present situation, and these need to be carefully thought through.

For now, however, we have to quickly move forward, as we have done with this emergency appropriations bill today, which will help the victims who have suffered most from the devastation of this storm. This storm is a challenge to the Nation, and I urge the American people to pull together and to help each other get through this.

I encourage people to donate what they can to the charity of their choice and do what they independently can do to conserve energy. I believe this will

test us and perhaps also show us at our best.

MAKE REAL THE PROMISE OF DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, but I rise today also to say to America it is time now, not later on. One of my favorite speakers, Dr. King, had a speech that he gave saying "Now is the Time." For a moment I am going to paraphrase some of his words. He said now is the time to make real the promise of democracy.

He said now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley, and I say the valley is this national despair that we are in right now, to the sunlit path of Americans helping Americans.

Now is the time to lift our Nation from the quicksands of Hurricane Katrina to the solid rock of safety and normalcy for the people of America.

We have had all these images on television. We have had images of people in facilities that were built for games. We have images of people in facilities that were built for conventions. We have had images of people who are American people, they are taxpayers, they are the elderly, they are the frail, they are the poor, they are the people left out without any housing. This is a class issue because those of us who had the money to get out of New Orleans, get out of Mississippi, get out of Alabama, they got out. But these are people who are American taxpayers who could not get out. Why are we not helping them?

Today we have allocated resources. What I am concerned about is who will the resources go to? When we look at Iraq, they went to Halliburton. What about the resources going to the American taxpayers? They paid their dues.

I took a moment and went on the Internet and got the application for disaster resource. The application and the pages that go with them are some 25 pages. Can you imagine if you were in the situation of some of these people, that they would in fact have to fill out this form. Let us get rid of the form and give them what they need. Put these people on cruise ships with bedrooms, bathrooms, food, a place where they could be. Let us not try to figure out and make magic. We know what can work for these people.

Finally, these men, women and families are entitled. They are American taxpayers, take care of them.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan.

□ 1430

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I first want to say that these people are not refugees. They are American citizens who pay taxes and

are raising their children. I would hope that we would not relegate them to something less than American citizens.

I rise in support of the legislation and would like to report on what the City of Detroit is doing. Mayor Kwami Kilpatrick has put together an organization with the private sector as well as FEMA over the last 48 hours, and we are offering to the families that have been decimated 500 housing spots immediately. We have been working with the United Way and the health care industry to provide the resources that these families will need, housing, health care, water, food, clothing.

We in the City of Detroit stand ready, under Mayor Kilpatrick's leadership. We have spoken with the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), as well as the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS), and the gentleman from New Orleans, Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), and all have agreed to work to move them now.

We need other government officials from around the country to step up and to bring them home. The people of New Orleans have nothing to go back to.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of our Mayor and the City of Detroit. Detroit has stood up, through Mayor Kilpatrick's leadership, and we ask that other cities around this great Nation of ours who have the wherewithal, because private companies are ready to help, and they have helped us.

The Detroit public schools have agreed to take children from the ravished areas. I thank the Mayor of Detroit as well as my colleague for yielding me this time.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, now is the time to help the people of America who have been in this situation for 3 or 4 days. If we can go into Iraq and rebuild Iraq, we can build what the people of America need in the Gulf region and take care of what they need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CAPITO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I began this week with a stomach virus that had me flat on my back and very quickly that illness was replaced with a sickness in my stomach from watching our fellow Americans, some of the most vulnerable, some of the poorest, hurting, even dying, and all week long, like many of my colleagues I have spoken with today, feeling somewhat helpless, even as a Federal legislator, not being able to roll up my sleeves and go and help our fellow man.

We are with all of these people. From the Tennessee Valley to the Silicon Valley, we stand with our friends and neighbors in Louisiana and Mississippi and Alabama, but particularly in the New Orleans area and in southern Mississippi where the devastation is so bad.

Mr. Speaker, there is going to be plenty of time to point fingers, scrub the problems, determine what changes need to be made, what broke down at the local, State, Federal level. I hope knowing this institution now as well as I have known it for 11 years, and knowing the goodness of most people from both sides of the aisle, we can do as much as possible, like we did after September 11 and come together, bring the Nation together, around the solutions.

This has been an extraordinary time over these last 4 years in this country as we put 22 agencies together to form the Department of Homeland Security, including taking FEMA from an independent agency under this new umbrella. Obviously all of the bugs have not been worked out; and obviously, as the President said today, this is an unacceptable response, frankly, at every level, local, State and Federal.

But let us today try to hold off on too much of the blame and come together to support all of these people. I am greatly encouraged today to see the truckloads and the air loads going in and people being evacuated. Until every person that is still living is in a safe and secure place, let us try to meet each other at the water's edge and try to solve these problems. Every minute it is improving and the system is improving at every level of government.

These are difficult, difficult times. It is important that we come together. Natural disasters, terrorist activities, these activities will probably continue, and we have to make sure I believe as leaders that the unity of purpose, of mind, of spirit is maintained in order to preserve what we have. It is going to be easy for chaos to take place in the cities that are affected or even on the floor of this great institution if we are not careful that we do not dumb down to the lowest common denominator of criticizing or breaking down. It is a time of unity in the day and months ahead. The solutions are extremely difficult.

I want to also talk beyond this crisis and hurricane because I believe we were headed for serious trouble before

this hurricane hit. In places where people are on fixed income, the cost of energy, not just gasoline but all energy, was becoming such a burden, and now it is compounded because of this incident.

When crisis sets in, character is born, leaders emerge. We must in the short run use every bit of influence to increase the capacity for oil for our country. OPEC is just 11 countries, many of which get significant funding annually from our country. We need oil. If they cannot release more oil, we should hold back the contributions we make to their country until we get a satisfactory flow of crude oil into this country, from OPEC countries as well as non-OPEC countries. But OPEC countries have much more oil than non-OPEC countries, but non-OPEC countries are actually producing much more oil than OPEC countries today.

Pressure needs to be placed from the executive branch, but also the legislative branch, which has the power of the purse. We need to say this is a time of crisis in America. Following this hurricane and following incredibly accelerating gas prices, we need relief. We need refinery capacity as well. We need cooperation at every level. We need response to the short term. And in the long term, we need to bring about changes in our country's policy to get ourselves off of oil.

So let us unite and solve these problems and help America at this critical time.

HURRICANE KATRINA SUPPLEMENTAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the supplemental appropriation to help the people devastated by this hurricane. As Members can probably tell, I have laryngitis. I may lose my voice again during the course of my remarks, but I feel compelled to speak today at the outset to express my sincere condolence to all those families that have lost loved ones or still wonder where their loved ones are in the wake of this terrifying and terrible hurricane.

My heart goes out to all of those that have been impacted. The effects of this hurricane have been devastating. We have seen its physical force, extraordinary winds, the water, the flooding, the wrath of nature in Hurricane Katrina.

It has been awesome and terrible in its destruction, but sadness has given way to anger and disbelief as we have seen people stranded on roof tops, as we have seen mothers worry about whether their babies will have enough to eat, as we have seen children worry about their parents' medical conditions and the lack of medicine, as we have wondered how this could happen in the United States of America.

National disasters afflict every part of the globe, but it seems that this national disaster has been compounded by our response and in cases by our lack of response. The images we have seen have been horrifying. We have all wondered how it was that so many people came to be left behind, how it was that we could have assumed that when 20 percent of the population of New Orleans lives under the level of poverty, that everyone would have a means of getting out of New Orleans before the storm. How it is that there are not buses running around the clock to take people away from this terrible place with no food, no water, giving way to lawlessness?

I heard today that the District of Columbia is sending 10 buses, and I applaud the District of Columbia, but it will take days for those buses to get there. Why are there not buses around the clock? Why is it that these news crews can go and take this devastating footage and find these survivors, and the relief effort cannot?

I, like a great many Americans, do not understand how this is possible in the United States of America. My constituents demand that we move both earth and heaven to bring relief as fast as possible to the people of the Gulf Coast, and we have been bitterly disappointed to see how this tragedy has been prolonged, and we have the most profound questions about how in the richest Nation on earth it can take so long to simply get people out of that disaster zone to higher ground, drier ground, to food, medicine. I do not understand the government's response. I really do not.

And yes, there will be plenty of time to ask these questions and we will ask them. But the rest of the country is asking them now. We demand a better response than we are getting. I hope that as some of the officials from FEMA and the National Guard are saying, the calvary is on the way, the calvary is truly on the way. And I hope that effort only accelerates and mushrooms and does not stop until every last person has been evacuated.

This has been a devastating week for the United States. We have seen bodies floating through the streets. We have heard the voices of Americans question how their government could leave them in such a place in such a time with such developed mass transportation, without airlifts of food and medicine, without rapid evacuation. This country can do better. This country must do better. I hope and pray we are doing a lot better right this moment.

I am proud of this Congress for coming into this session and rapidly approving this aid, and it is incumbent upon this Congress to ensure this aid is delivered ASAP and not another moment goes by with another victim waiting to be rescued.

□ 1445

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

DESPERATELY NEEDED SUPPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Payne wrote in 1776 that "now is the time that try men's souls." This is also one of those times in the life of our country, as we witness the destruction of a major U.S. city and the pain of our fellow Americans on the Gulf Coast.

In our Constitution, the Federal Government is charged with the mission to provide for the common defense. That defense is not just against threats coming from other countries, but also from natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina.

I have heard recriminations against the mayor of New Orleans, against the governor of Louisiana, and against the President of the United States, but now is not the time to divide Americans in political fighting. The mayor, the governor and the President must pull together at this time for search and rescue, for humanitarian relief and for reconstruction of the Gulf Coast.

Catastrophes like this illustrate the kindness and generosity of the American spirit. With hundreds of thousands unable to return to their homes, communities have opened their doors and welcomed victims. In my district we have seen five major high schools and scores of other schools begin fund raising drives for hurricane relief.

Major Illinois employers have already donated \$7.2 million in cash. Abbott Laboratories, Medline, Astella, and Cardinal Health all have donated major supplies, and thanks to their generosity, truckloads of baby formula and nutritional supplements and electrical generators are on their way from Illinois to the scene. To help police and emergency officials regain control of the situation, Motorola has sent 2,500 portable radios to New Orleans.

Today in Congress we approved a \$10.5 billion supplemental emergency appropriation to ensure the continuation of the rescue and recovery effort. Today's bill, enacted by Congress in just 22 hours, is the third largest disaster supplemental in our history, and

no doubt there will be Katrina supplementals 2 and 3 to follow.

We should do this, but we should also do more by encouraging Americans and corporate citizens to open their hearts and their wallets, and with this outpouring of support we will speed the recovery.

Mr. Speaker, for the last 2 weeks I have been on active duty as a reservist in the United States Navy. Working as an intelligence officer in the Joint Chiefs of Staff, I spent the first week on duty reporting on the usual topics: Developments in Afghanistan, the withdrawal of Israel from Gaza, et cetera, but all of that changed when Katrina loomed off the coast of the United States. Deep in the operations center of the Joint Staff, we formed a Katrina response cell to coordinate what is now becoming the largest U.S. military-civilian relief effort in history. We focused all of the vast resources of the Department of Defense on the defense of New Orleans. Within hours of the response cell's creation, dozens of ships, hundreds of planes, thousands of troops and millions of meals were on the way.

Like the U.S. military's response to the tsunami, the current operation will save lives, repair infrastructure, and will speed the recovery. I want to particularly thank our new Chief of Naval Operations who took it on his own initiative to send ships towards the relief effort. Admiral Mullen's prompt action meant that the Navy relief helicopters arrived on the scene much sooner than planned.

Today in the wake of this natural disaster, we are witnessing selfless dedication by Americans in uniform. There are over 21,000 military personnel responding to the hurricane. The bulk of these forces are National Guard men and women called into service to assist in the rescue effort. They are truly citizen soldiers and their service is urgently needed and deeply appreciated.

As more National Guard troops arrive on the scene, law and in order will be restored and communications and power reestablished. Today there are more than 154 helicopters rescuing trapped civilians, delivering food and water, and dropping sand bags to plug the breaches in the levee system. The Army Corps of Engineers is working to plug gaps in the levees and to begin pumping the water out of New Orleans.

More help is on the way. The crew of the USS *Bataan* is on station off the coast with its helicopters delivering supplies and conducting search and rescue missions. USS *Iwo Jima* and the mighty aircraft carrier USS *Harry Truman* are also there to provide helicopter support. All told, there are over 10 Navy ships currently on station or on their way to provide support, and this includes the hospital ship USS *Comfort* with 2,000 hospital beds.

The DLA has made more than 750,000 Meals-Ready-to-Eat available, and has access to 3 million more if needed. The

response from the Department of Defense has been impressive and is accelerating, and I want to thank Admiral Keating at Northern Command, Lieutenant General Honore of Joint Task Force Katrina, and Lieutenant General Blum at the National Guard Bureau for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, there are countless acts of heroism taking place along the Gulf Coast. The military, Coast Guard and the FEMA are all spearheading this Federal response. Every day people are doing their part for the relief effort and we here in Congress should do that as well by directing additional resources to the effort.

Mr. Speaker, today is just a first step in what is going to be a long and costly recovery, and we should stand united by our commitment to help rebuild those hurt by Katrina.

HURRICANE KATRINA SUPPLEMENTAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my personal condolences, that of my family and all of the constituents I am privileged to represent, to the families and victims of this terrible natural disaster. I almost did not come down here today because I am painfully aware that nothing we can say here is going to make the kind of difference that we would like to make.

The \$10.5 billion will make some difference, but it is very small in comparison to the magnitude of the suffering. What I think myself and all of my colleagues would rather be doing is being down there in New Orleans helping with the effort. We would like to be giving water to those thirsty, comfort to those who have lost loved ones, and help begin the rebuilding progress with our own hands.

We are not able to be there because we are not needed as much as the rescue personnel. While we would like to be there, we have constituents calling and asking tough questions, and I think it is incumbent upon us to respond to some of those tough questions.

Constituents are asking: Why was the preparation not better? Why is it taking so long to rescue people and provide basic food and shelter and clothing? Why are oil companies who are already enjoying record profits being able to take what seems to be exorbitant profit from even this catastrophe?

I do not have the answer to all of those, but some things we should consider and the American people have a right to know, the American people have a right to know that for the past 5 years the administration has proposed draconian cuts to the Corps of Engineers' budgets, including nearly a 50 percent cut to hurricane flood prevention in the very area now affected by this tragedy.

It would be fair to call it a natural disaster, but in this case this natural disaster was aided and abetted by budget cuts that inhibited the ability of the Corps of Engineers to prevent the devastating damage that we have seen, and I think the American people have a right to know that.

Government in the end is about choices, and choices have consequences. If we choose tax cuts in the short term for some of the wealthiest Americans, and in exchange for those tax cuts we cut the budget for the Corps of Engineers for flood control, for harbor maintenance and for all of the other things that the Corps does, we see the consequences.

I serve on the Water Resources Subcommittee, and we have oversight over the Corps, and when the administration has come with these proposed cuts they have been supported by groups like Taxpayers for Common Sense. And I and some of my colleagues have asked, help us understand something. If we spend a few dollars today to save hundreds or thousands of dollars and countless lives tomorrow, how is it common sense to not spend those dollars?

It may look in the short term more politically appealing that we have cut the terrible Corps of Engineers and we have saved pork spending, but if in the long run what you have done is failed to maintain your levees, failed to provide flood control prevention, failed to prepare for precisely this disaster, you have been beyond penny wise and pound foolish, you have been irresponsible. And I regret to say that I believe the policies of this administration with regard to Corps of Engineers projects have been precisely that. And tragically, the people of New Orleans are suffering the consequences.

We have made other choices. We have chosen to send the National Guard and military and American dollars and other resources overseas to Iraq, and now we are stretched in our economy's ability to fund this relief effort. We will do so because we must and should do so, but the \$300 billion spent in Iraq could be certainly better used by the people in the southeast.

We have chosen to allow energy companies to raise their prices without any constraint at all, and now consumers who used to be paying \$20 to \$30 to fill their tanks are paying \$80 to \$90 and this will have a devastating effect on our economy.

In closing, I want to commend the citizens in the region affected who are pulling together in spite of what they see as a lack of government support to help one another in a time of need, and I want to commend the people of my own district and districts around the country who are digging deep in their wallets and resources.

I know school groups are gathering clothing and having fund-raising drives. These young people deserve to be commended, and I urge all Americans to pitch in and do whatever we can to help the victims of this tragedy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

RESPONDING TO HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, today we have approved \$10.5 billion in Federal funding to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. This is one of the largest natural disasters to ever hit the United States, and it is essential that Federal, State and local governments work together in a bipartisan fashion to provide the relief that is vitally needed.

As a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I recognize the important job that the Federal Emergency Management Agency has to coordinate disaster relief and life-saving efforts. The funding that we provide here today will go a long way to supporting that effort.

The effort to recover the Gulf Coast is costing FEMA \$750 million a day. At that rate, we anticipated we would run out of funding by next Tuesday, so it is critical that we deliver this help today, and we have.

Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, but this is not just a Gulf Coast disaster. We are all in this together. We are all Americans. We all want to help our fellow citizens.

Back home in my State of Connecticut, Governor Rell and Members of the delegation are taking action. We have activated 100 National Guard troops with experience as military police to try to help regain civil order in New Orleans. In addition, the governor has added four colleges in our State university system to offer free tuition and space to students from Connecticut who otherwise were studying at colleges that have been demolished by the storm.

The governor has called upon Connecticut residents to do what they can to help, and they are responding. Around the State, civic groups, churches, businesses, and individuals are collecting bottled water, blankets, batteries and other essentials to ship into the region.

Just this morning, my wife, Heidi, dropped off food and baby formula at the New London armory in an effort to help. Others are doing the same.

Hurricane Katrina has given America a tremendous challenge. Family members cannot contact loved ones and are unaware of their condition and their fate. There are sanitation and health problems that must be addressed. People are homeless and need to be evacuated. Children are out of school and need to get back into school.

The hurricane and the ensuing flood were deadly, disruptive and costly. We must respond as a people and stay united in that response. Just as we recovered from the man-made disaster of 9/11 a few years ago, so we will recover from this natural disaster as well, if we work together. If we are divided, we fail. We fail ourselves, we fail those who look to us and who need us and we fail the Nation.

HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise in support of the emergency relief bill. I know that all of us have been held rapt by the images and stories coming out of the Gulf Coast. The sorrow and suffering there is almost unimaginable, and it is my fervent hope and prayer that relief, real relief, will come soon.

On top of our grief, there is also outrage for it is nothing short of outrageous that in this country, where we talk of 9/11 every day, we still have not dedicated enough resources to improving our emergency response capabilities.

The people of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, as they wait day after agonizing day for help to arrive, are crying out for leadership and more simply, for help. For those who have died unnecessarily, the help is already too late. If this is the best the world's greatest power can do for its own people, or if it is not, it is a national disgrace.

There will be plenty of time in the future to assess exactly why we were so poorly prepared for this storm and why it has taken the Federal Government so long after the levees broke to get effective help to New Orleans.

Certainly the roots of the inept handling of the situation are old and deep, but in the short term we need to focus on solutions. We need real leadership, a real plan, and a much bigger contingent of emergency transportation and aid workers. Reports from every corner of embattled New Orleans are that the presence of law enforcement is at best minimal, despite the declarations of the Secretary of Homeland Security, and there is, 5 days after the hurricane and 3 days after the levees broke, still no effective distribution of food, water or medicine.

□ 1500

How can this be? We cannot let another hour pass without a substantive response to the glowing shortfalls in the relief and evacuation effort. I would like to join the minority leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), in her call for the creation of a Select Hurricane Relief Task Force.

Our hearts go out to all those affected as well as those doing their best to respond to this disaster. Tragically, it is evident that the Federal Government's response has been wholly inadequate. Congress must insist on immediate improvement so that we can put an end to the suffering in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast as soon as possible.

Finally, we must learn some lessons. We must not save money by not preparing to prevent or to ameliorate potential catastrophes. We did not, despite ample warning, properly build up and strengthen New Orleans' defenses against hurricanes. We are paying a frightful price for that negligence.

We are not now buying the loose nuclear material in the former Soviet Union before it is smuggled to al Qaeda to make nuclear weapons.

We are not now inspecting more than about 6 percent of the millions of shipping containers that enter our ports every year, any one of which could contain a weapon of mass destruction.

We are not now adequately protecting our chemical and nuclear facilities against sabotage that could kill hundreds of thousands of Americans.

We should learn from this disaster. The administration and Congress cut the budget for building up the levees, and we are reaping the whirlwind. The administration has acted unbelievably lethargically in bringing relief efforts, and people have died as a result.

Let us not continue our negligent disregard until we suffer a nuclear or chemical catastrophe. I am tired, Mr. Speaker, of passing post-catastrophe relief bills. It is time the administration and this Congress act to prevent the next catastrophe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MAINTAINING ORDER IN A TIME OF NEED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, we have all seen a tragedy of tragedies this past week. We are here as representatives of the American people to attempt to try and ensure that the proper governmental response is possible, and it is not a

time for recrimination or finger-pointing. As a matter of fact, I would like to draw the attention to the superb job that has been done by the Coast Guard. I have not heard one suggestion of criticism of the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard, which has in our Nation's history a unique status of being both a civilian operation and a military operation, often is left in the shadows as we look to the other military establishments in this country. But the remarkable job done by the Coast Guard, particularly the work done by the helicopter pilots and those who are working with the pilots to rescue hundreds and literally thousands of people in the affected area, is something of which we should be proud, something of which we should be joyous; and it suggests to me that we should take another look at the way in which we have taken for granted the tremendous efforts made by the Coast Guard.

As we look forward in analyzing what occurred and what is occurring now, we ensure that as we make plans for the future, we equip the Coast Guard with everything that the Coast Guard needs to be able to carry out its functions, the traditional function which we have seen over the past week, and the new responsibility we have given them in the war on terrorism.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss as someone who spent 8 years as the chief law enforcement officer of the State of California if I did not remark on what I observed with the breakdown in order that we saw in the city of New Orleans.

Quite simply, when we have a situation in which law enforcement stands by and allows looting to take place with the excuse that it is only for food and water, one should understand that if we say looting is okay for food and water, we will ensure that only the strong get the food and the water and the weak will not.

It was not the weak that were breaking into those places and taking that home; it was, rather, those who were healthy and those who were able to go in and do that, and I doubt that they were running back to assist those who were far less fortunate.

When you suggest that that breakdown in order is allowable, what you do is suggest to the criminal community that they can do more, and we saw the spiraling from food and water to clothes, to appliances, and finally to guns and ammunition; and we saw terrible tragedy that ensued that was man-made, not as the result of the terrible forces of the hurricane and the terrible forces of the flooding that took place thereafter, but rather those who would take advantage of that tragedy for their own purposes.

My only suggestion, Mr. Speaker, is that it ought to be a lesson for all of us, all of us, that when we are confronted with tragedies of this sort, whether they are man-made or natural, we must understand the importance of order being maintained.

While some may believe it is in a sense of generosity or a sense of empathy to say that looting is okay for selected purposes, we should understand that ultimately it does the greatest damage to those who need our help the most, the least among us, the weakest among us, those who cannot fend for themselves.

So as we sort things out and as we in this Congress look for those things that are necessary for the Federal Government to do related to the State and local governments, we should understand that we need to have order in the midst of chaos to the extent we can so that we can ensure that our efforts are made to protect those who are least able to protect themselves. It is a terrible lesson that we had to learn once again, but it is a lesson that we ought to embrace and a lesson that we ought to utilize to assist us in any future problem.

We have many things to look at over the next few weeks as we continue in response to this terrible tragedy, but I would hope that we would understand that those who are the least among us, those who are the weakest among us, need the support from the strongest, and that in very real terms necessitates every effort to protect order.

EMERGENCY ACTIONS NEEDED TO ADDRESS SKYROCKETING ENERGY PRICES

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out to all of the victims in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi; and we in Congress stand committed to ensuring that we rebuild each of those families' hopes and dreams. But, unfortunately, during this time of crisis, I am very, very concerned that the American driving public is being gouged at the pump by Big Oil and by OPEC, which has been taking advantage of this crisis in our country. I am very concerned that Big Oil is exploiting this tragedy by tipping consumers upside down at the pump and shaking money out of their pockets. This is no time to take advantage of the American consumer. This is a time for the oil companies, as well as OPEC, to rally to the protection of the American consumer and the American economy.

We have all been disturbed by the television footage of looters ransacking stores and homes in New Orleans, but it also appears that Big Oil is engaging in widespread looting as it runs up the price of gasoline paid by the driving public.

We need action by this administration. They have to make it clear that they are going to put in effect immediately investigations, put investigators in the field, in the board rooms, to make sure that people understand that this kind of exploitation of the American consumer will not be tolerated.

Unfortunately, right after 9/11, the very same oil companies took advantage of the American consumer, resulting ultimately in large fines having to be paid by oil companies for their exploitation of the American consumer in the immediate aftermath of 9/11.

Also the President should demand that OPEC help us at this time. OPEC has announced that they will take up the issue of producing more oil at their September 19 meeting. September 19? When Saddam Hussein was threatening the Middle East, we did not say to our friends, Call us next month. We said we would respond immediately.

OPEC, led by Saudi Arabia, should announce that they are going to produce 1.5 million to 2 million barrels of oil a day beginning today, not waiting until some September 19 meeting. And the President, who held the hand of the Saudi prince in April at his ranch in Crawford, should now hold OPEC's feet to the fire and ensure that, as they are now saying they may have a surplus of 1.5 million to 2 million barrels of oil a day to produce, and they may consider releasing it all.

They should have done that back in April, when the price of gasoline was already skyrocketing. We should not be at a point where a barrel of oil is at \$65 a barrel, now approaching \$70 and going higher. All of that has happened subsequent to Katrina, this additional spike.

So we need a response from OPEC. We can no longer allow them to sit on the sidelines with this additional 1.5 million to 2 million barrels of oil that they are going to consider releasing on September 19.

In addition, the President should immediately suspend all royalty relief for the oil and gas companies for drilling on public lands, the Secretary of Interior should require the oil companies to pay the full royalty for drilling and extracting oil and gas from public lands, and those revenues should be earmarked for the victims of this enormous disaster. That is where those revenues should go. And the President and this Congress should enact a windfall profits tax on the oil industry, and the proceeds should go to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for this coming winter, the neediest people in our society, who are going to be most adversely affected by these skyrocketing energy prices.

But we just have to look in the rear-view mirror 5 weeks ago when this Congress and President Bush passed and then signed a historic energy bill that was a failure in dealing with increase in fuel economy standards for SUVs, encouraging renewable energy resources that would be used by the utilities in this country. Instead, we gave tax breaks to the oil and gas industries of our country. It is time we got something back from those industries. It is time for this Congress and this President to stand up.

□ 1515

BIG OIL COMPANIES LOOTING THE AMERICAN PUBLIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before when I reserved my right to object, I think that this debate should have been going on before we passed the bill, not after we passed the bill. I appreciate the opportunity to speak on this, but this should have been part of the debate.

Mr. Speaker, there is looting going on. We know there is looting going on. You can turn on your television and see looting going on. But the real looting that is going on is the looting of the big oil companies, looting the American public, picking the pockets of the American public.

It is unconscionable that gasoline prices in a matter of days have been spiked 30 to 50 cents a gallon. This is price gouging on the part of the oil companies. There is no way that the disaster in the Gulf States could have been reflected so quickly with an upswing of prices at the pump. There is no way, except for greed and price gouging.

Big oil companies should stop the looting of the American people. When the price of a barrel of oil goes down, it takes a month or two to be reflected at the pump. Why, then, is it quite the opposite when disaster hits? Why is there an immediate increase in the price of gasoline?

How dare the oil companies use this disaster to line their pockets. How dare the oil companies use this tragedy to get richer and to stick it to the American people. The American people demand answers and want to know why they are being forced to pay so much for gasoline.

This Congress and the President should do everything possible to bring down the cost of gasoline. If it means releasing the strategic reserves, as I have been calling for for months and the President says he will do, we should do that, and then some; and we should call on the oil companies to put back some of their profits into helping the American people bring down the cost of gasoline.

Now, of course, I support this legislation. Of course, we must help the people of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. As a New Yorker, I am appreciative of how the country responded after September 11. We need that kind of response today.

Why were these things not in place before the hurricane happened? We knew the hurricane was going to happen. Why did we not have food and clothes and water and all kinds of things for the people? Why is it still, days and days later, taking time to evacuate people? Why are there dead bodies floating around? What is the administration doing about this? Govern-

ment has dropped the ball and heads should roll, quite frankly, because it is unconscionable that we are standing by and not responding properly or effectively enough.

I flew over the tsunami. I flew over Indonesia and I saw the devastation there. It is one thing to have devastation in a Third World country, as terrible as it is; but in the United States of America in the 21st century, days later, for people to be there stranded without water and food and shelter, it is unconscionable.

Again, how dare the oil companies take advantage of this and raise the price of a gallon of gasoline so that the American people during Labor Day and after are suffering. It is shameful that they are using people's misery in three States to line their pockets and spike the price of gasoline for the entire American public.

Mr. Speaker, the other issue involves us weaning ourselves off foreign oil. Local gas stations in New York and elsewhere and in places outside of the Gulf Coast supply lines have gasoline. Their suppliers and shippers have gasoline. So why are prices going up so much?

Again, it is simply price gouging by the giant oil companies. I realize that gasoline is priced on a futures market and that gas prices today reflect what is expected in the future. But it is bad enough that this Congress passed an energy bill several weeks ago that did nothing to help the American people in terms of bringing down the price of gasoline. So now Congress has a challenge not only to help the victims of Katrina, but to help the American people with this spike in gasoline prices.

For years I have been talking about the need to wean ourselves off oil because we have to rely on the sheikdoms that are either unstable, unfriendly to the U.S. or even supporters of terrorism.

Now we have another reason to wean ourselves off foreign oil. So much of our economy is based on oil, and when Mother Nature gets grumpy, it sends us into a tailspin; and the oil companies use the tragedy of hundreds of thousands of hurricane survivors as cover to extract more profit from our constituents.

This cannot stand. We need to improve the fuel economy of passenger cars and SUVs to a level our advanced technology makes possible, not issue CAFE standards, as the administration did last week, which do nothing to improve fuel efficiency.

We need to make America the world's leader in energy technologies, not rely on the inefficiencies of the past. We can do this. I am currently forming a bipartisan Oil and National Security Caucus to highlight the danger of our over-reliance on oil.

But in the end we will never end our addiction to oil and never break the grip of the oil companies unless we act now. So I call on this Congress to come up with solutions which are already

there to wean us off foreign oil, and I believe that this Congress needs to take action now.

Now, provisions and assistance should have been on the ready, as I mentioned before, so that as soon as this storm moved on, the food, water, medical supplies and personnel, military and civilian, would be on their way. We must not ignore the mistakes that have been made. We must fix them immediately and learn from them for the future. We must help the people immediately.

Let me finally say that the priority of this Congress and this administration has been tax cuts, tax cuts and tax cuts; and this is a result of it. We do not put the money where we need to put the money. We do not put the money into infrastructure. We do not do the kinds of things to prevent disasters from happening again.

Priorities cannot only be tax cuts and war; priorities must be helping the American people, first in Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, and then taking strong steps to wean us off foreign oil.

EXPRESSING SORROW TO VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join all Americans in expressing our great sorrow for those who have lost loved ones in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and our outrage for those still suffering in the South. This is a real crisis, and Americans are in need. These people, many of whom are most vulnerable, have lost everything. Now they are losing hope.

President Bush has called the response "not acceptable." This must change now. It is not about Democrats or Republicans; it is about helping our fellow Americans in their darkest hour. This is not the time for excuses or blame. Our country has the means to rescue and care for these people; and we must do it quickly, before more lives are lost.

First, we need to address their very basic needs. We need to get food, water, and medical supplies to the thousands of people desperately waiting for it at shelters like the Superdome and the convention center in New Orleans. Rescue workers also need to get a handle on who is trying to survive out on their own in flooded areas across Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. We need to send out the National Guard and local police in skiffs, boats and helicopters to locate these people, street by street and house by house, rescue them and bring them to a safe location where supplies are waiting for them and reconnect them with their loved ones. One national database needs to be set up for family members searching for survivors once they have been brought to safety.

But before we need to do that, we must set up a central command center to coordinate the response from top to bottom. One of the many complaints that we have heard is that no one is in charge. We need someone leading the recovery efforts, calling the shots and directing the resources where they are needed most. We are now a Nation at war with time, and we need a real war room to ensure these people survive.

Another complaint we hear often is a lack of communication. There is no power, so TVs and radios do not work and cell phone communication is sketchy at best.

Today, almost 5 days after Hurricane Katrina rocked the Gulf Coast, people still have no idea what to do. First responders need good information to tell people where to go for help. Rescue workers need the Federal Government to pitch in and give them the communication and technology necessary to coordinate their efforts.

Finally, law and order must be restored. People in these flood-ravaged areas are homeless, scared and desperate. Some have crossed the line and turned to violence. The National Guard needs to move in immediately in massive numbers to restore peace and stability along with local law enforcement.

This is all on the short term. In the long term, these hurricane victims need somewhere to go until their towns and cities can be rebuilt. The Federal Government needs to consider opening up military bases across the country so families can live there until they are put back in their homes or put back in their own lives. Every State in the country should consider taking a certain number of families and housing them in their State so everyone can pitch in.

Finally, once we have done all of this, we must evaluate what was done wrong and what was done right. We must learn from this experience so that we can better respond the next time.

In closing, I know there are many inspiring stories that are not being told, the massive efforts of the Coast Guard to rescue everyone they could and other individuals out there who have put their lives on the line to help and save other people, the neighbors helping neighbors make it through the worst natural disaster many have ever seen. Those are not the stories that are making the evening news.

But I know the true value of the American spirit. In these dark times, I know these communities will be rebuilt, and these families, these cities and towns and this Nation will persevere.

HELPING THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon in support of the supplemental appropriation. It is with great sadness that we are being called upon today to address this issue.

Let me begin my remarks by first commending those great Americans who are engaged in the rescue efforts down in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. They are great Americans.

This tragedy today brings back unpleasant memories. It was my district in eastern North Carolina that was devastated in 1999 by Hurricane Floyd; and so we know so well, so well, the pain of those people who are displaced. So on behalf of the people of the First Congressional District of North Carolina, we offer our prayers and sincere concern for their welfare.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the absence of an adequate plan to cope with the damage done by this hurricane. Hurricane Katrina has triggered a nightmare, a nightmare, for thousands of our citizens. Many thousands at this very moment are in harm's way. They are displaced, they are hungry, they need medical assistance. They need every resource that this government has available, and that includes FEMA's assistance, transportation and housing assistance from the military and other humanitarian assistance.

These displaced families must be extricated from the danger that surrounds them; and we have the capacity, we have the capacity to do it, and we must accelerate our efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that several military bases are willing and able to provide immediate housing for these victims. Space is available. There is substantial housing resources on our bases, and we must use them. As a member of the Committee on Armed Services, I encourage us to use our military resources to the fullest.

There are many, many communities across the South and across this country who are eager to provide housing and health care and education for these victims. In Columbia, South Carolina, for example, those great Americans want to care for these victims; and they are conferencing right now with the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

In my State of North Carolina, Laurinburg Institute is eager to provide space and educational opportunities for up to 200 school-age children. We must begin to move these families to loving American communities.

Mr. Speaker, we must also protect communities. We must protect communities who open their resources to displaced families. We must guarantee to them that the cost of care for these families will be provided. We must also guarantee that they will not incur any legal liability as a result of their efforts.

So I want to encourage FEMA to quickly secure trailer homes needed for temporary housing. My constituents in

1999 were required to wait, in our opinion, an unreasonable time before trailers were erected. I know it cannot be done with the snap of a finger, but the process must be expedited. FEMA must execute a comprehensive plan that will not result in the dumping of these displaced families when the FEMA specialists complete their work. This was a problem in 1999. These specialists must provide one message, and they must stay on site until every issue is resolved.

It is important, Mr. Speaker, that the Federal Government provide full financial assistance to these displaced families, and that includes housing and health care for those who choose to decline FEMA housing and elect to stay with their family and their friends. They too, they too deserve an assistance stipend.

The distinguished gentleman from California, the chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, stated a few minutes ago, actually it was a couple of hours ago now, that money will not make the difference in the final analysis. Well, I understand the import of that statement, but I want to emphasize that adequate money resources will make life better, will make life better for these Americans. We should not suggest otherwise.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I understand that the Federal Government does not and cannot act with precision in these types of disasters, but we must insist that FEMA and the military and the National Guard and other rescue efforts engage in coordinated efforts, and we must provide the resources.

I applaud and support the minority leader's suggestion of a select hurricane task force. I support the idea.

□ 1530

REBUILDING COMMUNITIES DEVASTATED BY HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the emergency supplemental appropriations for hurricane disaster relief. The \$10.5 billion that we have acted upon today will be a downpayment, and we must recognize it as such, a downpayment on a much longer-term investment that we will have to make to restore the communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

I commend the leadership, majority and minority, of both the House and the Senate, for this timely response, as we did in reacting to the attacks of September 11, 2001. I especially appreciate the persistence of our minority leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), in pressing for action by Congress this week, not waiting until after return from the Labor Day recess.

The massive disaster unfolding before the Nation's eyes on television has both statewide and personal dimensions. In my family, it is very personal. My wife, Jean, is a member of the third generation of a long-standing New Orleans family. Her brothers, Charles and Edward Denechaud, live there, their homes inundated by water, perhaps irretrievable. Jean's classmates and dearest friends, still in New Orleans, all are experiencing inexpressible loss.

My heart goes out to our House colleague and our colleague on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, my good friend, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR), whose home in Mississippi is devastated, just kindling, and to the former majority leader of the Senate, Trent Lott, a good friend of mine, whom I have known since he came to Congress. His home, likewise, was devastated.

It shows that the hurricane respects no status and no condition of existence, but has treated rich and poor, famous and infamous, alike, terribly, drastically; that recovery will take years and most damage will be irreparable because of the destructive effects of water standing for days, perhaps even weeks, and toxic polluted water at that.

There are inspiring stories of humanitarian response, such as my good friend from Duluth, a businessman, Jen Paulucci, who has sent truckloads of thousands of bottles of desperately needed water to the disaster area.

I want to put this issue in another context, a larger context, of natural disasters in the United States. Over the last 20 years, from 1980 through 2000, this Congress has appropriated \$35 billion, \$35,668,000,000 to be exact. Insured losses totaled an additional \$115 billion, for a total of \$150.6 billion in FEMA-insured disaster assistance for hurricanes and earthquakes and other similar tragedies.

But what is most striking is that the period of 1993 through 2000, in just 7 years, the figure is \$28.4 billion in disaster assistance. It suggests that we are going to continue to see disasters of enormous proportions, increasing in cost and intensity over the years ahead.

The city of New Orleans is divided into 13 levee districts by the Corps of Engineers to provide flood protection from the Mississippi River to the south and Lake Pontchartrain to the north, as well as protection from hurricane and storm damage from frequent smaller-scale storms. Two portions of these levees failed, for reasons yet unknown, during Hurricane Katrina, which has caused significance flooding of six of the levee districts and minor flooding of the remaining seven.

Once the water entered the Orleans Parish, the flood waters from Lake Pontchartrain were able to move through the streets to other portions the city relatively quickly; and the Corps of Engineers, as soon as the

breaches are sealed, will be able to begin pumping the water at a rate of one-half inch of water per hour.

In addition to levee protection, the City of New Orleans also contains a system of pumping stations which enable the City and the Corps of Engineers to dewater portions of the city when necessary. However, the lack of electricity in the City and surrounding regions has made the majority of these pumps inoperable, further complicating the issue of flooding in the region.

Currently, the Corps of Engineers is attempting to perform two tasks—to close up the two breaches in the levee system, and to restore power to the City to operate the pumps. Once the breaches have been sealed, and the pumps are operable, the Corps expects that it can dewater the region at a pace of roughly 1/2 inch of water per hour. The Corps may also purposefully breach non-vital sections of the levees surrounding the City to aid in the dewatering process.

The Corps has had difficulty, thus far, in sealing the existing levee breaches due to a height differential in water levels between Lake Pontchartrain and the City. (As of September 1st the lake levels in Lake Pontchartrain were 1 to 2 feet above normal, but falling at a rate of 0.05 to 0.10 feet per hour.) Recent reports suggest, however, that these levels are coming into equilibrium, and once that occurs, the Corps will have an easier time of repairing the breach.

As of September 1st the Corps reports that it has contracted with a pile driving operation to insert new piles in the breach openings, and is continuing to use sand bags to halt the flow of flood waters. The Corps is beginning with the 17th Street Canal and will then move to the London Avenue Canal.

SUPPORT FOR THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

As part of the National Response Plan, the Corps is executing missions in the areas of ice and water delivery to regional warehouses, emergency power assessment and generation, debris, removal, emergency roofing repair, temporary housing, and the unwatering of the City of New Orleans. The total value of the Corps mission assignments is \$135 million. A total of 505 Corps military and civilian personnel are in support of the FEMA missions. The 249th Engineer Battalion (prime Power) has 44 soldiers deployed and has initiated emergency power assessments of critical facilities.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND OTHER PORTS (AS OF AUGUST 31ST)

The Mississippi River is open from the Sea Buoy to Mile Marker 507 to tug and barge traffic only. Deep draft ships may move within anchorages if they have pilots on board. The GIWW is open from Mile Marker 177 (west of Harvey Locks) to Mile Marker 89 (east of the Harvey Locks).

The Ports of Mobile, Gulfport, Pascagoula, Pensacola, Destin/Panama City are closed. All bridges, floodgates and locks are closed in vicinity of the Port of New Orleans.

New Orleans and Mobile District crews are surveying the river from New Orleans to ocean (New Orleans) and the GIWW (Mobile).

Corps hopper dredge WHEELER is standing by in New Orleans ready to dredge as necessary. It is enroute to Head of Passes today.

Corps Dustpan dredge Jadwin is underway from Vicksburg to be ready for any dredging requirement.

Industrial Canal not open due to bridges being underwater, locks are operational with—auxiliary generators.

Baptiste Collette channel will be surveyed and dredged to offer alternate route around industrial Canal.

Port Fourchon will be surveyed and channel dredging, clearance of debris and vessels will be evaluated to ensure support vessels to offshore oil industry.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

In March, as the Subcommittee prepared an analysis of the President's budget request for the Corps of Engineers for fiscal year 2006. In this analysis, the Subcommittee highlighted the President's failure to adequately fund the Nation's water-related infrastructure, including the infrastructure constructed and maintained by the Corps.

The Subcommittee concluded that the administration's budget request failed to recognize that continued investment in the Nation's water-related infrastructure is a key element for simulating and improving the U.S. economy, as well as protecting the lives and livelihoods of those living in flood prone areas, alleviating the potential for tremendous economic and personal hardship.

The passage of time and years of inadequate funding for maintenance and replacement of Corps projects have taken a toll on the Nation's water related infrastructure, minimizing the utility of many projects, and setting up the possibility for catastrophic failure of essential navigation linkages or flood protection projects.

While it is too soon to know what caused the failure of the levee system surrounding the City of New Orleans, the question remains, did the levee fail due to lack of proper maintenance or deterioration, and could this failure have been avoided with increased maintenance funding for the Corps of Engineers?

The administration's budget request for fiscal year 2006 marked the fifth attempt in as many years to cut funding for the Corps. This pattern of shrinking budget requests and repeated attempts to underfund the Nation's premier water-related infrastructure agency, reflects a lack of commitment to addressing the economic, ecological, and humanitarian needs of the county.

In the fiscal year 2006 request, the total budget request for the Corps was 10 percent less (\$527 million) than the appropriation for fiscal year 2005. The greatest single programmatic cut was in the construction account, which was down 11 percent (\$207 million), with all on-going construction projects (with the exception of dam safety projects) facing a reduction or elimination of funding. This account includes funding for small flood control projects under existing authorities—a program that has been heavily subscribed in recent years.

In relative terms, the greatest percentage cut proposed in the President's budget was to the General Investigations account, which proposed a 34-percent reduction (\$48.7 million). This significant reduction would prevent the Corps from initiating or completing future project recommendations, and is part of the administration's stated objective to reduce the backlog of under-funded projects by slowing the rate of addition of newer projects.

Finally, and most troubling, was the administration's proposal to cut funding for vital operations and maintenance at Corps projects by

6 percent, or \$119.8 million, Facilities in the Corps' inventory are rising both in number and in age. This translates into a need to devote greater resources to protect the taxpayers' investment, and to make necessary engineering and technological improvements where necessary. Last year, the Corps' own estimates noted that the budget request for operations and maintenance would need to be increased by 50 percent to address delayed maintenance that is vitally needed, and will only cost more in the long term.

Without vital maintenance, Corps facilities run the risk of catastrophic failure, as may have been the case with the New Orleans levee system.

THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT AND
COASTAL LOUISIANA RESTORATION:

In July, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act of 2005. This legislation included an authorization for the first stage of the comprehensive restoration of the Louisiana Coastal Area (LCA).

The LCA includes about 30 percent of the Nation's coastal marshes, but about 90 percent of the coastal land loss in the lower 48 States is occurring in this area. Over 1 million acres of the Louisiana coastal area have become open water since the 1930's. Another one-third of a million acres could be lost in the next 50 years unless corrective actions are taken.

The Louisiana coastal wetlands exist in the interface of the freshwater from coastal rivers including the Mississippi River and the saltwater of the Gulf of Mexico. This area once included more extensive marsh and barrier islands that served as a protective zone and buffered the effects of large storms that would otherwise severely damage inland areas. This natural protective barrier has been severely reduced. There are thousands of oil and gas wells along the coast with an associated network of pipelines and channels causing saltwater intrusion into a fresh water environment, destroying thousands of acres of coastal wetlands, and increasing the process of land subsidence and coastal erosion.

In addition, the flood control and navigation projects that keep the Mississippi River in a single channel have cut off the freshwater and sediment flows that historically created the coastal marsh where the river has overflowed its banks. Channelization of the Mississippi River has also increased the velocity of the water, depositing sediment off the Continental Shelf rather than distributing it along the deltaic plain. This funneling of nutrient-laden sediment through a single river channel has also exacerbated a hypoxic condition (dead zone) in an area of the Gulf of Mexico.

There is approximately \$100 billion of critical energy, transportation, and industrial infrastructure in the Louisiana coastal area that is at increasing risk from storm damage if coastal erosion continues unchecked. This includes major ports on the Mississippi between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Port Fourchon, a major port for offshore oil and gas exploration, 1,806 miles of navigation channel, 42,000 oil and gas wells and 4,200 miles of pipelines, 2,500 miles of highways, several of the Nation's largest oil refineries, and over 300,000 acres of agricultural lands.

In the 1990s, the Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the State of Louisiana, designed a comprehensive project for the long-

term reversal of the loss of coastal wetlands in the State. This project, estimated to cost approximately \$20 billion over the next 30 years, was designed to restore thousands of acres of coastal wetlands by diverting water and sediment from the Mississippi River into the coastal areas of Louisiana, attempting to mimic the deltaic forces which originally created this region. In addition, the project would attempt to build upon the successes of the Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act, CWPRA, though a continuation of rebuilding strategic barrier islands and other coastal protections to provide further protection of the coastal region.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2005 authorizes the first installment of the LCA project, called the LCA Near-Term Plan. This plan, estimated to cost approximately \$2 billion over 10 years, would authorize the first five major projects of the longer term plan. In addition, this authorization would establish a process for the development of other future critical projects for the protection, conservation, and restoration of the coastal Louisiana ecosystem, as well as the selection of demonstration projects, and projects for the beneficial use of dredged material to test innovative technologies, models, and methods which may prove valuable in the future.

For the LCA Near-Term project, the cost share of constructing environmental restoration projects is 65 percent Federal, 35 percent nonfederal. The non-federal partner for this project is the State of Louisiana.

LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION PROGRAM

In 2000, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure approved legislation to create the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration program. This program, established within the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, and modeled under the National Estuaries Program, was designed to restore the ecological health of the Basin by developing and funding restoration projects and related scientific and public education projects.

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration program focuses on water quality concerns within the Lake, and not hurricane and storm damage reduction projects, which are performed by the Corps. However, as the Corps begins to dewater the City of New Orleans, the issue of water quality may be a concern because of the pollutants, such as domestic sewage and toxic chemicals, contained in the flood waters that will need to be discharged back into the Lake.

EXPRESSING SHAME AT GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I know that today's session was a formality, that there would be no votes other than a voice vote; but I thought it was important to be here, to show my support for the victims of Hurricane Katrina in whatever way I could, however modest.

Martin Luther King said that we cannot walk alone. We are responsible for one another. We help others in need on the faith that when we are in need, we

will be helped. North Carolinians have twice faced desperate needs following devastating hurricanes in just the last decade. Other Americans have responded generously, both acting together through their government and in their contributions to private relief efforts. Americans are again responding generously to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

But, Mr. Speaker, I share the anger of many Americans at how shamefully inadequate our government's response has been. Tens of thousands of Americans are living outside the walls of civilization. They are without food, they are without water to drink, they are without medicine or medical care, they are without effective shelter. Mr. Speaker, they are without the protection against violence that law provides.

The failures that have led to that are not the failures of the last 4 days, but of the last 4 years. There have been repeated warnings that New Orleans and the Gulf Coast were vulnerable to precisely what has occurred, and yet our government was stunningly unprepared.

The President's press secretary was asked earlier this week about our Nation's response, our government's response to the hurricane, and he said now is not the time for finger-pointing. Earlier today on this floor the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) said now is not the time for finger-pointing. The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) has said now is not the time for finger-pointing. The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) said now is not the time for recrimination. The gentleman from California (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN) said now is not the time for recrimination or for finger-pointing.

They say that this is a time to grieve for the victims of the hurricane; and, Mr. Speaker, I do grieve for the victims of the hurricane. They say now is the time to help the victims of the hurricane; and, Mr. Speaker, I want to help the victims of the hurricane in every way I can. I am here today, and like millions of Americans, my wife and I are contributing to private relief efforts.

But, Mr. Speaker, there has to come a time for accountability. If there is not accountability for the stunning failures that we have seen in our government's response to this hurricane, we will fail again and again.

I know that this administration thinks that accountability is an ephemeral thing. If there is an attempt at accountability too soon, it is finger-pointing. If there is an attempt at accountability too late, then it is something you should get over. There is just a moment for accountability.

Mr. Speaker, tell me when that moment will be? Tell me precisely when the moment will come for accountability for the failures of our response, for the failures of our planning that have led to the devastation and the hardships that we are seeing now.

Mr. Speaker, tell me where the line forms to ask hard questions.

□ 1545

RIISING TO THE OCCASION AS AMERICANS TO HELP AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, yes, New Orleans is worth saving and rebuilding. It is one of the most American cities, for it represents how diversity comes together in harmony and blends into our music, our foods, our culture, and our Americanism.

Response to this disaster was a miserable failure. Americans died, Americans went hungry, Americans were living for days without water and without health services. You can live without food for 7 days, but you cannot live without water. Our health services were dysfunctional. We must admit, we failed at protecting our American citizens in our own homeland.

We as Congress must rise to the occasion. We have American citizens suffering and cannot get immediate help to them. Medics always take our wounded off the battlefields. Our social contract says trust us and we will deliver in your time of need. This is America's Gulf War.

One-half million people have been uprooted. Millions of people in Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana, have been affected. 150,000 of the displaced live below the poverty line, and 50,000 of them are post-retirement age.

So what are we doing about it? What am I doing about it? I have called my State government, I have called my board of education, I have called my local representatives to ask them to do a displacement absorption plan; invite them to California, invite them to Los Angeles. Share your housing with a family. Share your schools, your colleges and your universities with those post-secondary students. Both public and private colleges must kick in.

We have started the New Orleans Hurricane Relief Fund. I am collecting money, along with several other organizations in the L.A. area and with one of our major radio stations, and we are having that money hand-carried into these disaster areas to the leadership that has been chosen to be responsible.

Mr. Speaker, there are so many things that we can do and we must do, and we must do them now. I do not want to watch television another evening and see people begging for food and water, begging for medicine, begging to be taken out of areas that are soaked with water that will be causing diseases, with an environment that is polluted from the smoke coming up from the buildings that are on fire.

Where are we when the world is watching? I am embarrassed for the U.N. to say we are going to help you,

but I am overjoyed that other nations are addressing our needs when we are in need, as we have addressed theirs when they are in need.

So let us rise to the occasion. Let us save Americans. They are not refugees; they are citizens of the United States.

IN SUPPORT OF EMERGENCY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this emergency appropriation.

This is a moment of crisis for America. This is a test of our character as a great nation.

As we gather here in relative comfort, Americans are dying in Louisiana. At this moment, Americans are facing danger and desperation in Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi.

We all have seen the horrific pictures. We have heard the desperate screams for help. We all have heard the accounts of the almost unimaginable devastation that has gripped America's Gulf Coast.

Now is the time for Americans to immediately respond. Now is the time for us, as a people, to take action with a force equal to that of Hurricane Katrina.

We face an enormous challenge; yet, this is not the time to become overwhelmed. It is, however, a time that cries out for a heightened sense of urgency.

Now is the time for immediate and effective action, as a nation and individually.

The Federal Government is responding—and we are moving to pick up the pace.

Today, the Congress will approve a \$10 billion emergency aid package to help fund relief efforts.

The members of the Congressional Black Caucus have pledged to do all that we can to help. Several of our members will be visiting the Gulf Coast in the next few weeks to provide support. However, we cannot stop here.

The Bush administration and the Congress must demonstrate that we share the sense of urgency felt by those on the front lines of this battle for survival on the Gulf Coast. We must dedicate the full resources of the Federal Government to stabilize, repair, and rebuild this important region of our country.

There is no time to waste, for people are dying. The destruction caused by the aftermath of this storm gets worse every hour.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans felt lucky just to be alive after surviving the storm. Now, they are in a continuing struggle for their survival. Men, women and children (our countrymen) have now gone days without food—and far too long without the clean water and medical attention that they need. They are surrounded by flood waters littered with dead bodies.

It is the frail, sick, weak, and elderly that are dying, all while the Nation is about to celebrate a long holiday weekend.

Many of those now in such dire circumstances were already living in poverty and destitution even before Hurricane Katrina. They had no ability to evacuate. And, now, their very survival depends upon the response of their country.

Many of these Americans who now are struggling to survive are Americans of color.

Their cries for assistance confront America with a test of our moral compass as a Nation. We cannot allow it to be said by history that the difference between those who lived and those who died in the great storm and flood of 2005 was nothing more than poverty, age or skin color. It would be unconscionable to stand by and do nothing.

I had a constructive conversation yesterday with Mr. Claude Allen, the President's top assistant for domestic policy. I am confident that the Federal Government is expanding and intensifying its response as I speak.

Yet, government cannot succeed in this challenge without help. We must challenge leaders in the private sector to formulate strategies as to how they can best contribute.

We have long heard claims of "compassionate conservatism" among our Nation's leaders. This is the time for those with wealth and resources to step up to the plate and demonstrate that compassion.

This is the time to save human lives. People are dying because they have no water. Companies that bottle water now have the power to save lives. Infants are dying because there is no baby formula to keep them alive. Companies that make this formula must be on the front lines. Food companies could work with the National Guard to coordinate the distribution of food to the victims. Private contractors that have helicopters and boats and buses at their disposal could put those tools to work in the service of their country.

It has been reported that oil producers and home improvement stores may actually benefit in the long run from Hurricane Katrina. These are industries that should be the first to offer support.

Ladies and gentlemen, I am not saying that nothing is being done at this time, although we all expected the Federal response would have been more immediate.

Nevertheless, generosity of spirit is being demonstrated by countless individuals in this country who have given an outpouring of support.

Now, however, is the time for those who can make a major impact with just one phone call to do so. And if these private companies already have something planned, it is important that they coordinate their efforts to provide their help most effectively.

This crisis demands a heightened—and sustained—sense of urgency.

The public has asked what they can do. They can begin by donating to the various charities that have pledged to help in the relief effort. They can also follow our lead today by demanding that the mayors and governors across this great Nation provide essential services to those now seeking shelter and aid.

In Matthew 25, verses 34 through 40, the Lord gives a simple explanation of what is demanded of true Christians:

Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world."

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed

you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?"

The King will reply, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Mr. President, the least of our brothers have lost the little they had. They are hungry, they are suffering, and they are vulnerable now to the worst expressions of human desperation. You have recognized that our response to date has fallen short of our duties.

And I fear that God, also, would not be pleased. We are called on to do all that is necessary to care for our brothers at this time. And we pledge to work with you to extend our Nation's hand and all of our Nation's resources to those in dire need.

When history looks back upon how our Nation pulled through this difficult time, let it reveal a record worthy of a great Nation.

HELPING VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, like so many families, my family has been watching the horrible scenes that we see from Mississippi and Louisiana, and really every day my wife, Leslie, and I talk about how lucky we are and talk about how really the trivial problems in our life are just that, trivial, compared to what is going on elsewhere.

Last night, I told her a story that I had not thought about in a long time, that was, that back in 1969, it was August of 1969, three friends of mine from school, Jim Caperton, Doug Young and Sammy Sells, we went down to Jackson, Mississippi, for a school program; and we were there when Hurricane Camille struck the coast. Some National Guard came to our meeting and said, Would any of you volunteer to go down and help clean up after Hurricane Camille?

Well, Doug and Jim and Sammy and I decided we would do that. We wanted to help, and we also thought it would be an adventure. So we got in the back of the National Guard truck and started heading down to the coast. As we drove down there, there was just a steady stream of cars and trucks and buses coming the other way. So many folks had all the goods that they could salvage tied down to their car and were coming this way.

Then when we got there, it was shocking. I had seen what a tornado could do in my hometown of Murphysboro to a house, and I had seen how it was torn up. But at that time, what you found is that the hurricane would send in these massive tides. They would tear down anything in their way and then take it all back out to sea, and it was like it had never been there before, and all you might see would be maybe some brick steps here and there to a home. It was, as I say, shocking.

The first thing that we were asked to do was to hand out food and water to some of the survivors there. It was, again, shocking to see the desperation on their faces, the unbelievableness of what was happening to them.

It really reminds me, there was an old blues song that said something to the effect that the only thing that I own is what is on my back, and I have been wearing those clothes for the last 4 days. That was really the situation of all these people at that time.

Then they took us over to a dorm late that night, or what seemed to be a dorm, there was no electricity or water and all the windows were all blown out, and we swept the glass out, turned over the mattresses and fell asleep in an exhaustive state and got up the next day.

The next day our job was to sort through clothes that had been shipped from all over the country. We would separate them into women's clothes and men's clothes and different sizes, and we handed out those clothes again to people that were lined up in the only clothes that they had for quite some time.

So my wife, Leslie, last night was telling me, we have a four-year-old daughter, her name is Payton, and like all little girls, she has outgrown a lot of her clothes. I have been trying to get my wife to donate them to the church so that someone would get some good use out of them, but Leslie feels like sort of giving up those clothes is like giving up those early years of our daughter's life. But last night she said, You know, we need to box these clothes up and send them to Mississippi and to Louisiana. So that is what we are doing.

Then I called my mother and I talked with her, and she told me the story that she has told me a lot of times in the past. When she was a little girl, their house burned; and when their house burned, they lost everything. Back then, when you lived out in the country and your house burned, you did not have insurance. All you had was your neighbors and friends and whatever generosity that they might provide. So now I think that really we really are the neighbors and friends of these desperate folks down in Louisiana and Mississippi, and we all need to try to find a way to help them.

I hope I can help you to help them. For the ones of you that live in the Sixth Congressional District in Tennessee, you can get on my Web site, www.house.gov/bart, and we will give you a list of organizations and ways to help. If you do not live in the Sixth District of Tennessee, then the Federal Government has set up a Web site, it is www.firstgov.gov, and that is the way that you can help.

I think by helping, it makes all of us feel that in some way we are trying to relieve this horrible pain that other folks are going through. They are our neighbors, and we need to help. Here is how you can do it.

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, we gathered here in the People's House today to provide some financial assistance to those who have suffered as a result of this natural disaster. I think it is important for us to remember that those who are suffering most are those who are the poorest among us.

I was reading the New York Times, and I read this comment from an engineering professor at the State University of Louisiana who has served as a consultant on Louisiana's State evacuation plan. He said that little attention had been paid to the evacuation of New Orleans' low mobility population, the elderly, the infirm and the poor without cars or other means of fleeing the city, about 100,000 people.

We knew this disaster was upon us days before it reached our shore. In fact, the President went on television and urged people to evacuate the city. We saw the TV pictures of cars lining the freeways as they were heading northward out of harm's way. But apparently there were many in New Orleans and elsewhere along the hurricane's path that did not have cars, that did not have credit cards, that had no means of renting an automobile for transportation, that could not afford a bus ticket, that simply were left behind. These were the poorest among the city's population.

Then the flooding came, and these, the sickest, the poorest, the oldest, along with many children, have died; and the sad truth is that many have died unnecessarily. Many have died simply because they lacked for water, they lacked for food, they lacked for timely medical attention.

We are the greatest, most advanced Nation on the face of the Earth. We have at our disposal every resource that is known to mankind. Yet when disaster hit our own country, when our own citizens were without food and water and medical care, we did not respond in a timely manner, so many lost their lives. And those who lost their lives were primarily black and they were primarily poor, and that should strike at the conscience of every one of us.

We are all a part of a great human family, but we are also a part of a great national family; and when tragedy strikes any of us, all of us should feel affected.

Mr. Speaker, the House has done a good thing today in providing initial relief resources, but there is much more that needs to be done in the days and months ahead. One of the things that must be done is for us to examine ourselves as a Federal Government and as a people. Why is it, why is it that it is the poor, the minority, the child, the elderly and the infirm who are most likely to suffer in times of disaster,

whether they be of man-made proportions or of a natural occurrence?

Mr. Speaker, we should all pray that those who are in need of assistance at this hour receive it as quickly as possible, but we should also hold those accountable who are responsible for making sure that that assistance is available in a timely manner.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3645. An Act making emergency supplemental appropriations to meet immediate needs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. MAC THORNBERRY TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC, SEPTEMBER 2, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through September 6, 2005.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KUCINICH) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KUCINICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WEXLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BAIRD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NADLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MARKEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OBERSTAR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SHAYS) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BLUNT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GIBBONS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHAYS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. HARRIS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. CAPITO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURGESS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WAMP, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KIRK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SIMMONS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at his own request) to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GORDON, for 5 minutes, today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3. An act to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6. An act to ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy.

H.R. 1132. An act to provide for the establishment of a controlled substance monitoring program in each State.

H.R. 3512. An act to provide an extension of administrative expenses for highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on July 29, 2005 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.J. Res. 59. Expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the establishment of an appropriate day for the commemoration of the women suffragists who fought for and won the right of women to vote in the United States.

H.R. 2361. Making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2985. Making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3045. To implement the Dominican Republic-Central America-United States Free Trade Agreement.

H.R. 3423. To amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to medical device user fees.

H.R. 3512. To provide an extension of administrative expenses for highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and

other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House also reports that on August 4, 2005 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 6. To ensure jobs for our future with secure, affordable, and reliable energy.

H.R. 1132. To provide for the establishment of a controlled substance monitoring program in each State.

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House also reports that on August 10, 2005 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 3. To authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 51, 109th Congress, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 51, 109th Congress, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2005.

Thereupon, (at 3 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution 51, the House adjourned until Tuesday, September 6, 2005, at 2 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3591. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting requests for emergency FY 2005 supplemental appropriations for the Departments of Homeland Security and Defense; (H. Doc. No. 109-52); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

3592. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3593. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3594. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3595. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant

to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3596. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3597. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3598. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3599. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3600. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3601. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3602. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3603. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3604. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3605. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3606. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant

to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3607. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3608. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3609. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting certified materials supplied to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission, pursuant to Public Law 101-510, section 2903(c)(6) and 2914(b)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3610. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the emergency regarding export control regulations is to continue in effect beyond August 17, 2005, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 109-51); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

3611. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 16-169, "Homeless Services Act of 2005," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

3612. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Seventh Coast Guard District [CGD07-05-009] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received August 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3613. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Newtown Creek, Dutch Kills, English Kills, and their tributaries, NY [CGD01-05-032] received August 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3614. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Napa River, CA [CGD 11-05-025] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received August 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3615. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security and Safety Zone; M/V Spirit of Ontario, Lake Ontario, NY [CGD09-05-054] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3616. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Anchorage, Cook Inlet [COTP Western Alaska 05-007] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3617. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone Regulation; Tampa Bay, FL [COTP TAMPA 05-077] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3618. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Savannah River, Savannah, GA [COTP Savannah-05-026] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3619. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Savannah River, Savannah, GA [COTP Savannah-05-045] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3620. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Savannah River, Savannah, GA [COTP Savannah-05-061] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3621. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Savannah River, Savannah, GA [COTP Savannah-05-064] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3622. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Savannah River, Savannah, GA [COTP Savannah-05-071] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3623. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Savannah River, Savannah, GA [COTP Savannah-05-086] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3624. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Entrance of St. Marys River to Kings Bay, GA [COTP Jacksonville 05-069] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3625. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Kings Bay to the sea buoy at the entrance of St. Marys River, GA [COTP Jacksonville 05-070] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3626. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; St. Marys River to Kings Bay [COTP Jacksonville 05-085] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3627. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Ribault Bay to St. Johns River [COTP Jacksonville 05-094] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3628. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Entrance of St. Johns River to Ribault Bay [COTP Jacksonville 05-095] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3629. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; President Bush, Milwaukee, WI. Lake Michigan, Racine, Wisconsin [CGD09-05-018] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3630. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Severn River and College Creek, Annapolis, Maryland [CGD05-05-057] (RIN: 1625-AA87) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3631. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Spa Creek, Annapolis, Maryland [CGD05-05-036] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 25, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

3632. A letter from the Regulatory Ombudsman, FMCSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Hours of Service of Drivers [Docket No. FMCSA-2004-19608; formerly FMCSA-1997-2350] (RIN: 2126-AA90) re-

ceived August 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[Omitted from the Record of July 29, 2005]

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BARTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 1640. A bill to ensure jobs for our future with secure and reliable energy, with an amendment (Rept. 109-215 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BOEHLERT: Committee on Federal energy research, development demonstration, and commercial application activities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109-216 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEES

[Omitted from the Record of July 29, 2005]

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII:

The Committees on Energy and Commerce, Resources and Transportation and Infrastructure discharged from further consideration H.R. 610. Ordered to be printed.

The Committee on Homeland Security discharged from further consideration H.R. 889. Ordered to be printed.

The Committees on Science, Resources, Education and the Workforce, Transportation and Infrastructure, Financial Services, and Agriculture discharged from further consideration H.R. 1640. Ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. LEWIS of California:

H.R. 3645. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations to meet immediate

needs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 3646. A bill to provide consumers with relief from high gas prices; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 215: Mr. LEACH.

H.R. 224: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 521: Mr. CAMP and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 690: Mrs. CAPITO and Mr. MOLLOHAN.

H.R. 1079: Mr. MOLLOHAN.

H.R. 1182: Mr. WEXLER.

H.R. 1806: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 2238: Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. TIBERI.

H.R. 2694: Mr. ANDREWS.

H.R. 2899: Mr. HOLDEN.

H.R. 3144: Mr. HAYWORTH.

H.R. 3196: Ms. LEE.

H. Res. 360: Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. MACK, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. FOSSELLA, and Mr. ISSA.

H. Res. 375: Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HOLT, Mr. FILNER, Mr. WYNN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. LEACH, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF THE PATRIOT ACT IS ESSENTIAL

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 21, 2005, I voted against final passage of H.R. 3199, providing for the reauthorization of 16 sunset provisions of the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism (USA PATRIOT Act) Act of 2001.

Following the horrific and devastating attacks of 9/11, Congress acted swiftly by enacting the PATRIOT Act just six weeks after the terrorist attacks. I voted for the original PATRIOT Act because it gave our intelligence and law enforcement agencies the tools they needed to fight the war on terrorism. Congress recognized, however, the need to review certain provisions of the Act that could change our way of life and liberty in this country. It is not a good idea to make permanent policy for the United States concerning our fundamental rights and freedoms during extraordinary times of war. We must never allow the terrorists to alter the freedoms that define our country and make us the greatest Nation in the world.

While I still believe that the 16 provisions of the Act are necessary to protect the Nation against future terrorist attacks, I do not believe that it is necessary or strategic to make these provisions permanent. We have learned that the terrorists will change the nature of their attacks in whatever way is needed to try and overcome our security forces. It is essential that our investigative agencies have the ability to review these laws over time to make adjustments according to our ever-changing security needs.

The PATRIOT Act should be a living document that Congress reviews frequently to correct any problems or abuses and strengthens when there are indicators that additional tools are needed to protect Americans in the war on terrorism.

While our national security must be protected, we can and must fight terrorism without violating the very constitutional protections that define us as a nation and make us the greatest country in the world.

Congressional oversight of the PATRIOT Act is essential.

OVERTURN THE BRAC COMMISSION'S DECISION REGARDING FORT MONMOUTH

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, today I joined a number of New Jersey officials and citizens in

filing suit in Federal court in an effort to overturn the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Commission's decision to uphold the Pentagon's recommendation to close Fort Monmouth. This lawsuit is about protecting our men and women in the field. They are fighting for us every day, and I'm going to continue fighting for them. Closing Fort Monmouth would disrupt their current efforts and jeopardize their safety and effectiveness. Eleven generals and the BRAC Commission itself recognized the dangers involved.

In making its recommendation pertaining to Fort Monmouth, the BRAC Commission exceeded its authority and failed to comply with statutorily required procedures. Our lawsuit does not ask the court to revisit the data or arguments reviewed by the BRAC Commission. We are simply asking the court to review the process and determine whether the BRAC Commission failed to comply with the BRAC Acts of 2005 and 1990. If we win, the remedy is simple: take the fort off the list.

Even as we continue to fight for Fort Monmouth, we must also plan for a future that may not include it. The men and women who work at Fort Monmouth deserve nothing less, and I am working with Federal, State, and local leaders to develop a comprehensive plan for Monmouth County's future that will give us the best opportunity to preserve jobs, stimulate our economy, and enhance our quality of life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 2005, I inadvertently failed to cast a recorded vote on rollcall vote 11, concerning the Crowley amendment to H.R. 54. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted "aye."

On Sunday, March 20, I was unable to get a flight to Washington, D.C., after learning that there would be a recorded vote on legislation regarding Terri Schiavo, which occurred at 12:45 a.m. on March 21, 2005. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 90, concerning S. 686.

On April 27, 2005, I accidentally voted "no" on rollcall vote 142, the Jackson-Lee amendment to H.R. 748, when I had intended to vote "aye."

On May 4, 2005, I inadvertently failed to cast a recorded vote on rollcall vote 156, concerning H. Res. 195. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted "aye."

On May 23, I inadvertently failed to cast a recorded vote on rollcall vote 200, concerning H.R. 744. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted "aye."

On June 8, I inadvertently failed to cast a recorded vote on rollcall vote 235, concerning the Chabot amendment to H.R. 2744. Had I cast my vote, I would have voted "no."

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE KANSAS DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN NORBERT DREILING

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 2, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Norbert Dreiling, of Hays, Kansas, who died on August 1, 2005.

Norbert Dreiling will long be remembered in Kansas as one of the fathers of the modern Kansas Democratic Party. As Representative JERRY MORAN of Kansas said in his very generous tribute to Norbert Dreiling before the House on July 19, 2004, "Through years of dedicated service, he breathed life into a struggling Democratic Party and established a lasting two-party system in Kansas." Under Chairman Dreiling's leadership, for the first time an incumbent Republican governor of Kansas was defeated by a Democratic challenger, Robert Docking, who was elected governor four times—the most terms ever served by a governor in Kansas. In addition to his extensive service to his community, State and nation, Norbert Dreiling also maintained a successful law practice and was instrumental in promoting the Volga-German heritage of Hays and Ellis County, Kansas.

Norbert Dreiling was born April 7, 1925, in Gorham, Kansas, and married Donna Jean Myerly in 1948. He was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, St. Joseph 3rd Degree Knights of Columbus and 4th Degree Bishop Cunningham Assembly Knights of Columbus, all of Hays. He was a graduate of St. Joseph Military Academy, Fort Hays State University and Washburn University Law School. He was senior partner in the law firm of Dreiling, Bieker and Hoffman, Hays. He was elected and served two terms as Ellis County Attorney, served as Kansas State Democratic Chairman from 1966 to 1974, and led several delegations to the National Democratic Conventions. He was a member of the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity. He was involved in numerous non-political civic and educational activities. He was a charter member of Hays Kiwanis Club, a charter member of the Volga German Society of Hays, a Fort Hays State University Endowment Association Trustee and the Washburn Law School Board of Governors. He was a member of the Board of Directors of St. Anthony Hospital and Farmers State Bank, both of Hays. He helped establish and create St. Johns Rest Home of Victoria and Hays, serving on the board for many years. He was the recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award from Fort Hays State University. He was honored by TMP-Marian High School in Hays and was the first recipient of the St. Thomas More Friend For All Seasons Award. Survivors include his wife, Donna Jean Dreiling, of the home; two sons, Mark Dreiling, Denver, Colo., and Curt Dreiling, Estes Park, Colo.; two daughters, Jan Schuster, Bradenton, Fla., and Kathy Dreiling,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Colorado Springs, Colo.; and 10 grandchildren, Kimberly McDaniels, Brian Schuster, Jeffrey Dreiling, Scott Schuster, Jackson Dreiling, Nicholas Dreiling, Krysta Dreiling, Sean Dreiling, Amy Schuster and Sam Talarico.

Mr. Speaker, longtime Kansas Democratic Party activist Glenn Staab of Hays, posted a blog on the state party's website on the day of Norbert Dreiling's death that provides a fitting summary of the life and legacy of former Chairman Dreiling. I am reproducing it in the RECORD here in its entirety, followed by Topeka Capital Journal coverage of his death.

Norbert Dreiling passed away today (8-1-05). Norbert was my first political hero. He was very generous with his time when it came to talking politics. I never visited him without taking pen and paper. Some of those notes are over thirty years old. Following is the column I wrote about Norbert that appeared in the Hays Daily News on November 23, 2003.

President John Kennedy was assassinated 40 years ago last Saturday. It was my generation's "moment in history." Every generation has a, "Where were you when . . .?"

I consider JFK's assassination my first political encounter. It is my first memory of a President, and the tragedy as it unfolded was my first taste of national politics. Since I'm always looking for an excuse to visit with Norbert Dreiling, the infamous anniversary gave me a reason to sit down and speak with him about his relationship with President Kennedy.

Norbert Dreiling was the Ellis County Democratic Chair when a Senator from Massachusetts was considering a run for President. He was Democrat, and he was Catholic. The Kennedy people were looking for a "bell-weather" county to test the waters. Norbert had already been working with the Kennedy campaign for some period when our heavily Democratic, heavily Catholic county was chosen as that county to host a banquet.

The event was sold out and exceeded Kennedy staff's expectations. Kennedy's announcement for President followed soon after. Norbert became very familiar with the inner circle of the Kennedy campaign, family and presidency. After Kennedy was elected, Norbert paid a visit to the newly elected President. Ted Sorensen, a member of the inner council, spread a large map of the United States to show Norbert the states and counties that had voted for JFK. Sorensen said, "Ellis County was regarded highly by those who were active in this campaign."

Kennedy's visit was the first Presidential hopeful's visit to Hays since Teddy Roosevelt in 1903. So, to date, three Presidential hopefuls visited Hays in the 1900's and were successful in their electoral bids: Roosevelt in '03; Kennedy in '59; Al Gore in '88 who won in 2000, but was not allowed to serve his term.

Norbert was the Kansas Democratic State Chair as Robert Docking was successful in four consecutive two-year terms for Governor; which will never happen again, unless the state constitution is changed. It was during this time that I started reading Norbert Dreiling quotes and taking a real interest in politics. I can remember thinking that I would like to be that clever someday. I'm still waiting.

I remember sitting in Norbert's office listening to his campaign stories. No one could tell a story better than he. He could mesmerize an audience with his speeches. Today, he battles against Parkinson's. His speech is halted and almost a whisper, but that hasn't hindered his opinions.

His disdain of the current Bush administration is clear. He detests the "permissive binge" of big corporations. He adds that those who profess to support the constitution "give little credit to those who hold the country together."

When asked about present day politics, he said, "The politics of this era should reflect the greatness of this country. There is much material wealth that could be available to assure that good could be done—especially for the poor and the disabled and here we are in another war. One asks if we did learn anything from Vietnam? The Balkans?"

To this day, Norbert is sought out for political advice. Patrick Murray was hired as the Executive Director of the Kansas Democratic Party last spring. The twenty-four-year-old Maryland Democrat was given instructions by state officials to visit with Norbert for his opinions and history of Kansas politics. Murray said of his visit, "You can't plan for the future if you don't understand the past. The insight that Mr. Dreiling gave me on state and national politics was beyond measure."

I asked Norbert for examples of people that give him credit for their political involvement. He said, "A lot of people say a lot of nice things."

When asked about family coming home for the holidays, he related that all his kids were coming home. It was a chance for us to agree on something besides politics. I told him to say "Hi" to his daughter Kathy, relating to him that she is still the best "Dolly" I've ever seen. He told me that although her lead performance as a junior at Hays High School in "Hello Dolly" was over two decades ago, people still stop him and tell him the same thing I did.

This Thanksgiving I am thankful for family and friends, but I am also thankful for Norbert Dreiling and his influence in my love of politics.

Our community owes much to Norbert Dreiling. He has been generous in countless ways. And one afternoon in November 1959,

he brought a touch of Camelot to Hays.—Glenn Staab

[The Topeka Capital-Journal, Aug. 3, 2005]

(By Chris Moon)

DOCKING CAMPAIGNER DIES AT 80

Norbert Dreiling, the western Kansas lawyer credited with "making it acceptable to be a Democrat in Kansas," died Monday. He was 80.

In the 1960s and 1970s, Dreiling led Democrat Robert Docking to an unprecedented four straight general election wins, earning admiration from Democrats and Republicans alike.

Topeka lawyer Larry Tenopir, a longtime Democratic Party leader in Kansas, said Dreiling turned the fortunes of the Kansas Democratic Party during the Docking years—"just by making it acceptable to be a Democrat in Kansas."

"Winning had a lot to do with that," he said.

Dreiling started his law practice in Hays in 1949 and also began volunteering as a Democratic precinct committeeman. That eventually led him into the heart of statewide politics in the late 1960s.

But before and after that—his close colleagues chime in—Dreiling was a lawyer.

"Norb Dreiling was the best lawyer I ever met," said Dennis Bieker, who has worked as a partner in Dreiling's Hays law firm since 1966.

He said Dreiling had a way of communicating the most complex schemes in simple terms that jurors could understand—a skill he transferred to the political realm when he served as state party chairman from 1966 to 1974.

"He understood the basics of politics, which is communication 101," said Tenopir, who was a leader of the Young Democrats at the time.

He recalled 6-inch-tall stickers used in a Docking campaign, which read "Docking Stands for You" and showed the governor standing up.

In a speech last year before Congress, Republican U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran—also from Dreiling's hometown of Hays—called the Democratic activist "the father of Democratic politics in the state of Kansas."

Moran on Tuesday credited Dreiling for his work in the community, helping the local hospital, Catholic school and Fort Hays State University.

"He was the go-to guy for fundraising," Moran said. "He's the epitome of a small town community leader, a lawyer, who wants to make a difference in his community."

Friday, September 2, 2005

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, at 12 noon.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 2 public bills, H.R. 3645–3646, were introduced. **Page H7645**

Additional Cosponsors: **Page H7645**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

H.R. 1640, to ensure jobs for our future with secure and reliable energy, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–215 Pt. 1) (filed on July 29, 2005); and

H.R. 610, to provide for Federal energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities, with an amendment (H. Rept. 109–216 Pt. 1) (filed on July 29, 2005). **Page H7645**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative DeLay to act as speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H7615**

Notification of Reassembly: Read the text of the formal notification sent to Members on Thursday, September 1, 2005, of the reassembling of the House. **Page H7615**

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Cox, wherein he resigned as Representative of the 48th Congressional district of California, effective at 6 p.m. on August 2, 2005. **Page H7616**

Message From the Clerk: Read letters from the Clerk notifying the House that he received messages from the Senate. **Page H7616**

Making emergency supplemental appropriations to meet immediate needs arising from the con-

sequences of Hurricane Katrina, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005—**Order of Business:** The House agreed that it shall be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider H.R. 3645 in the House; the bill shall be considered as read; the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill to final passage without intervening motion except (1) 10 minutes of debate on the bill equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations and (2) one motion to recommit; clause 10 of rule 20 shall not apply to the question of passage of the bill; and all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill. **Pages H7616–27**

Summer District Work Period: The House agreed to without objection S. Con. Res. 51, providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate. **Page H7627**

Senate Message: Messages received from the Senate today appear on pages H7615 and H7643.

Speaker pro tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Thornberry to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through September 6, 2005. **Page H7643**

Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no yea-and-nay votes, and there were no recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 1 p.m. and adjourned at 3:57 p.m. September 2, pursuant to the provisions of S. Con. Res. 51, stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

12 noon, Tuesday, September 6

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 p.m., Tuesday, September 6

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 12:30 p.m.), Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 147, Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon to occur at 5:30 p.m. Also, Senate may resume consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 8, Estate Tax Act, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: To be announced.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Holt, Rush D., N.J., E1747
Moore, Dennis, Kans., E1747, E1747, E1747



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