

test us and perhaps also show us at our best.

MAKE REAL THE PROMISE OF DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this legislation, but I rise today also to say to America it is time now, not later on. One of my favorite speakers, Dr. King, had a speech that he gave saying "Now is the Time." For a moment I am going to paraphrase some of his words. He said now is the time to make real the promise of democracy.

He said now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley, and I say the valley is this national despair that we are in right now, to the sunlit path of Americans helping Americans.

Now is the time to lift our Nation from the quicksands of Hurricane Katrina to the solid rock of safety and normalcy for the people of America.

We have had all these images on television. We have had images of people in facilities that were built for games. We have images of people in facilities that were built for conventions. We have had images of people who are American people, they are taxpayers, they are the elderly, they are the frail, they are the poor, they are the people left out without any housing. This is a class issue because those of us who had the money to get out of New Orleans, get out of Mississippi, get out of Alabama, they got out. But these are people who are American taxpayers who could not get out. Why are we not helping them?

Today we have allocated resources. What I am concerned about is who will the resources go to? When we look at Iraq, they went to Halliburton. What about the resources going to the American taxpayers? They paid their dues.

I took a moment and went on the Internet and got the application for disaster resource. The application and the pages that go with them are some 25 pages. Can you imagine if you were in the situation of some of these people, that they would in fact have to fill out this form. Let us get rid of the form and give them what they need. Put these people on cruise ships with bedrooms, bathrooms, food, a place where they could be. Let us not try to figure out and make magic. We know what can work for these people.

Finally, these men, women and families are entitled. They are American taxpayers, take care of them.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan.

□ 1430

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I first want to say that these people are not refugees. They are American citizens who pay taxes and

are raising their children. I would hope that we would not relegate them to something less than American citizens.

I rise in support of the legislation and would like to report on what the City of Detroit is doing. Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick has put together an organization with the private sector as well as FEMA over the last 48 hours, and we are offering to the families that have been decimated 500 housing spots immediately. We have been working with the United Way and the health care industry to provide the resources that these families will need, housing, health care, water, food, clothing.

We in the City of Detroit stand ready, under Mayor Kilpatrick's leadership. We have spoken with the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), as well as the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. DAVIS), and the gentleman from New Orleans, Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), and all have agreed to work to move them now.

We need other government officials from around the country to step up and to bring them home. The people of New Orleans have nothing to go back to.

Mr. Speaker, we are proud of our Mayor and the City of Detroit. Detroit has stood up, through Mayor Kilpatrick's leadership, and we ask that other cities around this great Nation of ours who have the wherewithal, because private companies are ready to help, and they have helped us.

The Detroit public schools have agreed to take children from the ravished areas. I thank the Mayor of Detroit as well as my colleague for yielding me this time.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, now is the time to help the people of America who have been in this situation for 3 or 4 days. If we can go into Iraq and rebuild Iraq, we can build what the people of America need in the Gulf region and take care of what they need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. CAPITO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I began this week with a stomach virus that had me flat on my back and very quickly that illness was replaced with a sickness in my stomach from watching our fellow Americans, some of the most vulnerable, some of the poorest, hurting, even dying, and all week long, like many of my colleagues I have spoken with today, feeling somewhat helpless, even as a Federal legislator, not being able to roll up my sleeves and go and help our fellow man.

We are with all of these people. From the Tennessee Valley to the Silicon Valley, we stand with our friends and neighbors in Louisiana and Mississippi and Alabama, but particularly in the New Orleans area and in southern Mississippi where the devastation is so bad.

Mr. Speaker, there is going to be plenty of time to point fingers, scrub the problems, determine what changes need to be made, what broke down at the local, State, Federal level. I hope knowing this institution now as well as I have known it for 11 years, and knowing the goodness of most people from both sides of the aisle, we can do as much as possible, like we did after September 11 and come together, bring the Nation together, around the solutions.

This has been an extraordinary time over these last 4 years in this country as we put 22 agencies together to form the Department of Homeland Security, including taking FEMA from an independent agency under this new umbrella. Obviously all of the bugs have not been worked out; and obviously, as the President said today, this is an unacceptable response, frankly, at every level, local, State and Federal.

But let us today try to hold off on too much of the blame and come together to support all of these people. I am greatly encouraged today to see the truckloads and the air loads going in and people being evacuated. Until every person that is still living is in a safe and secure place, let us try to meet each other at the water's edge and try to solve these problems. Every minute it is improving and the system is improving at every level of government.

These are difficult, difficult times. It is important that we come together. Natural disasters, terrorist activities, these activities will probably continue, and we have to make sure I believe as leaders that the unity of purpose, of mind, of spirit is maintained in order to preserve what we have. It is going to be easy for chaos to take place in the cities that are affected or even on the floor of this great institution if we are not careful that we do not dumb down to the lowest common denominator of criticizing or breaking down. It is a time of unity in the day and months ahead. The solutions are extremely difficult.

I want to also talk beyond this crisis and hurricane because I believe we were headed for serious trouble before

this hurricane hit. In places where people are on fixed income, the cost of energy, not just gasoline but all energy, was becoming such a burden, and now it is compounded because of this incident.

When crisis sets in, character is born, leaders emerge. We must in the short run use every bit of influence to increase the capacity for oil for our country. OPEC is just 11 countries, many of which get significant funding annually from our country. We need oil. If they cannot release more oil, we should hold back the contributions we make to their country until we get a satisfactory flow of crude oil into this country, from OPEC countries as well as non-OPEC countries. But OPEC countries have much more oil than non-OPEC countries, but non-OPEC countries are actually producing much more oil than OPEC countries today.

Pressure needs to be placed from the executive branch, but also the legislative branch, which has the power of the purse. We need to say this is a time of crisis in America. Following this hurricane and following incredibly accelerating gas prices, we need relief. We need refinery capacity as well. We need cooperation at every level. We need response to the short term. And in the long term, we need to bring about changes in our country's policy to get ourselves off of oil.

So let us unite and solve these problems and help America at this critical time.

HURRICANE KATRINA SUPPLEMENTAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the supplemental appropriation to help the people devastated by this hurricane. As Members can probably tell, I have laryngitis. I may lose my voice again during the course of my remarks, but I feel compelled to speak today at the outset to express my sincere condolence to all those families that have lost loved ones or still wonder where their loved ones are in the wake of this terrifying and terrible hurricane.

My heart goes out to all of those that have been impacted. The effects of this hurricane have been devastating. We have seen its physical force, extraordinary winds, the water, the flooding, the wrath of nature in Hurricane Katrina.

It has been awesome and terrible in its destruction, but sadness has given way to anger and disbelief as we have seen people stranded on roof tops, as we have seen mothers worry about whether their babies will have enough to eat, as we have seen children worry about their parents' medical conditions and the lack of medicine, as we have wondered how this could happen in the United States of America.

National disasters afflict every part of the globe, but it seems that this national disaster has been compounded by our response and in cases by our lack of response. The images we have seen have been horrifying. We have all wondered how it was that so many people came to be left behind, how it was that we could have assumed that when 20 percent of the population of New Orleans lives under the level of poverty, that everyone would have a means of getting out of New Orleans before the storm. How it is that there are not buses running around the clock to take people away from this terrible place with no food, no water, giving way to lawlessness?

I heard today that the District of Columbia is sending 10 buses, and I applaud the District of Columbia, but it will take days for those buses to get there. Why are there not buses around the clock? Why is it that these news crews can go and take this devastating footage and find these survivors, and the relief effort cannot?

I, like a great many Americans, do not understand how this is possible in the United States of America. My constituents demand that we move both earth and heaven to bring relief as fast as possible to the people of the Gulf Coast, and we have been bitterly disappointed to see how this tragedy has been prolonged, and we have the most profound questions about how in the richest Nation on earth it can take so long to simply get people out of that disaster zone to higher ground, drier ground, to food, medicine. I do not understand the government's response. I really do not.

And yes, there will be plenty of time to ask these questions and we will ask them. But the rest of the country is asking them now. We demand a better response than we are getting. I hope that as some of the officials from FEMA and the National Guard are saying, the calvary is on the way, the calvary is truly on the way. And I hope that effort only accelerates and mushrooms and does not stop until every last person has been evacuated.

This has been a devastating week for the United States. We have seen bodies floating through the streets. We have heard the voices of Americans question how their government could leave them in such a place in such a time with such developed mass transportation, without airlifts of food and medicine, without rapid evacuation. This country can do better. This country must do better. I hope and pray we are doing a lot better right this moment.

I am proud of this Congress for coming into this session and rapidly approving this aid, and it is incumbent upon this Congress to ensure this aid is delivered ASAP and not another moment goes by with another victim waiting to be rescued.

□ 1445

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

DESPERATELY NEEDED SUPPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, Thomas Payne wrote in 1776 that "now is the time that try men's souls." This is also one of those times in the life of our country, as we witness the destruction of a major U.S. city and the pain of our fellow Americans on the Gulf Coast.

In our Constitution, the Federal Government is charged with the mission to provide for the common defense. That defense is not just against threats coming from other countries, but also from natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina.

I have heard recriminations against the mayor of New Orleans, against the governor of Louisiana, and against the President of the United States, but now is not the time to divide Americans in political fighting. The mayor, the governor and the President must pull together at this time for search and rescue, for humanitarian relief and for reconstruction of the Gulf Coast.

Catastrophes like this illustrate the kindness and generosity of the American spirit. With hundreds of thousands unable to return to their homes, communities have opened their doors and welcomed victims. In my district we have seen five major high schools and scores of other schools begin fund raising drives for hurricane relief.

Major Illinois employers have already donated \$7.2 million in cash. Abbott Laboratories, Medline, Astella, and Cardinal Health all have donated major supplies, and thanks to their generosity, truckloads of baby formula and nutritional supplements and electrical generators are on their way from Illinois to the scene. To help police and emergency officials regain control of the situation, Motorola has sent 2,500 portable radios to New Orleans.

Today in Congress we approved a \$10.5 billion supplemental emergency appropriation to ensure the continuation of the rescue and recovery effort. Today's bill, enacted by Congress in just 22 hours, is the third largest disaster supplemental in our history, and