

Week Ending Friday, September 9, 2005

**Remarks on Hurricane Katrina
Recovery Efforts in Kenner,
Louisiana**

September 2, 2005

The President. Listen, I want to thank the Governor of Louisiana and the mayor of New Orleans, Senator Landrieu, Senator Vitter and Congressman Jefferson, Congressman Jindal and General Blum. I have just completed a tour of some devastated country. I started in Alabama and worked our way down through Mississippi and ended up here in one of America's great cities and saw firsthand the devastation that this city has gone through. I know the people of this part of the world are suffering, and I want them to know that there's a flow of progress. We're making progress. I want to thank the Governor for her hard work, and I want to thank the mayor.

I know there's some of the folks in the outlying parishes here in Louisiana wondering whether or not people are paying attention to them. We are. St. Charles, St. Bernard, Plaquemine Parish, I understand the devastation that you've gone through as well. So does the Governor—

Governor Blanco. St. Tammany.

The President. —St. Tammany. So does the Governor, and so are the Senators. This is a devastating storm. This is a storm that's going to require immediate action now. I'm pleased to report, thanks to the good work of the adjutant general from Louisiana and troops that have been called in, that the convention center is secure. One of the objectives that we had today was to move in and secure that convention center and make sure the good folks there got food and water.

The caravans—the bus caravans are continuing on, as is the airlift. The people of this part of the world have got to understand—and by the way, we just came from the 17th Street levee. A lot of folks are working hard to repair that levee. They've been

working around the clock, 24 hours a day. People from the Federal Government and the State government and the local government are working to breach that—to fill that breach. The mayor has been telling me, not only by telephone but here in person, how important it is that we get that breach filled and get that pump station up and running. And we went there to inspect the progress being done, and the people of New Orleans have got to understand, there's a lot of people working hard, and they're making good progress.

You know, I'm going to fly out of here in a minute, but I want you to know that I'm not going to forget what I've seen. I understand the devastation requires more than one day's attention. It's going to require the attention of this country for a long period of time. This is a—one of the worst natural disasters we have faced, with national consequences. And therefore, there will be a national response. And I look forward to continuing to work with the Governor and the mayor and the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives to do our duty to help the good folks of this part of the world get back on their feet.

Here's what I believe. I believe that the great city of New Orleans will rise again and be a greater city of New Orleans. I believe the town where I used to come from, Houston, Texas, to enjoy myself, occasionally too much—[laughter]—will be that very same town, that it will be a better place to come to. That's what I believe. I believe the great State of Louisiana will get its feet back and become a vital contributor to the country.

I believe the people of Mississippi will recover. I understand we got a lot of work to do. And I understand it seems dark right now, but by working together and pulling together and capturing that great spirit of our country, a great city will rise again, a great State will be vibrant.

If you want to help, if you're listening to this broadcast, contribute cash to the Salvation Army and the Red Cross. There will be other opportunities to give, and we hope you do give. But right now, we need cash to the Salvation Army and the Red Cross. They're on the frontlines providing help to the people who need help.

May God bless the people of this part of the world, and may God continue to bless our country. Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:01 p.m. at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco of Louisiana; Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA; and Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, Adjutant General for Louisiana. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Memorandum on Finding of a Severe Energy Supply Interruption

September 2, 2005

*Memorandum for the Secretary of Energy,
the Secretary of Homeland Security*

Subject: Finding of a Severe Energy Supply Interruption

Recent events in connection with Hurricane Katrina have resulted in a "severe energy supply interruption" as defined in section 161(d) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), 42 U.S.C. 6241(d). Based on the advice of the Secretary of Energy and on other information, I find and determine, in accordance with EPCA section 161(d), that a severe energy supply interruption exists because:

- (a) an emergency situation exists and there is a significant reduction in supply which is of significant scope and duration;
- (b) a severe increase in the price of petroleum products has resulted from such emergency situation; and
- (c) such price increase is likely to or may cause a major adverse impact on the national economy.

For these reasons, the Secretary of Energy is authorized and directed to draw down and sell Strategic Petroleum Reserve petroleum

pursuant to EPCA section 161 at a rate the Secretary may determine and in accordance with the Strategic Petroleum Reserve standard sales procedures now in effect. The drawdown and sale authorized and directed by this finding will allow the United States to meet its obligations under the international energy program. If the Secretary determines the circumstances leading to this finding no longer support initiation or continuation of a drawdown and sale of petroleum from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the Secretary is authorized to cancel in whole or in part any offer to sell petroleum as a part of any drawdown and sale pursuant to this finding.

The Secretary of Homeland Security already has waived the coastwise laws generally for the transportation of petroleum released from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, whether pursuant to an exchange, sale, or otherwise, undertaken in response to the circumstances arising from Hurricane Katrina, and I direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to continue such waiver for the transportation of all petroleum withdrawn from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve during the drawdown pursuant to this finding.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

The President's Radio Address

September 3, 2005

Good morning. Yesterday I saw the aftermath of one of the largest natural disasters ever to strike America. A vast coastline of towns and communities are flattened; one of our great cities is submerged. The human costs are incalculable.

Biloxi, I met Bronwynne Bassier and her sister, Kim. Bronwynne told me that the only earthly possessions she has left were the clothes on her back. I also met relief and rescue workers who are performing heroically in difficult circumstances. They've been working around the clock, risking their own lives to save the lives of others. Yet, despite their best efforts, the magnitude of responding to a crisis over a disaster area that is larger than the size of Great Britain has created