

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:40 a.m. at Biloxi City Hall. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Haley R. Barbour of Mississippi and

his wife, Marsha; Mayor A.J. Holloway of Biloxi, MS; and Rodrick “Rocky” Pullman, supervisor, Hancock County, MS.

## Remarks Prior to a Lunch Meeting With Elected Officials and Community Leaders in New Orleans, Louisiana *March 1, 2007*

It is my pleasure to be back in New Orleans. I want to thank the Lieutenant Governor, the mayor, the head of the City Council, the parish presidents for joining me.

I’ve committed to stay involved in the rebuilding of—and the United States Senator, excuse me, Senator—and the Congressman, I beg your pardon. I committed to the people of this part of the world and the gulf coast that the Federal Government would fund recovery and stay committed to the recovery. And one of the reasons I have come down is to hear from you. I fully understand that there are frustrations, and I want to know the frustrations. And to the extent we can help, we’ll help. I told the people that I would work with the Congress to write a \$110 billion check to help the people of Louisiana and Mississippi, and that check has been written. And now it’s incumbent upon us to get the money into people’s hands.

Sometimes it’s hard to see progress when you’re living close to the scene. I guess the New Orleans Saints football team rep-

resents to me what’s happening in this part of the State. It is a resurgence; there’s a renewal. Even though there’s a lot of work done, the spirit of the people down here is strong.

And so I want to thank these leaders for joining me. It means a lot to me. It’s good to be with you. It’s also good to be in a place where you can buy some pretty good food. [*Laughter*] I’m looking forward to the visit.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:22 p.m. at Lil’ Dizzy’s Cafe. In his remarks, he referred to Lt. Gov. Mitchell J. Landrieu of Louisiana; Mayor C. Ray Nagin of New Orleans, LA; Oliver M. Thomas, Jr., president, New Orleans City Council; Aaron F. Broussard, president, Jefferson Parish, LA; Kevin Davis, president, St. Tammany Parish, LA; Billy Nungesser, president, Plaquemines Parish, LA; Henry Rodriguez, president, St. Bernard Parish, LA; M.E. Taylor, president, Washington Parish, LA; Sen. David Vitter; and Rep. William J. Jefferson.

## Remarks at Samuel J. Green Charter School in New Orleans *March 1, 2007*

Thank you all. Please be seated. Dr. Tony, thank you very much for your kind introduction. God, I love the smile on his face. [*Laughter*]

Think about this: You can play recess outside in a garden. So, like, those are the two things I was good at, at school—[*laughter*]*—eating and playing. [Laughter]*