

In my district and in the State of New Jersey, we know the experience of tragedy personally and the sympathy of those in New Jersey extends at the deepest level to those who lived through Hurricane Katrina.

Four years ago on September 11th, 700 of our friends and neighbors from my state of New Jersey never returned home from work and never returned to their families. The smoking ruins of the Twin Towers were visible for my entire district to see and many of the police and emergency response people that responded so heroically to the attacks were from New Jersey.

I can't tell you how many memorial services I attended for people in my own district, nor describe in words the sympathy and sorrow I felt for family members who lost loved ones from all over the country.

That is why I committed that very day to taking every action to make sure that our Nation and her citizens never have to go through what we did on that terrible day four years ago. And since we know the enemy seeks to attack again, I have worked to ensure that our country is as prepared as we can be for a future attack and ready to respond once it does occur.

That is also why I support this resolution as an expression of my deepest sympathy to families and friends of the thousands of victims of that fateful day.

I support it as an expression of our Nation's gratitude and pride in our men and women in uniform who have performed with brilliance and valor in the war on terror and Operation Iraqi Freedom. To date, almost 1,900 Americans have made the ultimate sacrifice in support of our country, in Iraq, while many others have done so around the world in the fight against terror.

For me personally, I cannot walk outside into a crystal, clear, cloudless blue sky in September like we have today without remembering the very same sky on that tragic day in September. I cannot walk outside remembering the contrast between the beauty of that sky and the terror which came from it.

To those who survived and to the families who lost their loved ones, I know that four years has not taken away the pain.

To those who survived and to the families, I know that you will have to live with the consequences of that tragedy for the rest of your lives.

To those who survived and to the families, I say that we will never forget those innocent people who were murdered in cold blood and that we honor you for your courage, your will to survive, and for the strength you have shared with our Nation.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 427.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1415

REQUEST FOR GENERAL LEAVE  
ON H.R. 3673

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3673.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I object.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

SECOND EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS ARISING FROM THE CONSEQUENCES OF HURRICANE KATRINA, 2005

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3673) making further 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.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3673

*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 DEFENSE—MILITARY  
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE  
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE  
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for "Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide", \$1,400,000,000 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 not to exceed \$6,000,000 may be transferred to "Armed Forces Retirement Home" for emergency hurricane expenses: *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 pro-

vided 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 Committees on Appropriations in writing of any such transfer: *Provided further*, That the amounts provided herein are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress).

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL  
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

For an additional amount for "Operation and Maintenance" for emergency expenses for repair of storm damage to authorized projects in the Gulf states affected by Hurricane Katrina, \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Chief of Engineers, acting through the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, shall provide, at a minimum, a weekly report to the Committees on Appropriations detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than September 15, 2005: *Provided further*, That the amount provided herein is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress).

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For an additional amount for "Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies", as authorized by section 5 of the Flood Control Act of August 16, 1941 (33 D.S.C. 701), for emergency expenses for repair of damage to flood control and hurricane shore protection projects in the Gulf states caused by Hurricane Katrina, \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Chief of Engineers, acting through the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, shall provide, at a minimum, a weekly report to the Committees on Appropriations detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than September 15, 2005: *Provided further*, That the amount provided herein is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress).

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE  
DISASTER RELIEF

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for "Disaster Relief", \$50,000,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That up to \$100,000,000 may be transferred to and merged with "Emergency Preparedness and Response—Public Health Programs" for the National Disaster Medical System to support medical care as authorized by the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (42 U.S.C. 300hh-11): *Provided further*, That \$15,000,000 shall be transferred to and merged with "Departmental Management and Operations—Office of Inspector General" for necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General for audits and investigations as authorized by law for Hurricane Katrina response and recovery activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide, at a minimum, a weekly report to the Committees on Appropriations detailing the allocation and obligation of these funds, beginning not later than September 15, 2005: *Provided further*, That the amounts provided herein are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress).

GENERAL PROVISION

SEC. 101. For procurements of property or services determined by the head of an executive agency to be used in support of Hurricane Katrina rescue and relief operations—

(1) the emergency procurement authority in subsection 32A(c) of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 428a(c)) may be used; and

(2) the amount specified in subsections (c), (d) and (f) of section 32 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 428) shall be \$250,000.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) each will control 20 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.

Mr. Speaker, it was less than 1 week ago that Congress approved \$10.5 billion in disaster aid to begin providing immediate assistance to the people of the gulf coast. That emergency supplemental bill was the first of what will likely be several supplementals addressing the urgent needs of our citizens affected by Hurricane Katrina.

I plan to be very brief in my remarks.

The human needs in the gulf region are all too apparent. The President has promised an unprecedented level of assistance and, once again, Congress is backing that promise with the funding and resources to keep the aid flowing.

This is a straightforward supplemental providing \$51.8 billion for emergency response and recovery needs associated with this disaster. Our effort today will ensure that there is no disruption in funding for needed relief efforts. We fully expect to be approving still more assistance once we have an assessment of the full scope and costs of this disaster.

It is important for our Members to know that we are insisting on proper oversight for those appropriated dollars to ensure that funds are being spent wisely. Specifically, we have added a provision allowing the transfer of up to \$15 million from FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund to the Homeland Security inspector general. Congress also will provide that every dollar needed is spent to rebuild, but we will require accountability for every dollar that is spent.

The destruction along the gulf coast will require months and even years of intense effort to recover and rebuild. Congress and the Bush administration are fully committed to the rebuilding process.

One final thought in closing. I recall vividly the scene of Republicans and Democrats standing on the steps of the Capitol singing "God Bless America" on the evening of September 11, 2001. We stood not as partisans or political opponents, but as American citizens united in our grief and resolve. We would all do well to follow that model of comity and civility. Our success in rebuilding in the wake of this natural

disaster demands that we tone down our political rhetoric and weigh our words and actions carefully.

The lives and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people are at stake. The temptation to point fingers is great in the aftermath of a tragedy of this magnitude. Regardless of party affiliation, we must all resist this temptation to point fingers when our citizens are suffering and in need. There will be plenty of time to assess how and why this disaster occurred, but not today, not now. We must stand together as we did on 9/11, united as Americans, to assist our citizens in need.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, 19 times this year the majority party has asked me as the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations to help them with procedural waivers of House rules so they could accelerate the passage of their appropriations bills, and we provided that cooperation.

Today, under consideration of this bill we on the minority side asked for three things. We asked, first of all, that since the last money that was provided to the hurricane region was provided with virtually no real debate, we asked that this bill be brought to the floor under an open rule so that Members could offer amendments trying to increase the efficiency of the money which is going to be delivered to the stricken area. The majority party said "no."

The majority party then insisted on bringing this bill up under suspension despite the fact that their own caucus rules indicate that no bill should be brought to the floor under suspension, which means no Member has a right to amend. Their own rules say that they should not be brought to the House floor unless the bill is under \$100 million. This is a \$50 billion bill.

Thirdly, because we had 17 Members who wanted to comment or ask questions about it, we asked if they were going to consider it under a closed rule that they give each side of House 1 hour to discuss the matter. We have been turned down.

Lastly, we asked the majority to provide for us an opportunity for at least one amendment so that we can correct the fact that right now FEMA has been used as a political dumping ground for patronage by the White House, and as a result we have a dysfunctional and chaotic agency. We were not even allowed to offer that amendment.

So I simply want to put the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) on notice. He need not bother me asking me for any further procedural considerations for the rest of the session. If the gentleman wants to stick to the rules, we are going to stick to the rules.

I agree with the gentleman that it would be nice if we could follow on the model of 9/11 when we had bipartisan

consideration of these matters. The reason we had bipartisanship is because the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOUNG) and I worked together. We were consulted equally. We met in the Speaker's office and the minority had some opportunity for input in the product.

We have been given no such opportunity by the White House, by your leadership, or by you yourself under those circumstances. I think the gentleman needs to expect to receive the same kind of cooperation which he has extended.

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. ALEXANDER).

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to personally thank all of the Members of the House for the help that they have given us, for their kindness, for their prayers for the State of Louisiana.

What I am going to ask of Members today is if Members cannot vote for this measure, find a reason other than the Governor of Louisiana. I served with the lady 20 years ago in the State legislature. She had some criticism for me when I changed parties last year, but I understand that. But she is a decent lady and does not deserve to have her name mentioned in the same column with the word "corruption."

I would appreciate it if Members would refrain from throwing stones at this particular time. We have some devastation down there and a lot of hurt people, but please, if Members would find another reason other than that.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY).

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, we are now entering a new phase of this recovery effort. Although my Louisiana district did not suffer significant damage from the hurricane, we now face the enormous challenge of sheltering and supporting numerous evacuees now in southwest Louisiana.

In Lake Charles, Louisiana, a small community, we have an estimated 25,000 evacuees in need. In Lafayette, my hometown, there are an estimated 40,000 evacuees. We basically doubled our population. Funding appropriated in this installment today is critically needed to begin the transition from emergency shelter to a more permanent solution for housing of families of the gulf coast that are affected by this disaster.

The resources of local communities providing for these evacuees are being stretched ever so thinly now. The Cajundome in Lafayette, my hometown, continues to house nearly 5,000 individuals at a cost of nearly \$60,000

per day. In a mere 30 days we will deplete the budget allocated for that facility for the entire year, so we need help.

Local community organizations are stepping up to help, but have limited resources. The recovery process will be long and expensive. The Federal Government must continue to step in and bring its full resources to the effort and Congress must provide proper oversight.

The visual images of all of this have been just horrific and the human stories are unbelievable to hear. And I have been frustrated with some of the delays, but we must get the job done.

This is not the time to point fingers. This is not the time to cast blame. This is the time to get to work. We have an enormous amount of work to do in front of us, and it has to be done in a bipartisan fashion. I ask Members on both sides to use restraint in the debate. Accountability will come as we move forward.

I know Congress will look into the disaster, and I urge my colleagues to rise above the vicious rhetoric that does not provide for the thousands of children in my district who need school supplies and uniforms.

Displaced small businesses with help to get back on their feet; opportunities for families to reunite; housing for those without, or, seniors with medical care and comfort.

This emergency supplemental is the next installment in the long road to establishing the industries and communities of the Gulf Coast. I would like to thank the House leadership and my colleagues for their continued support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the supplemental.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), a member of our committee.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. I also want to point out that the chairman and ranking minority member have quite wisely repeated a precedent that we set in previous large supplementals of enhancing the capabilities of the Inspector General's office with new resources and new investigators to make sure that the assistance reaches those who are in need.

This legislation that we are considering is three times larger than any previous domestic disaster assistance legislation that we have considered. We were advised last night by OMB that the Federal Government is spending at the rate of \$2 billion a day, and that rate will likely continue for some time. In spending the taxpayers' resources that quickly, we want to make sure that we are still reaching those in need. We have seen in previous large supplementals, enhancing the Inspector General's Office creates a positive environment of making sure everybody knows that they are just in the office next door and if something uncared for is done, they could face consequences.

This legislation has that protection in it for the taxpayers.

□ 1430

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, we have talked a lot about making sure that we not overlook those who have been affected by this terrible tragedy. Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this bill, but also just to say we should make sure that we do not overlook those significant numbers of people that have been traumatized by this terrible event.

The mental health impact of this horrifying event, it cannot be measured in dollars. If trauma can disable even those who are trained for battle, we have seen police officers commit suicide already because of what they have witnessed, who can begin to even calculate the fallout on those who are most vulnerable, those who suffered trauma in the past, those who deal with mental illness every single day?

In addition, there is an extreme need for those with mental illnesses who have become evacuees themselves. Untreated, their diseases can be debilitating or even fatal under extreme stress. I know that efforts are under way by SAMPHSA and FEMA and many private organizations to meet the mental health needs today and in the future, but I also know that there are never enough resources when it comes to mental health, even in the best of times.

So I look forward to working with the committee to make sure that these and other needs are met in this bill.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BONNER).

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the events we have witnessed during the past 2 weeks on the gulf coast have been nothing short of tragic. Never in my life could I have imagined the scale of devastation which has come to pass in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

The endless stream of video on national television networks and cable stations has provided us with images that until recently we had only seen in devastated Third World countries in other parts of the world.

My district in south Alabama was severely impacted by this monstrous storm. In some areas, such as Bayou La Batre and Dauphin Island, entire neighborhoods and businesses have simply been washed away. As horrific as this impact has been on my constituents, it is only a small part of the overwhelming destruction covering 90,000 square miles along America's gulf coast.

Ninety thousand square miles. To put that in perspective, in the area commonly known as Ground Zero in New York City affected by the terrorists on September 11, it totaled just 16 acres.

As everyone in this Chamber is aware, particularly our friends in Louisiana and Mississippi, the recovery time facing us will be long and dif-

ficult. It will require determination, strength of mind, spirit and body; and it will require a sense of unity.

In the days since the storm, we have seen all of these qualities in great abundance, in the people doing such large things as providing housing, jobs and hot meals for displaced families, and those doing such small things as providing a hug to someone in need.

But this recovery will also require one other thing. It will require a tremendous amount of funding. The emergency supplemental measure under consideration here today will provide much-needed funding from local, State, and Federal agencies to continue the seemingly insurmountable task of rebuilding lives, communities, and States.

It is difficult to know what the final cost will be in rebuilding after Hurricane Katrina. However, the \$10.5 billion in emergency funding approved by this body last week was a good start, and the \$51.8 billion measure we are considering today will provide even more vital funding for the rebuilding of America's gulf coast.

I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for his leadership in this very difficult, yet important, matter. On behalf of my home State of Alabama, I want to especially thank President Bush for his assistance to the impacted region and for his tremendous display of support to those affected by this storm. I am also most grateful to the leadership of this House for responding so rapidly to the great challenges that this emergency funding will help address.

Let me close by urging my colleagues to support this measure and, in so doing, show their support and compassion for the millions of women, men and children impacted in countless ways, both great and small, by this storm. Hope is something Americans should never lose. Let us, by both our words and actions, continue to provide that hope.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. SABO), the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Homeland Security.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I rise in strong support for this bill and this supplemental appropriation. The Congress clearly needs to pass it as quickly as we can, but let me make just a few random comments.

I think it is obvious to most of us, or at least to me and some others, that the Federal Government probably would have responded more quickly and in a more professional manner to this crisis if FEMA existed as it existed before the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, and I think that is an issue at some point we have to deal with.

Secondly, I think it is appropriate that we deal with this bill quickly and as a supplemental appropriation today and do it quickly so we can meet real

urgent, current needs. However, at some point, as this need and the need for a supplemental grows, at some point we should follow regular order and have the administration respond to our committees and respond to questions and to build their case for what their plans are on what I expect will be a significantly larger amount of money that is being spent.

So while we proceed today, clearly we should plan, I would hope, the next time we face a bill, at least some committee hearings where Members can ask questions and the administration is required to provide some more detailed plans.

Thirdly, clearly the administration, we and everyone is guessing at what some of the needs are going to be, but one concern I have, what is lacking and that I have heard no discussion of, is we have dealt with kids in college, but we have thousands of kids in elementary and secondary education who have been uprooted from their homes, been uprooted from where they were planning to go to school a very short time ago and scattered throughout the country. They are going to have some very unique problems, and I have heard no discussion by the Department of Education of providing any additional funding for these kids in whatever school districts they end up around the country.

I think that clearly should be the responsibility of the Federal Government. I think they are going to have unique needs in terms of counseling, and it is going to put additional burdens for additional students on school districts; but if there are any plans for doing it, they have escaped me. So I would hope the administration, the Department of Education would move very quickly to develop some realistic plans on how we deal with kids who are going through great turmoil and are going to face the uncertainty of being in schools that they were not planning on.

So we need to pass this bill, but we have got lots more work to do.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Homeland Security.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding time and, more importantly, for the work that he has been doing these past several days trying to come to the aid of colleagues in the South.

One year ago, this Congress responded to an unprecedented event, four hurricanes striking a State within 2 months in Florida. Little did we know that a year later this Nation would be tested beyond what we saw in Florida. Not quite 2 weeks ago now, we saw the fury and destruction that Mother Nature can unleash; and we all watched as not just homes and communities were destroyed but entire cities.

The images on television were horrific. I do not know a single heart in

America that is not breaking as we watch hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens become victims to the worst natural disaster in the Nation's history.

There has been much debate, finger-pointing in the press about who is to blame for problems with relief efforts, about who allowed such a human disaster to happen. This is an important question and one to which we must find answers, but at the appropriate time. Right now, it is time to finish the job of rescuing human beings from harm's way, to comfort those that have lost all of their possessions, and to help them find a sense of comfort and normalcy.

This bill will provide the beginnings to do just that. We do not know yet what the total disaster costs will be, but we want to assure the victims and the Nation that we will do everything in our power to help them recover.

Just an idea, Mr. Speaker, in World War I we had a thing called Liberty Bonds. I think it is time we thought about perhaps having Katrina Bonds. A lot of people are wanting to help across the Nation. This would be a way for every individual, if they chose, to find a way to help the victims of this great, horrible disaster. So I recommend that we think of that, establishment of K savings bonds.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON). We have seen him in his efforts in his own district after this disaster.

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, after a week and a half of difficult days, today is one of the toughest for me.

This morning I had to leave the devastation and overwhelming need of the people that were affected by Katrina to come to the House to do my duty as a Member of Congress, to see that they are taken care of in the near term and in the long term. I hope we can bring some real help to Louisiana and the gulf region.

First, we can make a difference in the form of today's supplemental appropriations to provide immediate relief for all that have suffered directly in this tragedy.

Second, we can commit today that the problems that plagued the Katrina response will never happen again in future disasters.

Beginning today, we can start a tough and honest assessment of our emergency response capability and how we deal with disasters like Katrina. With new legislation I have introduced, I am calling for creation of the Katrina Commission, an independent and bipartisan commission that will cut through the partisan finger-pointing and give us some real answers.

We all need answers, Mr. Speaker. Louisianans, and my district in particular, need answers to what went wrong; and the rest of America needs answers to how we are going to better be prepared in the future in the case disaster hits them.

We need to know why, when New Orleans was a nightmare, we sat and watched instead of helping the places we could help. I can tell my colleagues, because I have been there, that some of the hardest hit places were ignored and abandoned and even now are not getting the attention they need.

There is a sense in my district, in places like St. Bernard and Plaquemines Parishes, that the Federal Government, our government, Mr. Speaker, has completely failed them. It is this point I have a lot of trouble telling them that they are wrong.

As their Congressman, it is painfully ironic that the help I have been able to give them has not been from the Federal Government at all. I have had to work around the system, identifying needs and coordinating resources myself, much of it from private and unofficial sources.

The system was broken long before Katrina hit, and just because we can turn on the television today and no longer see thousands of people in immediate peril does not mean we have somehow fixed it.

As we move forward, we must remember that there are success stories in all of this, and there is much to be proud of. First responders, charitable groups, thousands of volunteers have given more than we could have ever asked.

Local officials like State Senator Walter Boasso of St. Bernard Parish and the Plaquemines Parish sheriff and parish president worked together as a team on the ground to deliver for their people and protect their property. Why on their own? Because for days there was no help coming from the Federal Government.

In the last week, Louisiana has had help and had support from all over the country. We have been grateful for law enforcement from New York, food and clothing donations from Phoenix, and so much more from everywhere else in this country.

□ 1445

We also owe a debt of gratitude to the States and cities that have opened their doors to hundreds of thousands of Louisiana citizens who have had to flee their homes. Your generosity is a testament to the strength of our American spirit, and your support has allowed us to continue on when we were not sure we could.

I thank America, and I particularly thank this body for the support that I have received from its Members through calls and shipments.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2¾ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the minority whip.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens in our gulf coast

region have been devastated and displaced by the worst natural disaster in our Nation's history. The needs of the survivors and affected communities are great and our willingness to respond must match the challenge. This great Nation must respond in a manner that the American people expect and demand.

I have every expectation that every Member of this House will vote today for this emergency supplemental appropriation because our paramount concern must be to assist the victims of this catastrophe, our brothers and sisters in the gulf States. But it pains me to say, Mr. Speaker, that once again we have abrogated our obligation to conduct real, meaningful, effective legislative oversight of the executive branch. We want to help, but we have an obligation to assure ourselves that the help is going where it is needed.

Ten and one-half billion dollars by unanimous consent; I was for that. Fifty-two billion, plus; I am for that. No hearings, no oversight, no questions. No examination of when and how and where and who will spend the money and who will get it. As I understand it, neither the chairman nor the ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations was consulted in the drafting of this legislation.

The unfortunate truth is, Mr. Speaker, this compliant Congress has acted more like an adjunct to this administration than the co-equal branch that the Constitution demands we be.

Now, more than ever, the American people deserve honest answers to hard questions about the inadequate Federal response to this disaster. For example, why did Federal agencies and officials fail to appreciate the magnitude of this disaster, even as they were being warned by hurricane experts of the potential devastation? We all watched it on television being reported to us. Why was the Federal response too slow and initially too inadequate?

As the columnist David Broder wrote on Sunday, "The majority of Republicans see themselves first and foremost as Members of the Bush team and do not want to make trouble by asking hard questions."

I close, Mr. Speaker, by simply saying that, of course, we are going to support this, but, Mr. Speaker, I urge us to have oversight. Fifty-two billion dollars is a lot of money, and we are going to spend whatever is needed, but let us make sure we spend it right and let us make sure the right people get the money.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to mention, as I did in my opening statement, that we have changed this a bit by adding \$15 million to make sure our inspector general is assisting us in making sure that every dollar that will be spent, and it is necessary to help those people who have been affected by this tragedy, that indeed it is our intention to ensure to the American public that every dollar is spent well.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1¾ minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR).

(Mr. OBERSTAR asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

My colleague from Minnesota (Mr. SABO) a moment ago cited the plight of elementary and secondary schoolchildren and the need to invest in education requirements to help them through this traumatic period. My area in our Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure is the highways, the bridges, the water and sewer systems, the port facilities, the Coast Guard and, indeed, FEMA itself. We should understand, as I said last Friday on passage of the first increment, that this is a down payment. That \$10.5 billion is a down payment. This \$52 billion is a down payment on the needs of the gulf, the need for restoration of the wetlands, the buffers that slow the advance of storms, that prevent the erosion of the coastline.

But there is also a need to restore the buoys in the harbor, to replot the sandbars and the channels in the harbor and the riverway. There is a need to invest more in the Corps of Engineers to reevaluate the levees and the protective systems, the riprap along the coast of the river banks of the Mississippi River and Lake Pontchartrain.

The causeway is under severe difficulty. The roadways throughout the Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama gulf areas are in serious difficulty. The storm surge has taken those out. We are going to need a huge investment in highways, bridges, water and sewer and sewage treatment facilities in the city of New Orleans and in other communities.

Our committee stands ready to address those issues, but we will need a comprehensive plan to address these issues, and I urge the Committee on Appropriations and the Office of Management and Budget to address that very issue of laying out a plan, so we think constructively into the future.

Parallel to the tragedy of human and physical disruption in the aftermath of Katrina, is the obvious disarray of the Federal Government's response. FEMA should have been in charge—but they didn't seem to be. For a long while, no Federal agency appeared to be in charge, coordinating the recovery efforts.

I predicted that this would happen when the Department of Homeland Security was created, with FEMA included in it. I argued against the inclusion of FEMA and offered an amendment to delete FEMA from the proposed new department during floor consideration of the DOHS bill.

I include at this point in the RECORD my remarks from the RECORD of July 25, 2002, in support of my amendment.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, the Brookings Institution studied this proposal for a Department of

Homeland Security and reached the same conclusion as former FEMA Director James Lee With with this observation:

"There is very little day-to-day synergy between the preventive and protective functions of the border and transportation security entities in the Department and the emergency preparedness and response functions a consolidated FEMA contributes. There is, therefore, little to be gained in bringing these very different entities under the same organizational roof. And the costs are not insignificant.

"FEMA," the report says, "would likely become less effective in performing its current mission in case of natural disasters, as time, effort, and attention are inevitably diverted to other tasks within the larger organization."

Prior to the time when we enacted the Stafford Act which statutorily established FEMA in 1979, after we had shed its disaster, civil defense role, the Federal Government had had no coordinated or effective response to natural disasters, but FEMA became that response agency.

Now, if we move this really effective agency into a big bureaucracy, we know what happens. We all know in this Chamber what happens when a small agency gets into a big department and the big appetite for more money to be shuffled around with fungible dollars that can go from one agency to the next and suddenly, FEMA's will just dissipate and fritter away.

Mr. Chairman, I am in the enviable position of rising in support of the unanimous position of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in reporting out our responsibilities toward homeland security, and that is the committee reported out recommendation to keep FEMA as an independent agency.

All right. This is July 2002. Let us fast forward to July 2003. The majority has prevailed. FEMA is a box in the mammoth bureaucracy of the Department of Homeland Security. Flood waters are swirling around your city. You call for help. You get the Department of Homeland Security. The switchboard sends your call to the Under Secretary's office which looks up "disaster" on their organizational chart and sends you to the Congressional Liaison Office, which then promises to get a message back to you in 24 hours. Eventually, they find FEMA, by which time you are stranded on the roof of your house waving a white handkerchief and screaming for help. FEMA, the word comes back, sorry, is looking for suspected terrorists some place in the hinterland of America and will get back to you as soon as we can.

This Department of Homeland Security is a bureaucracy in search of a mission. Do not give them FEMA's mission. It is too important to waste on this misguided department. There is that old barnyard saying, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." FEMA ain't broke. Don't fix it by ruining it and sending it into the Department of Homeland Security. It is nimble, quick, lean, effective as an independent agency today. Keep it that way. Help your city, help your State, help yourself, help your firefighter by keeping FEMA as an independent, agency where it belongs and has been effective.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO).

Mr. MANZULLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3673, but as chairman of the Committee on Small Business I want to raise an issue of potential concern regarding one provision included in the bill that raises the micropurchase threshold from \$2,500 to \$250,000

for goods and services used in support of Hurricane Katrina rescue and relief.

We understand the need for giving relief and aid to the victims as quickly as possible. I also understand that was the reason the administration requested inclusion of this provision in the supplemental.

While the provision in the bill only deals with the immediate rescue and relief operations, I am concerned that, moving forward, we ensure that small businesses, particularly those in the impacted gulf areas, are able to play a significant role in the recovery.

I would ask the chairman if he would be willing to work with me and the administration to ensure that our small businesses are fully utilized and that we maintain appropriate controls over contracting.

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

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I first want to say that I appreciate the gentleman bringing this to our attention, as chairman of the Committee on Small Business. Indeed, I will be happy to continue working with the gentleman over time regarding this matter, and I look forward to that effort.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the damage done when FEMA is run by incompetence and when FEMA itself is a disabled agency. We must depoliticize and professionalize the leadership at FEMA, and I hope we will have an opportunity to do that very soon, because until we do, this money is being spent by a disabled agency.

One other point. The news media has talked often about those who were left behind in New Orleans. They are easy to see because the cameras are there and we can see the dead bodies floating in the water. But there are millions of other Americans in and outside of the region who are also being left behind in our schools. They are being left behind in health care. They are being left behind on Medicaid.

I would hope that this Congress would have the decency to set aside its plans to provide billions of dollars in additional tax cuts for the most wealthy and the most prosperous and comfortable among us while the needs of so many are so apparent and while so many Americans are indeed still being left behind in the affected area and in other regions of our country.

Mr. Speaker, I would also hope that we could come to an agreement that in a matter this serious, the most serious disaster that has ever affected this country, this Congress would find a way to deal with these issues in a bipartisan and consultative fashion. If you want cooperation, you need to extend cooperation. This is too important for this business to be handled any other way.

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

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON).

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) for his fine gesture and for the work they have done on this appropriations matter.

We have all seen the devastation in the news of my home district and my State of Louisiana and the gulf coast, but that is only a pale reflection of the destruction my constituents have experienced. Hundreds of thousands of my constituents have been uprooted from their homes. More than 100,000 businesses have been shuttered. And hundreds, possibly thousands, of lives have been lost due to the ravages of Hurricane Katrina. So words do not describe the damage.

Just last week, this House convened in emergency session and appropriated \$10.5 billion to begin the recovery from this natural disaster. And, remarkably, less than a week later, most of that has been spent or committed. Accordingly, we come together today for another \$50 billion or so to continue what is a long, hard recovery throughout the gulf coast, but particularly in my hometown of New Orleans.

With the passage of this supplemental appropriation bill, we have committed almost \$63 billion to the recovery and reconstruction efforts. But I want to sound the alarm today, lest the House become the victim of Hurricane recovery fatigue.

In normal circumstances, \$63 billion would be a lot of money for recovery and reconstruction. But Hurricane Katrina was no normal hurricane, and her effects are unprecedented. So I want to make sure that this House and this Congress understand that these monies are just the beginning, what the President has called a down payment on the long-term commitment to the recovery and revival of the areas decimated by Hurricane Katrina.

Reliable economic estimates suggest that the total Federal cost of the reconstruction and recovery of the affected areas will be in the neighborhood of \$225 billion, with \$100 billion required to clean up, reconstruct, resettle and revive my hometown of New Orleans. In other words, the almost \$52 billion we are allocating today, while needed and wonderful, and we are grateful that we are doing it, and I appreciate everything that is being done here, it is just a down payment.

I wanted to say one other thing today that concerns me, and I hope we can fix it up later. The bill, as it is presently set up, raises the cap on government emergency micropurchases from \$15 million to \$250 million. This may work to the detriment of small businesses and prevent them from participating in this program. This is something we cannot let happen, and I hope we will fix this up as the bill moves along.

But I am grateful to the House for its quick action on this matter. Our people need it.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), a member of the committee.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the fact that Americans have, through their private contributions, given more in terms of responding to this disaster than any other disaster in the country's history, well over \$500 million to date.

□ 1500

I recognize the sobering work of our committee in coming to grips with this supplemental and putting forth tens of billions of dollars to respond to this crisis. I agree with my colleague from Louisiana that there will be a need for us to do more, and I, for one, know that our committee is prepared to stand and to respond to this crisis.

It is unfortunate that our response was not as it should have been. As the President said, the results were inadequate. But I think it is appropriate that the Congress today take this action, and I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member for their ability to work together to bring this bill to the floor and to move it so expeditiously in this process.

Even though imperfect, I hope it will be made more perfect as we go forward.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield for the purpose of making a unanimous consent request to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker,

I rise today to express my serious concerns for the process, let me repeat, the process under which these supplemental appropriations are being considered.

First, I want to emphatically express my full support for aiding those lives and those cities devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Having been to Baton Rouge, having physically worked with the victims, there is no doubt in my mind that these people need our help.

However, Mr. Speaker, we should help them in a responsible and thoughtful manner. There is no question that time is of the essence, but we are not talking about pocket change, \$50 billion is not pocket change, Mr. Speaker, and fellow members of this body, we have a Constitutional duty to spend the people's money very carefully and with deliberate consideration. Even in times of crisis, a blank check does not guarantee results and can often lead to wasteful spending. Wasteful spending will not save one life. Wasteful spending will not rebuild one destroyed house, will not clear one single road, and will not feed one starving child.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in both this House and especially in the Senate to refrain from tacking on any pork. This supplemental should not be a gravy train for any special or individual interests.

Every member of this body should condition their support of this supplemental upon strict oversight and follow up with sound policy

changes. We cannot just throw billions of dollars at this catastrophe or any catastrophe for that matter.

Mr. Speaker, we need to follow-up these dollars with thorough oversight and investigation to make sure that every penny, I repeat, every penny goes to help the victims. And, we need to cut down every unnecessary piece of red tape in the process, such as suspending the requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act to help the reconstruction of this devastated area. Let's untie the hands of those who are ready to help and rebuild. We have enough obstacles to overcome as it is. We don't need any kind of bureaucratic surcharge on saving lives.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again caution my colleagues. Let's get help to the people in need but let's do so in a responsible and sound manner. The American people expect no less of us, and we owe them no less.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 1 minute.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, this is indeed a solemn occasion for Congress, when we come together to help people in our country who have suffered greatly in a way that will take a very long time to repair. What they expect of us is for us to perform our Federal role in a manner that would honor the social compact between the Federal Government and the people in need in our country.

I just heard on the news, and it is very sobering, that about 14 bodies were found at Memorial Hospital in New Orleans. Last night we heard that 30 bodies were found at the nursing home there as well. These, and many, many other deaths, are a sad tragedy for our country, for those people, of course, and for their families. So it would be my hope that we could send out the best possible message to the people of our country, that the Congress is coming together in the manner that we did after 9/11 to work in a non-partisan way, a bipartisan way, to help meet their needs.

We had an opportunity to do that today. Sadly, it was a missed opportunity, because there was not a chance for amendment to the legislation that is on the floor now. The opportunity would have been there to subject FEMA to the scrutiny that it should be subjected to and to take action to correct the situation.

FEMA is the link between the Federal Government and the American people and the social compact. Unfortunately, this time it was a weak link. But there is something that can be done about it. It can be moved from the Department of Homeland Security to be an independent agency, as it was before; and it could have the proper leadership running FEMA.

I call upon the President to remove Michael Brown, the current director, and put in there a person of capability and credentials, perhaps someone from

the military who knows organization and leadership, not someone who has absolutely no credentials for the job. This is important. It is not a question of criticizing, it is a question of changing the situation so that we can better meet the needs of the people who are suffering out there, and to do it before we have more unnecessary suffering.

I believe that we had two disasters: one, a natural one; the second one, a man-made disaster, a disaster made by the mistakes of FEMA following Hurricane Katrina.

This is something we can do immediately. This is something we can do immediately because here we are on the floor of Congress appropriating \$50 billion to an agency which has a record of poor performance and a leadership without qualifications for the job. If you need any further evidence of the lack of performance, you need only look to last week.

So why could we not have had legislation come to the committee of jurisdiction, the committee of the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), where the considerable talent on both sides of the aisle could have subjected this request to scrutiny, how is this money being sent, what is the accountability of it?

This is \$50 billion on top of \$10.5 billion last week, which was brought to the floor with 5 minutes of debate on each side. That is all that was allowed before the bill was voted on. What are we afraid of? What are we afraid of? What is this Congress afraid of, that we will not allow our congressional committees to review the request, to establish accountability, to bring its expertise to bear on it?

So, obviously we are all going to vote for this. It is very, very important for people to understand that whatever our differences on how the money gets to them that those differences do not stand in the way of probably what will be a unanimous vote in this House. But it is a lot of money, and it is not the end. We will be having more requests from the administration, I am sure, and when we do, I hope that they will have the confidence in their request to send their request to the committee of jurisdiction, so that there can be appropriate congressional review, public comment and, again, the accountability and oversight that Congress has the responsibility to perform.

This is a democracy, the United States of America, the greatest democracy in the history of the world, and we are being governed by decree. The President decides on a figure, he sends it over, we do not even get a chance to look at it much before we are called upon to vote on it, again bypassing the committees of jurisdiction. I cannot imagine that is okay with the Committee on Appropriations. As a long-time member of the committee, I certainly hope it is not.

But the bigger issue, the bigger issue, is how we do the job for the American

people. In order to do that job, there are so many people who are so much more important than Members of Congress in all of this: public employees, firefighters, police officers, health care professionals, public and private sector people out there, who are great heroes, great heroes. They saved lives, and some of them gave their lives to help others.

Responding to the Gospel of this past Sunday, the 23rd Sunday after Easter, the Gospel of Matthew about the commandment where Matthew says, "the greatest of these is love, to love thy neighbor as thyself." We will be tested on these as we go ahead to see if we are smart enough to help people in a way that enables them to take control of their lives as soon as possible.

We have proposals the Democrats would have liked to offer today to cut the red tape, to improve the performance of FEMA, for there to be job creation in the region, to stop price gouging at the pump for gasoline and to have qualified, qualified, leadership in the roles.

So this is all a question of our judgment. Is the performance that we saw last week up to standard for us? I do not think so, because it did not meet the needs of the American people.

When we are little, I think it was high school, but now it is probably grade school, that children are reading John Donne, "No Man is an Island," "For Whom the Bell Tolls." But I thought of it so much as we see these lasting impressions of Mississippi, just obliterated on its coastline, and New Orleans inundated and Alabama so affected, and even parts of Florida, and the incredible generosity of all of the States receiving evacuees as guests in their State.

I think the optimism, the goodness, the compassion of the American people is the greatest force for good in our country, and God bless them for their goodness.

But, again, for whom the bell tolls, as we look at the tragedy in the gulf coast States, it is clear that we are seeing a mirror of our country; and if ever there was an occasion where the bell was tolling and we would ask the question for whom the bell tolls, it does toll for each and every one of us, because every one of those deaths does diminish, as the poem goes, every one of us.

So I hope the families in America know that the staggering numbers are just appalling to us, but we think of them one family at a time and want to make decisions that address their needs one family at a time.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I will vote for this. I would hope, again, that future appropriations requests for Katrina will be presented in a timely fashion that will enable us to review them, to have some accountability from FEMA on how this money is spent, so that we can honor our oath of office that we take to protect and defend the Constitution, yes, but to provide for the safety of the American people.

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

Mr. Speaker, as I go about introducing my final speaker, I was very impressed by the gentlewoman's comments and her willingness to work in a bipartisan way regarding the challenge ahead of us.

I wanted to mention to her we have been looking very seriously at the problems in the region of the gulf for a long time. In the last 5 years, the Congress has appropriated some \$1.9 billion for flood control in Louisiana. I might mention only \$1.4 billion has been appropriated for all of California, seven times the population. So we have been truly focusing upon that region.

Just last Friday, as you know, we passed a \$10.5 billion package for this immediate crisis, and today we have over a \$50 billion package before us. So the Congress is attempting to focus upon this very real challenge.

I am very happy that the gentlewoman recognizes that we do need to work together in terms of finding the why of all of this, but right now it is most important to respond to the challenges and needs of the American people in danger.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority leader of the House.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I appreciate him and the gentleman from Wisconsin working together on this package and bringing it to the floor. It is incredibly important to a lot of people that are suffering.

I have to begin my remarks by telling a little bit about myself and what I have been doing, to give you an idea that I know from what I speak. I was raised on the gulf coast. I have been through many hurricanes. I have watched responses to many hurricanes. I have watched the ability to respond to many hurricanes. I understand what the response is supposed to be.

I also in this particular case come from Houston, Texas, and I am incredibly proud of my fellow citizens in the Houston-Galveston region in opening their arms and their compassion and wallets and resources and homes to those that are in need, especially our brothers and sisters from Louisiana.

But we also consider that the third disaster. The first disaster was the hurricane, the second disaster was the floods in New Orleans, and the third disaster was what do you do with over 2 million people in a very short period of time? And in just days, Houston put together a virtual city for 60,000 people.

Then I went through the same frustrations that many of those on the ground in New Orleans and Mississippi and Louisiana and Alabama went through, because you are dealing with the same things; you are dealing with the same people, FEMA, the Federal Government, State government, city government, all governments, and you run into the same frustrations.

So, as is normal about me, I decided to do something about these frustrations, and I went to Baton Rouge where the control center was. I wanted to see the organization, the system, how was it working, what was going on on the ground.

□ 1515

I get into Baton Rouge, and I quickly realize that Baton Rouge was the biggest brunt of the third disaster because Baton Rouge, which I think is a city of about 500,000 people, all of a sudden saw within one day their population double. Double. And yet they were able to handle it. Sure, there were problems. Sure, there was suffering. But Baton Rouge citizens opened their arms and brought these people in. That was the first place that people could come, coming out of New Orleans.

Then from there they went to Lafayette, and they received another big brunt of the third disaster, and they handled it. Sure, there were frustrations all over the place and there was, frankly, a breakdown in the system.

The system is designed, if it works properly, from the bottom up. The system depends on the local government, whether it be mayor or county, dealing with whatever disaster problem they have; and when they find out they cannot deal with it, they go to the next level of government, to the Governor and to the State to help them out. And then when neither the State nor the locals can deal with it, they come to the Federal Government.

That is how the system is supposed to work. That is how it is set up. And when that breaks down, everything breaks down because we have to realize that every hour is absolutely precious after a disaster. I have seen this my entire life. Every hour certain things have to happen. But when we have a situation where people will not make a decision, we have lost that hour and we are into the next hour, and then we have to circle around and come back into the first hour to clean up the mess while we are trying to handle and catch up to the other hours. And then when it really starts breaking down, entire chaos happens. And in this case, it was not entire chaos. I would describe it as organized chaos. It was pretty messy.

Now, you can look at this disaster two different ways. You can offer nothing constructive except blaming when people need services at the moment and you spend your time and your caring time pointing fingers or making assumptions or calling for complete changes in government, and you spend all your time and energy focused on that.

Or you can understand that there are problems when we have 2 million people or we have three States in dire need as if they were at war and deal with the problems and the frustrations at that time that we find them and find answers immediately and move forward and find ways to fix them and find

ways to take care of these people, find them the clothes, the shoes, the diapers, the food, the water, find them the cots that they need, find them the health care system that they need, find them a military officer or a wonderful soldier to go down and pull them out of a house, find them the Coast Guard helicopter to go and pull them off the top of the house, find the wherewithal in just a day or so to plug up the levees. I mean, you can either point your finger or you can see what happened.

The mirror of America that I saw was the most incredible outpouring of America that I have seen in my lifetime. All over this country, all over this country, people immediately got trucks and filled them up and drove 2,000 miles. One of our own Members did that from Nevada. Two thousand miles. This happened all over the country. Bringing supplies, bringing their hearts, bringing themselves and putting themselves in harm's way, especially in the case of New Orleans. I mean, it was unbelievable.

Our first responders from all over the Nation are down in Mississippi and Louisiana and Alabama. People are opening their doors to the people that need it. Can the Members imagine, and I do not know exactly what the total population of the disaster is, but I would imagine it is around 4 million people, 4 or 5 million people, but this country absorbed 4 to 5 million people overnight. That is an incredible accomplishment. And we ought to be proud of that. And what are we doing in Washington? We are pointing fingers. We are talking about process. We are doing the things that, frankly, disgust people when they see it on television.

Now, we have chosen to push that all aside because there is plenty of time for that later. What is important right now, I mean we are not even out of the save-the-life phase. We still have people in New Orleans that we are finding and pulling out of these houses.

The next phase is called the recovery phase, and we are sort of in that in certain parts of the country, especially in Mississippi and in Alabama. We ought to be focused on that. These people are out in these shelters. Can the Members imagine, in the Astrodome. Look at your television. There are 10,000 people or more on the floor of the Astrodome living next to each other. That is unsustainable. We have to do something with these people. We have to give them hope for the rest of their lives. They are asking the question, What do I do tomorrow? And we have to give them that answer. What do I do next week? What do I do a month from now? How do I get my kids in school? Where do I find my wife? In some cases, where do I find my pet, my dog? What do I do tomorrow? I have no money. My bank is closed. This hit me at the end of the month, and I am out of money. What do I do?

We have got the answer because we are focused on answering those questions. We are focused on giving them

the relief that they need. We have to give them the relief they need so that they can start planning their lives. One does not sit around after a disaster and not have some way of knowing how they are going to get back into a house, how they are going to be able to have a little privacy.

They are living on the floor of the Astrodome with 16,000 other people. There is no privacy on the floor of the Astrodome. They have got to have some way of knowing what is going to happen to them tomorrow. We have focused on that. And bringing this bill to the floor pays for a lot of it.

I know the American people, some of them, are worrying about all this money. Mr. Speaker, 5 million people, 5 million Americans, deserve our finding a way to make them whole. We are not even asking to make them whole. That was a misstatement. What we are asking is to give them a little hope over the next few weeks so that we can take care of their needs and get them back up and running again.

Now, some would say we need to take over their lives and dictate to them and tell them what to do and put them back. That is not what we are talking about here. We are talking about the very essentials that we need for the recovery process and the beginning of the rebuilding process. And it is expensive because there are a lot of people, and there was an incredible amount of damage.

We are not just writing a blank check. We have got some safeguards. We have got safeguards built into this bill, and we have got safeguards built into the law that already exists so that they can only spend money on things that should be spent on and not be frivolous about it and throw it away. Sure, there is going to be wasted money. We cannot deal with 5 million people and not waste some money. But the bulk of the money is going to go to the people and the process and the property that deserve it to get back on their feet.

This is incredibly important, and it is too important to play politics with. It is too important to point fingers at. It is too important to second-guess. It is easy to be a Monday morning quarterback, but you should have been in that control room where those people were making life and death decisions, people that stayed up and got no sleep and very little food for 5 to 6 days straight trying to make the right decisions to save people.

And what happens when we come up here? They point the finger. You did not make the right decision here. You did not take care of needs there. You did not take care of needs there. You did not do this; you did not do that. The point is if we look at the big picture, it is a phenomenal accomplishment by everybody involved. It is unbelievable. I am constantly struck by where we are today, just a little over a week from the worst catastrophe that this country has seen, I guess, certainly in recent history. We ought to be proud about that; and, most impor-

tantly, we should be proud of ourselves. We should be proud of our American brothers and sisters.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3673.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on H.R. 3673 will be followed by 5-minute votes on H.R. 3669, H.R. 3668, H. Res. 428, and H. Res. 427, all by the yeas and nays.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 410, nays 11, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 460]  
YEAS—410

Abercrombie  
Ackerman  
Aderholt  
Akin  
Alexander  
Allen  
Andrews  
Baca  
Bachus  
Baird  
Baldwin  
Barrett (SC)  
Barrow  
Bartlett (MD)  
Bass  
Bean  
Beauprez  
Becerra  
Berman  
Berry  
Biggert  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NY)  
Bishop (UT)  
Blackburn  
Blumenauer  
Blunt  
Boehlert  
Boehner  
Bonilla  
Bonner  
Bono  
Boozman  
Boren  
Boswell  
Boucher  
Boustany  
Boyd  
Bradley (NH)  
Brady (PA)  
Brown (OH)  
Brown (SC)  
Brown, Corrine  
Brown-Waite,  
Ginny  
Burgess  
Burton (IN)  
Buyer  
Calvert  
Camp  
Cannon

Cantor  
Capito  
Capps  
Capuano  
Cardin  
Cardoza  
Carnahan  
Carson  
Carter  
Case  
Castle  
Chabot  
Chandler  
Chocola  
Clay  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Coble  
Cole (OK)  
Conyers  
Cooper  
Costa  
Costello  
Cramer  
Crenshaw  
Crowley  
Cubin  
Cuellar  
Culberson  
Cummings  
Cunningham  
Davis (AL)  
Davis (CA)  
Davis (FL)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (KY)  
Davis (TN)  
Davis, Jo Ann  
Davis, Tom  
Deal (GA)  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delahunt  
DeLauro  
DeLay  
Dent  
Diaz-Balart, L.  
Diaz-Balart, M.  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doolittle

Doyle  
Drake  
Dreier  
Duncan  
Edwards  
Ehlers  
Emanuel  
Emerson  
Engel  
English (PA)  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Evans  
Farr  
Fattah  
Feeney  
Ferguson  
Filner  
Fitzpatrick (PA)  
Foley  
Forbes  
Ford  
Fortenberry  
Fossella  
Frank (MA)  
Franks (AZ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Gallegly  
Gerlach  
Gibbons  
Gilchrest  
Gillmor  
Gingrey  
Gohmert  
Gonzalez  
Goode  
Goodlatte  
Gordon  
Granger  
Graves  
Green (WI)  
Green, Al  
Green, Gene  
Grijalva  
Gutierrez  
Gutknecht  
Hall  
Harman  
Harris  
Hart  
Hastings (FL)  
Hastings (WA)

Hayes  
Hayworth  
Hefley  
Hensarling  
Herger  
Herseth  
Higgins  
Hinchey  
Hinojosa  
Hobson  
Hoekstra  
Holden  
Holt  
Honda  
Hooley  
Hoyer  
Hulshof  
Hunter  
Hyde  
Inglis (SC)  
Inslee  
Israel  
Issa  
Istook  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jefferson  
Jenkins  
Jindal  
Johnson (CT)  
Johnson (IL)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones (NC)  
Jones (OH)  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Keller  
Kelly  
Kennedy (MN)  
Kennedy (RI)  
Kildee  
Kilpatrick (MI)  
Kind  
King (NY)  
Kingston  
Kirk  
Kline  
Knollenberg  
Kolbe  
Kucinich  
Kuhl (NY)  
LaHood  
Langevin  
Lantos  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Leach  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (GA)  
Lewis (KY)  
Linder  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Lofgren, Zoe  
Lowey  
Lucas  
Lungren, Daniel  
E.  
Lynch  
Mack  
Manzullo  
Marchant  
Markey  
Marshall  
Matheson  
Matsui  
McCarthy  
McCaul (TX)  
McCollum (MN)  
McCotter  
McDermott

McGovern  
McHenry  
McHugh  
McIntyre  
McKeon  
McKinney  
McMorris  
McNulty  
Meehan  
Meek (FL)  
Meeks (NY)  
Melancon  
Menendez  
Mica  
Michaud  
Millender-  
McDonald  
Miller (FL)  
Miller (MI)  
Miller (NC)  
Miller, Gary  
Miller, George  
Mollohan  
Moore (KS)  
Moore (WI)  
Moran (KS)  
Moran (VA)  
Murphy  
Murtha  
Musgrave  
Myrick  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal (MA)  
Neugebauer  
Ney  
Northup  
Norwood  
Nunes  
Nussle  
Oberstar  
Obey  
Ortiz  
Osborne  
Owens  
Oxley  
Pallone  
Pascrell  
Pastor  
Payne  
Pearce  
Pelosi  
Pence  
Peterson (MN)  
Peterson (PA)  
Petri  
Pickering  
Pitts  
Platts  
Poe  
Pombo  
Pomeroy  
Porter  
Price (GA)  
Price (NC)  
Pryce (OH)  
Putnam  
Radanovich  
Rahall  
Ramstad  
Rangel  
Regula  
Rehberg  
Reichert  
Renzi  
Reyes  
Reynolds  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rogers (MI)  
Rohrabacher  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Ross  
Rothman  
Roybal-Allard  
Royce  
Ruppersberger

Rush  
Ryan (OH)  
Ryan (WI)  
Ryun (KS)  
Sabo  
Salazar  
Sánchez, Linda  
T.  
Sanders  
Saxton  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schmidt  
Schwartz (PA)  
Schwarz (MI)  
Scott (GA)  
Scott (VA)  
Serrano  
Sessions  
Shadegg  
Shaw  
Shays  
Sherman  
Sherwood  
Shimkus  
Shuster  
Simmons  
Simpson  
Skelton  
Slaughter  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Sodrel  
Solis  
Souder  
Spratt  
Stark  
Stearns  
Strickland  
Stupak  
Sullivan  
Sweeney  
Tanner  
Tauscher  
Taylor (NC)  
Terry  
Thomas  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thornberry  
Tiahrt  
Tiberi  
Tipton  
Tierney  
Towns  
Turner  
Udall (CO)  
Udall (NM)  
Upton  
Van Hollen  
Velázquez  
Vislosky  
Walden (OR)  
Walsh  
Wamp  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson  
Watt  
Waxman  
Weiner  
Weldon (FL)  
Weldon (PA)  
Weller  
Wexler  
Whitfield  
Wicker  
Wilson (NM)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wolf  
Woolsey  
Wu  
Wynn  
Young (FL)

NAYS—11

Barton (TX)  
Flake  
Foxx  
Garrett (NJ)

Hostettler  
King (IA)  
Otter  
Paul  
Conaway  
Everett  
Maloney  
McCrery

NOT VOTING—12

Sensenbrenner  
Tancredo  
Westmoreland  
Olver  
Sanchez, Loretta  
Taylor (MS)  
Young (AK)

□ 1547

Mr. NADLER and Mr. GILCHREST changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM ENHANCED BORROWING AUTHORITY ACT OF 2005**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3669.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3669, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 461]  
YEAS—416

Abercrombie	Capuano	Emanuel
Ackerman	Cardin	Emerson
Aderholt	Cardoza	Engel
Akin	Carnahan	English (PA)
Alexander	Carson	Eshoo
Allen	Carter	Etheridge
Andrews	Case	Evans
Baca	Castle	Farr
Bachus	Chabot	Fattah
Baird	Chandler	Feeney
Baldwin	Chocola	Ferguson
Barrett (SC)	Clay	Fitzpatrick (PA)
Barrow	Cleaver	Flake
Bartlett (MD)	Clyburn	Foley
Barton (TX)	Coble	Forbes
Bass	Cole (OK)	Ford
Bean	Conyers	Fortenberry
Beauprez	Cooper	Fossella
Becerra	Costa	Fox
Berman	Costello	Frank (MA)
Berry	Cramer	Franks (AZ)
Biggert	Crenshaw	Frelinghuysen
Bilirakis	Crowley	Gallely
Bishop (NY)	Cubin	Garrett (NJ)
Bishop (UT)	Cuellar	Gerlach
Blackburn	Culberson	Gibbons
Blumenauer	Cummings	Gilchrest
Blunt	Cunningham	Gillmor
Boehlert	Davis (AL)	Gingrey
Boehner	Davis (CA)	Gohmert
Bonilla	Davis (FL)	Gonzalez
Bonner	Davis (IL)	Goode
Bono	Davis (KY)	Goodlatte
Boozman	Davis (TN)	Gordon
Boren	Davis, Jo Ann	Granger
Boswell	Davis, Tom	Graves
Boucher	Deal (GA)	Green (WI)
Boustany	DeFazio	Green, Al
Boyd	DeGette	Green, Gene
Bradley (NH)	Delahunt	Grijalva
Brady (PA)	DeLauro	Gutierrez
Brown (OH)	DeLay	Gutknecht
Brown (SC)	Dent	Hall
Brown, Corrine	Diaz-Balart, L.	Harman
Brown-Waite,	Diaz-Balart, M.	Harris
Ginny	Dicks	Hart
Burgess	Dingell	Hastings (FL)
Burton (IN)	Doggett	Hastings (WA)
Buyer	Doolittle	Hayes
Calvert	Doyle	Hayworth
Camp	Drake	Hefley
Cannon	Dreier	Hensarling
Cantor	Duncan	Herger
Capito	Edwards	Herseth
Capps	Ehlers	Higgins

Hinchey	McMorris
Hinojosa	McNulty
Hobson	Meek (FL)
Hoekstra	Meeke (NY)
Holden	Melancon
Holt	Menendez
Honda	Mica
Hooley	Michaud
Hostettler	Millender-
Hoyer	McDonald
Hulshof	Miller (FL)
Hunter	Miller (MI)
Hyde	Miller (NC)
Inglis (SC)	Miller, Gary
Inslee	Miller, George
Israel	Mollohan
Istook	Moore (KS)
Jackson (IL)	Moore (WI)
Jackson-Lee	Moran (KS)
(TX)	Moran (VA)
Jefferson	Murphy
Jenkins	Murtha
Jindal	Musgrave
Johnson (CT)	Myrick
Johnson (IL)	Nadler
Johnson, E. B.	Napolitano
Johnson, Sam	Neal (MA)
Jones (NC)	Neugebauer
Jones (OH)	Ney
Kanjorski	Northup
Keller	Norwood
Kelly	Nunes
Kennedy (MN)	Nussle
Kennedy (RI)	Oberstar
Kildee	Obey
Kilpatrick (MI)	Ortiz
Kind	Osborne
King (IA)	Otter
King (NY)	Owens
Kingston	Oxley
Kirk	Pallone
Klaine	Pascrell
Knollenberg	Pastor
Kolbe	Paul
Kucinich	Payne
Kuhl (NY)	Pearce
LaHood	Pelosi
Langevin	Pence
Lantos	Peterson (MN)
Larsen (WA)	Peterson (PA)
Larsen (CT)	Petri
Latham	Pickering
LaTourette	Pitts
Leach	Platts
Lee	Poe
Levin	Pombo
Lewis (CA)	Pomeroy
Lewis (GA)	Porter
Lewis (KY)	Price (GA)
Linder	Price (NC)
Lipinski	Pryce (OH)
LoBiondo	Putnam
Lofgren, Zoe	Radanovich
Lowe	Rahall
Lucas	Ramstad
Lungren, Daniel	Rangel
E.	Regula
Lynch	Rehberg
Mack	Reichert
Manzullo	Renzi
Marchant	Reyes
Markey	Reynolds
Marshall	Rogers (AL)
Matheson	Rogers (KY)
Matsui	Rogers (MI)
McCarthy	Rohrabacher
McCaul (TX)	Ros-Lehtinen
McCollum (MN)	Ross
McCotter	Rothman
McDermott	Roybal-Allard
McGovern	Royce
McHenry	Ruppersberger
McHugh	Rush
McIntyre	Ryan (OH)
McKeon	Ryan (WI)
McKinney	Ryun (KS)

**NOT VOTING—17**

Baker	Everett
Berkley	Finler
Bishop (GA)	Issa
Brady (TX)	Kaptur
Butterfield	Maloney
Conaway	McCrery

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1556

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 461, on H.R. 3669, I was in route to my Congressional District on official business. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

**STUDENT GRANT HURRICANE AND DISASTER RELIEF ACT**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 3668.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3668, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 462]  
YEAS—414

Abercrombie	Capps	Edwards
Ackerman	Capuano	Ehlers
Aderholt	Cardin	Emanuel
Akin	Cardoza	Emerson
Alexander	Carnahan	Engel
Allen	Carson	English (PA)
Andrews	Carter	Eshoo
Baca	Case	Etheridge
Bachus	Castle	Evans
Baird	Chabot	Farr
Baldwin	Chandler	Fattah
Barrett (SC)	Chocola	Feeney
Barrow	Clay	Ferguson
Bartlett (MD)	Cleaver	Fitzpatrick (PA)
Barton (TX)	Clyburn	Flake
Bass	Coble	Foley
Bean	Cole (OK)	Forbes
Beauprez	Conyers	Ford
Becerra	Cooper	Fortenberry
Berman	Costa	Fossella
Berry	Costello	Fox
Biggert	Cramer	Frank (MA)
Bilirakis	Crenshaw	Franks (AZ)
Bishop (GA)	Crowley	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (NY)	Cubin	Gallely
Bishop (UT)	Cuellar	Garrett (NJ)
Blackburn	Culberson	Gerlach
Blunt	Cummings	Gibbons
Boehlert	Cunningham	Gilchrest
Boehner	Davis (AL)	Gillmor
Bonilla	Davis (CA)	Gingrey
Bonner	Davis (FL)	Gohmert
Bono	Davis (IL)	Goode
Boozman	Davis (KY)	Goode
Boren	Davis (TN)	Goodlatte
Boswell	Davis, Jo Ann	Gordon
Boucher	Davis, Tom	Granger
Boustany	Deal (GA)	Graves
Boyd	DeFazio	Green (WI)
Bradley (NH)	DeGette	Green, Al
Brady (PA)	Delahunt	Green, Gene
Brown (OH)	DeLauro	Grijalva
Brown (SC)	Dent	Gutierrez
Brown, Corrine	DeLay	Gutknecht
Brown-Waite,	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hall
Ginny	Diaz-Balart, M.	Harman
Burgess	Dicks	Harris
Burton (IN)	Dingell	Hart
Buyer	Doggett	Hastings (FL)
Calvert	Doolittle	Hastings (WA)
Camp	Doyle	Hayes
Cannon	Drake	Hayworth
Cantor	Dreier	Hefley
Capito	Duncan	Hensarling