AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

But at bottom, Ghana is very grateful for the friendship we are—she is enjoying from the United States. And I, personally, am very happy and appreciate your friendship so far.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

President Kufuor. And I look forward to a good and productive retirement, just as I wish for you, as you go into retirement. [*Laughter*]

President Bush. Thank you, sir. [*Laughter*]

President Kufuor. You have been good, and I hope history will judge you well.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

President Kufuor. Thank you very much.

President Bush. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House.

Remarks Following a Briefing on Hurricane Ike Recovery Efforts

September 15, 2008

Thank you very much, Secretary Chertoff, for your briefing—you just came back from Houston; Administrator Paulison. The briefing, of course, was on the damage done to Texas and Louisiana, a result of Ike.

We, obviously, watch this recovery very carefully, because the Federal Government is playing a crucial role in helping the people of the devastated areas recover. We're working closely with the State and local authorities on a variety of subjects.

Recently, I was informed that there are going to be a—numerous points of distribution for food, water, and ice throughout Harris County to help the people there adjust. Obviously, until electricity is fully restored, people are going to need help with water, food, and ice.

There's some good news on electricity. Electricity is beginning to be restored. Obviously, there's a lot more houses and folks that are waiting for electricity, but people are working hard. There's crews coming in from around the country to help.

The energy situation is one that's of concern. Our drivers, our folks at the pump, are going to have to expect some upward pressure on price, because the storm disrupted the supply of gasoline as a result of shutting down refineries and pipelines. Now, two—the two major pipelines are up and running, which is positive news, and it happened quicker than we thought it would happen. Yet until those refineries get up and running full blast, those pipelines are going to be looking for product.

And so there's going to be a pinch. I wish it wasn't the case, but it is. On the other hand, if the pinch is too hard, if people think they're being treated unfairly, they need to get on the Department of Energy web site, because there's—or the FTC web site—and make their complaints known.

The storm was—damaged a lot of infrastructure, but truthfully it was not as bad as some predicted that it would be on the energy sector.

I'm going down tomorrow; I'm looking forward to going down. Members of my administration will be going down. We're looking forward to hearing from, you know, the local folks. I'm confident there will be people that are very frustrated because their lives have been severely affected by this storm. And my message will be that we hear you, and we'll work as hard and fast as we can to help you get your lives back up to normal.

Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:05 p.m. in the Roosevelt Room at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Remarks at a State Dinner Honoring President John Agyekum Kufuor of Ghana

September 15, 2008

Mr. President and Mrs. Kufuor and family members; members of the Cabinet; Mr. Vice President; Members of Congress; distinguished guests: Thank you all for coming. Laura and I are really happy to host you tonight. And we're particularly happy to host President Kufuor and Mrs. Kufuor. After all, we were in their country last February, and it was a unbelievable visit in spite of my lousy dancing. [*Laughter*] Mrs. Kufuor was my partner, and she can testify to my lousy dancing. [*Laughter*]