

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:58 a.m. on Pauline Street. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA;

and Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco of Louisiana.

Remarks During a Visit to the Hands On Gulf Coast Civic Action Center
in Biloxi, Mississippi
April 27, 2006

The President. I've come to the conclusion that I'm at a terrific place, where people are here bound by a common desire to show compassion to their neighbors in need. I really thank you. It's a compassion commune—[laughter]—where people are united by a singular purpose and setting a great example. Everybody—most people I talk to say, “Well, it makes me feel better.” The truth of the matter is, when you

volunteer to serve somebody in need, it does make you feel better.

So for all those in our country who are wondering whether or not they can make a difference in somebody's life, the answer is, all you have to do is look at these people here.

Audience member. Volunteer!

The President. All right. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:17 p.m.

Remarks During a Visit to a BP Gas Station in Biloxi
April 27, 2006

Listen, we've got people like this that are working for a living, who are paying higher prices for their gasoline—it's like a tax. And I talked the other day about things we can do. The first thing is to make sure that nobody is getting cheated. One of the roles of the Federal Government is to make sure that you're taken care of.

We need more refining capacity. One of the reasons why you've got high prices is the demand is greater than supply. And when demand is greater than supply, the price goes up. They've got in Pascagoula a really fine refinery. I remember coming over with the Governor, the place was shut down. They got it up and running, and we hope we can put a law in place that will encourage them to expand refining capacity. We've got a problem because we're dependent on oil from overseas. And oil

is the main reason—the price of oil is the main thing that drives the cost of gasoline.

One of the things we've got to do is make these trucks run on ethanol—and batteries that won't require gasoline. That's what the future is going to be.

Congress is debating some other ideas. And one idea is to give me the capacity to raise CAFE standards on automobiles. I encourage them to give me that authority. It's an authority that I'd use for light trucks. And I intend to use it wisely, if Congress would give me that authority.

Again, I want to thank you for letting me come by and say hello. It seems like everybody is getting better down here. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:33 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Haley Barbour of Mississippi.