

marks, he referred to Gov. Haley R. Barbour of Mississippi and his wife Marsha; Gov. Piyush “Bobby” Jindal of Louisiana; Adm. Thad W. Allen, USCG, in his capacity as national incident commander for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; Capt. Steven D. Poulin, USCG, commanding officer, Sector Mobile; Carl-

Henric Svanberg, chairman of the board, Anthony B. Hayward, group chief executive, Robert W. Dudley, managing director, and Rupert Bondy, group general counsel, BP p.l.c.; and Lamar McKay, chairman and president, BP America, Inc.

## Remarks During a Discussion With Community Members in Gulfport June 14, 2010

[*The President’s remarks were joined in progress.*]

*The President.* —the problem is, most of this stuff had been tested with a much smaller amount of oil. And so the amounts of dispersants, for example, were much lower. We really have never seen up to a million—

*Participant.* Gallons

*The President.* —gallons of dispersant put out there. And so we already provided some waivers, because our attitude was, given the toxicity, given how toxic the oil was already—it’s a matter of the lesser of two evils—it was better to go ahead and put that out. And we tested it for safety, and the EPA has been involved in that.

But the point I made earlier is the one that I think we have to focus on, and that is that the technologies generally, whether it’s dispersants, boom, skimming devices, they really haven’t developed much over the last 30, 40 years. We’re using the same stuff—the industry is using the same stuff that the industry was using 40 years ago. And we’ve got to—part of the review that we’re doing involves making sure that whether it’s private industry or a public-private partnership that people start developing better mechanisms to respond to this kind of disastrous situation

But for the press pool, I just want to thank the business owners as well as the mayor and the Governor and first lady for talking to Thad and myself.

As you can see, this is a spectacular beach. You’ve got Missy, who’s got a wonderful inn, the Edgewater Inn, and George [Scott],<sup>o</sup> he’s got a terrific restaurant—what’s the name of the restaurant?

*Scott Weinberg.* The Blow Fly Inn.

*The President.* And Missy was mentioning she has already seen a 40-percent drop in her occupancy since this crisis occurred, partly because of cancellations of large groups that were planning to stay there.

It just gives you a sense—and those folks who were going to stay at Missy’s would have been eating at George’s [Scott’s],<sup>o</sup> so it gives you a sense of the kind of potential economic impact that a crisis like this can have on individual business owners. And obviously, they’ve got to make payroll, and they’ve got employees, and it trickles down and has an impact on them as well.

So we are going to be working with business owners like this, with Governors and mayors to make sure that they are made whole as a consequence of this crisis. But we also want to make sure that we are in this for the long haul. And the full effects of this may not be known immediately. They may not be known 3 months from now and may not be fully known for another 6 months or a year. And we just want to make sure we’ve got structure in place so that people like Missy and George [Scott]<sup>o</sup> are adequately dealt with. That’s going to be a top topic of mine when I meet with the BP officials on Wednesday. And so I just want to say

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<sup>o</sup> White House correction.

how much I appreciate them sharing their stories.

All right? Thank you, everybody.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:45 p.m. at the Chimneys Restaurant. In his remarks, he re-

ferred to Mayor George Schloegel of Gulfport, MS; Gov. Haley R. Barbour of Mississippi and his wife Marsha; Adm. Thad W. Allen, USCG, in his capacity as national incident commander for the Deepwater Horizon oil spill; and Missy Bennett, owner, Edgewater Inn.

## Remarks Following a Tour of Theodore Industrial Port and an Exchange With Reporters in Theodore, Alabama *June 14, 2010*

*The President.* Good afternoon, everybody. I just had to—a chance to tour this staging facility here at Theodore along with Admiral Allen and Governor Riley. I also want to acknowledge that Congressman Jo Bonner and a number of our elected officials are here, and they just received an extensive briefing about what is taking place.

It is from this staging area and 16 others like it all across the Gulf Coast that our response to the oil spill is being carried out. Now, I saw, and many of you had an opportunity to see, what is being done to repair and decontaminate boom, to train volunteers, and to help with the cleanup efforts. And their hard work and their sense of purpose on behalf of the people of Alabama as well as the Gulf Coast is inspiring.

I had a chance during the discussions with the State and local officials to reiterate to them what I've been saying all across the coast, and that is that we want to coordinate at every level—Federal, State, and local—to make sure that we are leaving no stone unturned in terms of our ability to respond to this crisis.

Now, what I've heard from a number of local officials during my trip today is what I've heard from folks on each of the four visits that I've made to this region since the Deepwater Horizon explosion happened in April. There's a sense that this disaster is not only threatening our fishermen and our shrimpers and our oystermen, not only affecting potentially precious marshes and wetlands and estuaries and waters that are part of what makes the Gulf Coast so special, there's also a fear that it can have a long-term impact on a way of life that has been passed on for generations.

And I understand that fear. The leaders and the officials who are with me understand it.

Governor Riley understands it. He has been a regular presence on our daily coordinating calls and a relentless advocate for Alabama throughout this process. And we are absolutely committed to working with him and all the local officials who are behind us to do everything in our power to protect the Gulf way of life so that it's there for our children and our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren.

Now, everybody here has had experiences dealing with disasters. As we were flying over from Mississippi via helicopter, you could see the footprints of buildings that had been decimated from Katrina. But in some ways, what we're dealing with here is unique because it's not simply one catastrophic event, it's an ongoing assault whose movements are constantly changing. That's what makes this crisis so challenging. It means that it has to be constantly watched, it has to be tracked. We're constantly having to redeploy resources to make sure that they're having maximum impact. And we also need to make sure that we are constantly helping folks who have been hurt by it, even as we're stopping the oil from spreading into more and more areas.

So that means that this response effort has to happen on a bunch of different tracks. It means containing as much of the oil as we can as quick as we can. After seeing an initial oil collection plan from BP, we went back to them and said that they need to move faster and more aggressively. And they have now come back with a plan to accelerate steps to contain over 50,000 barrels a day by the end of June, 2 weeks earlier than they had originally suggested. Their revised plan also includes steps to better prepare against extreme weather events and other un-