

By sitting down, Rosa Parks was standing up, and with her she carried the hopes, dreams, aspirations, and yearnings of hundreds and thousands of oppressed people. She inspired an entire generation to take a stand by sitting-in at lunch counters and restaurants, by standing-in at theaters, by integrating public transportation on the Freedom Rides, and by organizing voter registration campaigns in the deepest and most dangerous part of the South. It was also in response to Rosa Parks' protest that a new, young minister named Martin Luther King, Jr. was called upon to be the spokesperson and leader of the movement that would ultimately become the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

That one simple, elegant act ignited a powerful non-violent movement that changed America forever. So when we pay tribute to Rosa Parks, we are saluting more than the mother of the modern day civil rights movement. We are honoring one of the founders of the New America, perhaps ultimately a founder of the Beloved Community, a truly interracial democracy where we lay down the burden of race and class.

The story of Rosa Parks reminds us that we are all one people, one family—the American family, the human family. And she reminds us that the actions of one single person have power, power to inspire a generation to greatness, power to make presidents, governors and members of Congress do what is right, even if they had not intended to. Rosa Parks teaches us that no matter what the challenge, even in the face of death, sometimes each of us is called upon to stand up, speak up, and speak out against the injustice of our day and time. And if we do, maybe, just maybe it might change a nation. And if we are as lucky as Rosa Parks, maybe it might even change the world.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to help pay tribute to one of Alabama's great Civil Rights leaders, Rosa Parks.

Nearly 50 years ago, Rosa Parks started a quiet, but determined, protest against the status quo.

What began as a principled refusal to give up her seat, grew into a movement that has helped change the world.

All of us assembled here today are beneficiaries of her courage, regardless of our race. We're deeply saddened by her passing, but we're also humbled by her life and legacy. Our Nation is stronger because of her actions.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday I introduced a resolution recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Over 60 members of this chamber are cosponsors of that resolution, including all of my colleagues from Alabama.

It is my hope that resolution will also help honor Rosa Parks, and help pay tribute to those who laid the foundations for the modern-day Civil Rights movement.

I thank Mr. CONYERS for leading this tribute today, and thank my colleagues for their attention to the life and legacy of Rosa Parks.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to acknowledge the passing of a great American, the venerable Rosa Louise Parks.

On a cold afternoon in December 1955, Rosa Parks could not have known she would soon become a national symbol and civil rights icon. But in standing her ground and demanding her fair and equal treatment on that

bus in Montgomery, Alabama, Rosa Parks became the first lady of civil rights and the mother of the freedom movement.

Her simple action and committed resolve that day empowered a people, ignited a movement and changed the course of American history.

The events that followed Ms. Parks' protest that day—her arrest, the Montgomery bus boycott, and the eventual integration of the bus system—set the stage for Dr. Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Act.

As a young college student, I was inspired by the stories of Ms. Parks' courageous action. I traveled to the south as a "freedom ride" in support of the emerging civil rights movement.

Rosa Parks' courage, determination, and tenacity continue to be an inspiration to all those committed to non-violent protest and change nearly half a century later. She will be remembered as an everlasting symbol and advocate for justice and equality throughout America.

Thank you Rosa, America will forever be indebted to you.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2215

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCAUL of Texas). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for half the time until midnight.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be here on the floor once again. I thank the minority leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), and the minority whip, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), and our Democratic Caucus leadership, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

I was moved by my colleagues that came to the floor to honor the late great Rosa Parks, and also the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) who is a Member of this body for a very long time, and actually worked very closely with Mrs. Rosa Parks. I know she is smiling on the gentleman and this Congress tonight for recognizing her contributions. I thank the gentleman for standing up at a time it was not popular to stand up for Rosa Parks and allow her to be a part of your operation. And obviously she allowed you to be a part of her life. Thank you for keeping her memory alive.

Mr. Speaker, I entered my comments for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of condolences to not only her family, but recognizing Rosa Parks's contributions to our great country, and to the world. Many leaders are not revered until they have passed on, and I can tell you that many Members of this Congress, especially in the Congressional Black Caucus, let Rosa Parks know how much we appreciated her contributions. I have read many letters to the editor from around the country from people from all backgrounds com-

mending the life and memory of Mrs. Rosa Parks.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to come under regular order in the 30-Something Working Group to come to this floor once again and talk about some of the issues that are working in our Federal Government and some of the issues that we need to continue to work on.

My State was hit recently by Hurricane Wilma, closely following damage wrought by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and there is a lot of work we have to do. I want to commend those first responders trying to save lives and making sure that we prevent accidents and future accidents. I want to thank Florida Power & Light and light companies from throughout the country for coming down to south Florida to try to restore power to so many Floridians.

But I can tell you it was very disheartening that yesterday, and I just got back this afternoon, there were thousands of people waiting on ice and water. Whatever the issue is as it relates to the communication lines, we are going to have to work on those issues. I know that in south Florida we have the most populated area in the State. We have the west coast hit, but we never can tell what Mother Nature is going to do. The east coast ended up being hammered quite a bit. A number of individuals were left without electricity. Roofs were ripped off. Things like that happen in category 2 and category 3 hurricanes. Water lines were ruptured, but hats off to the local government for making sure that we have potable water in many parts of Miami-Dade County and parts of Broward and Palm Beach counties.

But what we have to do is go back to what we were talking about originally, a Hurricane Katrina commission to make sure that we are able to work the kinks out so we can provide Americans what they need in their time of need. Unfortunately in this particular instance, that did not happen. I want to thank the National Guard for doing everything they could do, but the coordination is still not where it should be.

I wanted to talk tonight about what just happened, what has happened in the past, and how we can correct it in the future. I think that is something very, very important, especially as Members of Congress. I am joined by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ). Both of us rode the storm out and both of us live in communities where the lights are out.

Both of us called directly to the director of FEMA to recommend to the White House that we be granted individual assistance for households. In Hurricane Katrina, that was not granted. Many Floridians in south Florida lost their homes. They did not meet the quote/unquote 800 threshold for damage to their homes, something that was a discretionary call. The entire Florida delegation asked, with the leadership of the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), for

the White House and FEMA to reconsider. It was denied both times.

This time we assumed nothing and worked very hard to make it happen. It was very obvious, and I am sure people in Washington, D.C. could watch the news and see that the need was there. We needed to meet it, but the Federal response is not what it should be at this particular time. I can tell you as I yield to my colleague, I was very, very disturbed by the fact that a person that I communicate with that I think is a very decent individual, and I still feel he is a decent individual, but when you come down to Florida, the Secretary of Homeland Security says, you just need to be patient. We know you just went through a storm, but be patient.

I can tell you before that, the State director, the Governor of Florida was saying, make sure you have what you need to have, water, ice, 24 hours after the event. Then when folks ran out, they waited in lines for hours. In some instances, water did not show up, ice was not there, and food was not there; and folks were promised it was going to be there and it did not happen.

There are a number of comments going back and forth between State, local, and Federal governments. This goes back to the importance of the independent Hurricane Katrina commission so we can have folks that can sit down and evaluate what happened in Hurricane Katrina, what happened in Rita and Wilma. What happened in other storms, so we can come out with best practices, not just for hurricanes but even if there is a terrorist attack.

This is a perfect example to show how the people who sent us here will not get what they need from the local, State, or Federal Government that is overwhelmed by the event that took place. That is why we have a FEMA, and I think that it is important that we work on these issues. I am glad to be here with my colleagues. We are quote/unquote evacuees. The airports just opened in south Florida, and I am glad to be here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it has been stressful, and that is the mildest word I can use, last several days. We both rode out the storm in our houses in south Florida.

I have to say, if I had not been impressed by looking at the aftermath of Andrew, and I live in Broward County and so Andrew did not devastate Broward County like it did Miami-Dade County, we got grazed, but if I did not appreciate the kind of power Mother Nature has after observing the aftermath of Andrew and Hurricane Katrina on TV, I can tell you, being hit by an category 3 storm is awe inspiring.

When you are cowering with your kids and husband and your family in your home and you are boarded up in your house, it feels like God is literally throwing bowling balls on the roof. It is an emotional, stressful situation.

For those of us who live in structures that have been built under the south Florida building code since Hurricane Andrew and have a sturdy structure in which to live, where we were not worried about our homes caving in around us, and then yesterday when I had an opportunity to ride with FEMA on their preliminary damage assessment review and saw the mobile home parks in my district and across south Florida spanning the gentleman's district, and literally see that the walls caved in around the foundations of these homes and just furniture was left. Massive trees fell, falling completely over or snapping in half and falling on people's houses. We can urge people to leave their homes as much as possible, but human nature often motivates people to stay with their belongings and protect their home base.

I just could not believe what might have happened. The fact that we avoided a huge loss of life is just a miracle. It really is. I have to say, the insensitivity on the part of the Governor as well as the President, both spanning from Hurricane Katrina to Wilma is just shocking. Governor Bush literally said today in our newspaper that he did not understand, and I will quote him: "We had a lot of people standing in line yesterday that we did not like to see. That is why we tell people to have 72 hours of food and water so you do not have to stand in line." That was Secretary Paulison. Then the Governor said he did not understand why people did not heed the warning and get 72 hours' worth of food and water in advance of the storm. That is an easy thing to do.

Well, I do not think Governor Bush was in south Florida for the several days, 6 or 7 days' progress that Wilma made across the continent and saw the lines in advance of the storm. And you know what, if you do not have money, if you cannot buy gas for your car or get to a store, it is going to be a little difficult to stock up on 72 hours' worth of food.

When I went on this preliminary damage assessment, I will be honest, I am quite certain that a lot of these people could not afford to buy 72 hours' worth of food and water. So the insensitivity between the Governor's comments and the President's comments after Hurricane Katrina. The President said something similar after Hurricane Katrina. He said in advance of the storm, we warned people and it is our responsibility to get people prepared; but if they did not listen, there is not too much we can do about it. I guess like brother like brother.

But what is the most disappointing, really, as someone who went through the storm myself and now have had literally thousands and thousands of constituents whose lives are affected who are sitting in the dark tonight as we speak who cannot hear our voices unless they are listening to C-SPAN Radio, honestly, it is just unbelievable that last week when we had our Flor-

ida delegation meeting, to listen to the supposedly organized and well-prepared preparations that FEMA and the State of Florida were putting in place to preposition supplies that people needed.

You would have thought that there would not be a kink in the works after the hurricane went through. Honestly, the reports that I am getting are so disturbing, price gouging of over \$6 a gallon for gas in our districts. Where is the accountability? Where is the protection from the State government?

We have trucks that have been lost for 2 days that they still cannot find, that they bragged to us last week that they were pre-positioning ice and water and meals ready to eat in Jacksonville and Homestead, but then they lost the trucks because the only means of communication they had available to contact the trucks was cell phones. Maybe they did not notice, but cell phone towers are tall; and the tall things in south Florida when they got hit by a category 3 hurricane fell down or were damaged.

So that means communication went down. No water, no ice, no diesel fuel. Senior citizens older than 85 years old in Hallandale Beach stuck in their condominiums, the glass blown out of their places, no power, no food. The generators operating their power running out of diesel fuel. The mayor of Hallandale Beach had to call an emergency session of the city council and declare a state of emergency within her city so she could get ready to commandeer gas from a gas station to help those people.

This is the model State for natural disaster preparation. If we are the model, and we have already seen what the model is not, if we are the model, we have a lot of work to do.

□ 2230

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I feel very strongly also there is a lot of work to be done. What I am disturbed about, I was at the emergency operation center last night in Miami-Dade County speaking with the county manager and several of the county commissioners. The mayor was on his way back from Homestead Air Force Base meeting with National Guard personnel and management, and the bottom line is that they did not get the supplies that they were supposed to get. The ice was not coming, Mr. Speaker. The water was not on the way, and it is not the Kendrick Meek report. It was on the Weather Channel. It was on CNN. It was on Fox. It was on MSNBC. It was on all the major news networks saying we are prepared because we are Floridians, and we are used to doing this. Well, I can tell the Members that we are never perfect.

And I am holding up just one picture here, Mr. Speaker, from the New York Times of the Orange Bowl. Everyone knows about the Orange Bowl throughout the country, but it is not known for what it was known for, for a number of championship games, a number

of professional football games. It is a place of chaos and a place of frustration right now. And I use the word "chaos," and I do not use that loosely.

I can tell the Members I happened to be with the National Guard yesterday. I wanted them to take me to all of these distribution centers by a Blackhawk, and we had an opportunity to see them. There were lines around, literally if we were to go out the front door of the Capitol, we can go clear across the street to the Cannon Building and around, all the way around that building. People were waiting for 7 and 8 hours to get 1 bag of ice and 3 jugs of water.

I do not blame the local government officials. I do not even know if it was the truck driver that needed someone to sign a paper before they released the ice. What I do know is that Americans count on this government for them in their time of need. Local government can only go so far. State government can only go so far. The Federal Government, as far as we are concerned as it relates to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, this is what that Agency does 24-7. They plan for catastrophic events. And as far as I am concerned, as it relates to catastrophic, comparing Wilma to Katrina, it is very hard to compare it, but I can tell the Members that many of the Floridians that are being rationed for gas, we are not saying it is the government's problem for all of that. We are just saying that we need to manage our part of this thing. We need to make sure that if we tell someone that ice is going to be somewhere at a particular time, I can see a truck an hour late or 2 hours late, but 7 and 10 hours late?

This is not the Kendrick Meek report. This is in the papers throughout Florida and throughout this country and on several of the news outlets. And I have this here from the Sun-Sentinel, after the Governor made the comments about they should have been ready. And it is not about the Governor and the State of Florida. This is about responding to Americans in need, and we have a pattern.

In Rita we heard the same complaints from some members of the Texas delegation and some of the folks that came up here from Rita about what should have happened did not happen. We definitely heard those complaints in Katrina. So we know that we are having complaints, and we know that we have a problem, but we are not doing the things that we need to do to correct those problems. We are not doing it. And that is the problem. That is the main problem that we are not learning from recent events. We are talking about within the last 2 to 3 months. This is not like 1967. We do not have to go back that far. Just this year we should learn from it.

And the reason why I am alarmed by this, thank God we are in a hurricane season, but I do not know what these terrorists are thinking about. I really do not. I do not know if they are going

to plan to hit a city in the Midwest or the east coast or the west coast. We definitely know that we are not able to respond in a way that we are supposed to respond throughout the country no matter where it is.

So it is important that we have this Independent Katrina Commission that many papers throughout this country has endorsed. It is important that 81 percent of Americans have said that they want an Independent Katrina Commission. It is named Independent Katrina Commission because so many issues happened during that event. And then we had Rita, and then we had Wilma, and no telling, we may have something else.

But what happens when we get a dirty bomb? What happens when we have to evacuate a whole U.S. city and we have to find not only housing, but shelter for folks? What happens when a local government sends out an SOS? Obviously they are sending out an SOS in south Florida. I do not want us to be too proud to beg, but if we need help, we need to say it. And if we are all collocated with FEMA, and everyone is talking to everyone, we cannot be concerned about this is my friend and I do not want to say anything about him, or this is my brother and I do not want to say anything about him. The bottom line is it is not personal, it is just business.

And I had constituents that were told to be at Hadley Park in the middle of my district. Not a truck of ice, water, anything. We had to argue with the emergency management people. We had to argue with the State. And finally it took an act of Congressmen getting involved for that to happen. What happened then? Well, I believe they ended up getting ice and food because there was no water to send over there.

So the bottom line is we do have people in the real world that cannot afford to buy a generator to keep their refrigerator and food fresh. We have people in our country, the working poor and some middle-class folks, that are working from paycheck to paycheck, that cannot afford to have ice reserved for 72 hours.

That is an interesting number because it keeps sliding. I heard we need to have enough to preserve ourselves for 24 hours. I heard this come out of the mouth of the Governor, the chief emergency management person, the FEMA people. And now we have problem. Now that number has slid to 72 hours. What is it going to be next, 150 hours because we cannot respond?

So I am very serious about this because it is our job. Even before Wilma, I am so glad that we were on this floor, and someone said, oh, it is just politics. And it is a perfect example. And, Mr. Speaker, I have said this time after time again. I have shared with the Members. We come to this floor. We say we need an Independent Katrina Commission to evaluate the local, State, and Federal response to these

events, and folks said, oh, it is just politics. Guess what? Now it is us. Now it is Congressman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Now it is me. Now it is Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART, Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN, Congressman FOLEY, Congressman SHAW, Congressman HASTINGS of Florida. Now it is us. Now it is Senator MARTINEZ. Now it is Senator NELSON. Now it is Florida. Who is next?

And when are we going to be able to say, regardless of how it may look on the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Homeland Security, the White House, the Congress, individuals, we have to work this out? That is why people sent us up here. They did not send us up here to be friends and hug and tell each other, "I have got your back if you have mine." People sent us up here for us to have their back. And unless we are willing to do that, then we might as well just stay in our districts and say, call me when you want me to do something. Somebody calls me from the back of the Chamber and says, this is the way you are supposed to vote. If they are one of those kind of folks and they come and put their card in because someone else told them how to vote, and they say do not talk about that because this is the message for the day, we need to talk about it. We need to be critical of one another so we can be better. And, unfortunately, it is now our constituents.

But I feel half all right about this thing because we have been about the solution and trying to bring about over 190 Members of this House. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, on this side of the aisle, it is not politics. It is just business. And guess what? It is reality.

We are calling for an Independent Katrina Commission, along with 81 percent of the American people that are calling for it. What has to happen next? Do we need to have a terrorist attack? Do we need to have a horrific event somewhere to say maybe we need to review what we are doing because what we are doing we are not doing right? It is almost like taking a carton of milk out of the refrigerator and saying, oh, it is spoiled, let me put it back in, and maybe it will be fresh tomorrow. It is just not going to happen. And until we leader up and until we work in a bipartisan way, it is just not going to happen.

So, I mean, I do not know how to make it any more plain of what we need to do and what we have to do, because Americans are suffering, and now, as we stand here today, a supermajority of our constituents cannot even see us here on this floor representing them. And guess what? Other Americans that now are sitting at home saying, oh, that is just a shame, or Members sitting in their office, that is a shame what happened in their district, we are going to pray about it, we know prayer without works is dead. We know that, and we know that we have

to have action. And that is the reason why we have it in our hearts and in our minds to do the right thing. But guess what is standing in front of it? Politics; the politics of saying I have your back, you do not have to worry about it.

This majority over here in Congress is saying, do not worry, we are going to do a partisan commission. You do not have to worry about it. We are not going to be critical of you, White House. White House, do not be critical of us, and we will get through this thing. Let us just ride it out. But somehow, some way, there is a constant reminder of the disorganization of emergency management, and it starts from the Federal, and they will blame the State, or they will blame the local government, and the local government will blame the State, or the State will blame the Federal. We are not into the blame game. We are getting down to how we can get a system that will work for all Americans.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is so right, and his comments have brought up so many different things that I want to say.

But let us go back to what we have been talking about on this floor to these last few weeks. We have been talking about the three or four Cs that are the real issue in this administration and in this government. We have been talking about corruption. We have been talking about cronyism. We have been talking about competence. I think what has happened in our community in the last few days just points arrows in the direction of every one of those C words.

Let us talk about competence. The Governor can say, golly gee, our goal was to get up and running and be ready with all this water and ice and response and trucks and generators in 24 hours, and we will just have to work a little bit harder. Honestly, if they point to themselves as the model, if FEMA points to Florida as the model, and says that we are the most prepared State in terms of natural disasters, then they are owning up and saying, "I am competent." We are competent. We are ready to do the job.

I think if we traveled through South Florida tonight and asked people on the street, whom the gentleman and I have talked with, and asked them if they think their government is competent, I think the answer would be a resounding no, because these are some of the things that our constituents are having to deal with tonight, that our families are having to deal with tonight. The reality of getting hit by a Category 3 storm and not having the government respond to their needs is that in Broward County there is no potable water. The entire county is under a boil water order, which means that when I had to give my 2-year-old a bath

the other day, I could not pour water over her head because the water could give her pinkeye. That is what I was cautioned about. We have to make sure that our children do not rinse their toothbrushes with the water because it can make them sick.

We have a myriad of issues. We have water and ice and food needs. We have people in high-rises who have had windows blown out. We have trucks that have been lost. How could the trucks get lost? If they prepositioned them in strategic portions of the State so as to ensure that they could be moved out and sent to places that they know they are going to be needed, how is it that they could not find them and in some cases still have not been able to find them?

Today in Miami-Dade County, which we both represent, although now I am told that Miami-Dade County does have drinkable water, except for Miami Beach, which I represent about half of, these are the water and ice distribution centers, Mr. Speaker, that we were supposed to be set up and fully equipped with water and ice. So let us peruse the availability of the supplies today.

This is for the model State in terms of preparation and the prepositioning of hundreds of trucks to be able to be distributed as soon as the storm is over.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. And over 2,000 FEMA employees there prior to the storm.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. In advance of the storm, 2,000 FEMA employees who were supposed to be ready to be dispatched to get this stuff distributed. We had the Miami Beach distribution center supplied. Metro Zoo in South Dade, no water, partial ice. Homestead Sports Complex, which is near where the trucks were prepositioned, no supplies. None. I mean, in Homestead they did not have water or ice, and the trucks were right there to start with. The Orange Bowl was supplied, but we had massive chaos in terms of the thousands of people that showed up to try to get access to that.

We have Miami-Dade College North, which is in the north part of the county, no water, partial ice. Miami-Dade College Kendall, which is more towards south Dade, partially supplied, meaning they did not have enough water or ice for the people that showed up. And let us keep in mind that what they were distributing to people when they were able to get it were six bottles of water and a bag of ice. I mean, that is what people were able to take home while they are sitting in the dark with no ability to cool their food and keep it fresh.

□ 2245

A.D. Barns Park, no supplies. Tamiami Park, no supplies. The Mall at 163rd Street, in both your and my district, no supplies. And Landmark Property, no water, partial ice. This is the model State for natural disasters.

Let us talk about the IA, the granting of individual assistance or lack thereof. Why did the State of Florida, why did Governor Bush, not request automatic individual assistance for both the East Coast and the West Coast? He asked for that assistance immediately in advance of the storm for the West Coast, as if Wilma was going to hit a wall when she crossed over the West Coast and not cross over south-east Florida too.

I mean, it took literally until 7:30 last night with the gentleman talking to Secretary Paulison, me talking to Secretary Paulison, who, by the way lives in my district and is a constituent, and obviously knows the devastation, and he was in Washington, and much to his wife's dismay, he told me. But we even have the acting director of FEMA living in our area, and they still were not able to get individual assistance granted.

They literally went out on preliminary disaster assessments yesterday, as if you had to drive through a neighborhood to see the devastation. I mean, it was just so frustrating. This is what people are talking about when they say they do not feel their government is responsive to their needs, when they are frustrated beyond belief with the red tape.

I mean, it is so simple. It is very difficult to respond to natural disasters, there is no question about that. We lived through the chaos in the last few days. But, come on, if you are going to hold yourself up as a competent model and you are going to say that you are the example to which all others should be held, then you have to live up to that example.

Before I turn it back over to the gentleman, I just want to make sure we are not only talking about the one C, competence, we are talking about the cronyism too.

I was interested to come across an article today that talked about how Mr. Brown, "Brownie," who was ejected because of his incompetence from FEMA, Secretary Chertoff, the Homeland Security Secretary, extended Michael Brown's contract for another 30 days. For what?

The gentleman is on the Committee on Homeland Security. We had this partisan, dependent committee asking the right questions, supposedly, or at least that is what it was set up to do. How are they letting this happen? That is why we need an independent commission. If we had an independent commission, this would not have happened because there would be some accountability.

Our constituents want answers. I want to go home and make sure that FPL has the ability as much as they can humanly do to get those lights turned on. They are telling our people they are not going to be able to get those lights turned on possibly until November 22 at the earliest.

The other thing really disturbing that I heard and read in the Governor

and the State and FEMA's comments today was that they did not anticipate the intensity of the storm and they made a mistake in their calculations. The director of the State EOC, Emergency Operations Center, said today in the paper that they made a mistake in their calculations and did not account for the size of our population in South Florida when calculating how much ice and water was going to be needed.

We have the biggest media market in the State. There are more than 6 million people, 7 million people that live in our three counties, if you count Palm Beach too?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, 3.8 million in both of our counties.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to tell you, being a part of the solution is what we do. We are a part of the solution, Mr. Speaker, and I think it is important that even when it comes down to the individual assistance, I mean, you just had to turn on the television and see that there were over 800 homes damaged in Florida. That would automatically allow the people of the State of Florida to be able to call FEMA for individual assistance. But, no, we watched the sun rise and set twice in Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, let us not even let people believe that now that individual assistance has been granted and that it is being supplied. They do not even have the registration sites set up now.

I was driving through the district with the FEMA folks yesterday and people were coming up with their houses crushed in saying, I have got to have some help here. I have a baby. I have a grandmother who needs medicine. When is FEMA coming?

The poor guy who I was riding with, he does not know what to tell people. He said, "This is why we are doing this assessment, ma'am. I understand we are going to try to get help to you as soon as possible."

Now we are 72 hours out. Every day the Governor says it is going to get one day better. It does not feel that way.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, that is the only way we are going to get better. We were calling directly to the FEMA director about this individual assistance. You call the 800 number, and the folks of Texas and Louisiana and Mississippi and Alabama, I think they kind of know about that FEMA 1-800 number.

I am going to put it to you this way. We had to talk to the director. Obviously, I am going to tell you something, I am going to be the first one to tell you, when Michael Brown left, well, he did not leave, he is still on, and I want to talk about that, when Michael Brown was removed, it is almost humorous, but it is sad, when he was moved from the director to whatever job he has now, at the same pay rate, okay, you are rewarded for not doing your job under this whole culture

of corruption and cronyism. Because I can tell you right now, folks know that if you were at the helm of the ship and you did not know what to do or how to do it and you did not have the credentials, that you were not only fired, but you were fired yesterday; not, hey, you know something, you are doing a horrible job, but we are going to pay you at the same rate the day before we knew that you were not capable of doing the job, and not only that, we are going to extend you, because under this whole thing of cronyism, this is what we do.

It will be okay if it was a private company somewhere that decided to do that for a member of that company, because it was in their prerogative. It is their money, they make their own money. But when you are using the taxpayer's money to commend cronyism and incompetence, I have a problem with that. I do not think I need to be a Democrat or Republican to have a problem with that. I just need to be an American taxpayer that has a big problem with that.

How does this happen? It happens because it bubbles up from the bottom to the top, or I am going to say from the top it bubbles down from the top to the bottom. If the President is doing it, it is okay for the department heads to do it; if the department heads can do it, assistant secretaries can do it; if assistant secretaries can do it, area regional coordinators can do it; if regional coordinators can do it, it can go all the way down to the person that is making the decision in FEMA to foot drag or not, because they are okay.

Because if you are going to preserve a Michael Brown in the Federal Emergency Management Agency, then guess who also is being preserved around here? I mean, I cannot even imagine for the folks not under the spotlight that are being preserved and rewarded under this culture of corruption and cronyism. And I do not use this corruption and cronyism lightly, because there is a big cloud over Washington, D.C. right now about outing CIA agents, and not a mumbling word from the Congress about it. Not a mumbling word.

I can tell you one thing: If there was a Democrat in the White House and the Republican Congress, as it is right now, we would have to hold Members of Congress back from the gates of the White House, under this whole thing of outing a clandestine agent working to find out more about weapons of mass destruction to harm this country.

So, I say to the Congresswoman, this goes a lot deeper than just the regular Potomac two-step that is going on in Washington. It has gone to a whole other level.

The reason why we were on him on individual assistance to get better, it is because we are a part of trying to make FEMA right. We are a part of trying to make our government work. When we work and when we call and when we plead with Members of Congress and we talk to the department

heads and say, listen, grant individual assistance. We already know we are eligible. Just do it so folks will know we are responding. "Well, we are doing assessments of the assessments, and I haven't heard back from the people that went out in the field."

Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, thank God for the National Guard. I talked to them. They said listen, anyone from FEMA, who needs to do anything about getting us more, we will fly you down, we will do whatever we have to do. You could go up in a helicopter in 5 minutes and counts 800 homes and it is over.

But, no, this Congresswoman here had to get in a car with a gentleman, and I commended those frontline workers when I first started this hour. I think the first responders should be commended. They are the individuals that do what they are supposed to do. I think the FEMA folks on the ground are trying to do the best they can. They were going out, trying to do whatever they have to do to make it happen. Let us be happy for them, police officers, National Guard.

But, you know something? It comes down to the management of making it work. If you go to a Burger King or McDonald's, I am not picking on them, a fast food establishment, and things are not moving the way it is supposed to be moving, I cannot be mad at the guy on fries. I have to be upset with the manager standing there with a tie on looking important. Either you are going to be a part of the solution or you are part of the problem. Apparently you have a management problem.

And that is what we have. Unfortunately, it is the response to catastrophic events or a possible terrorist attack. This is real stuff. So what we are seeing here on the Floor, just like well were fighting not only on behalf of the people of Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Alabama, but we are fighting on behalf of Americans about the fact that, guess what? We are not prepared. And all of the paperwork and documents we have that say, oh, we are ready. We have this plan here, and when it is time, we are going to implement this plan.

Guess what? Diddy-squat. Because people are not ready to do what they need to do. What is the bad part about it is we have people covering for one another. Now, the President is going down there tomorrow, and I am glad the President is going down. He is going to fly around and he will take a look at what happened and then he is going to go back to the Hurricane Center and he is going to have a discussion with State and local folk.

Okay. That is good. I am glad the President is going. He should have been down there today, but I am glad he is going.

But I am going to tell you this: I told my people back home, and I told the State folks, if you do not tell the President the truth, then you are buying in to cronyism. You cannot sit there and go through the whole this is the script,

and I do not even want to talk about scripts as it relates to press conferences with the President and the troops selected to speak at that press conference. But I am going to tell you this right now: The business of I have got your back and you have my back and we are elected or appointed and what have you, and you watch out for me, and if I end up getting removed from a location, I just want us to be okay so I can get a 90 day contract or can continue to go 6 months for doing a bad job. Those days are over.

And, guess what? As it relates to the 30-Something Working Group on this side of the aisle, we are going to call it the way it is. Bottom line: It is not personal, it is just business. That is the bottom line. We are not going to allow this to happen.

It is a shame, it is a real shame, that there is not an outrage, there is no outrage from this Congress, this Republican Congress, Republican Senate, the White House, the fact that, you know something, it is not working, we are going to get it right. The Secretary of Homeland Security went down and said you all be patient. What is the problem. What is going on here? What are you crying about? Why are you upset? Oh, you were waiting for a day-and-a-half for ice, or whatever the case may be, or were out there at 7 o'clock and we were supposed to be there at 12 and we did not show up until 7 o'clock?

I was at the 163rd Street location, got there at 10 o'clock. There is the ice trucks, pallets of them. Guess what? A few people there were frustrated because they left after waiting 10 or 15 hours for ice. And these are the victims of Wilma. These are not the folks coming in here saying, hey, listen, I want to suck off the government because I understand you all have milk. No. They came down there for help. We told them to come, and we were not there for them. And we had 2,000 FEMA people, let FEMA tell you, the Governor, oh, we have trucks, and trucks and trucks as far as the eye can see of ice and water. No ice and water. They lost trucks in Broward County. I do not know how trucks can get lost.

Thank God for the National Guard. They put helicopters in the air trying to find the trucks. This is serious business.

Let us just say it. If we have to evacuate Washington, D.C., what is going to happen with the people of the District of Columbia? What is going to happen to the people in Sioux City, Iowa, if they say you have to clear that town now? We are all going to be standing around here saying, oh, my goodness. What are we going to do?

Because you know something? We were not critical of our failures, and we have to be critical of our failures so we can have better days in the future.

□ 2300

It just does not get better. If you take it out of the refrigerator and it is sour, you put it back in and say maybe

it will be fresh tomorrow. It just is not going to happen, and it does not make sense, doing the same thing expecting different results. It is beyond partisanship. It comes down to leadership.

I will say this to the majority: if you are not willing to lead, the American people will allow individuals that are willing to lead and are willing to call in, even if it is the same party in the White House, the party that is in control of the White House or in control of this Congress, and it has been proven. When there were issues with President Clinton or issues with President Carter, it was a democratic Congress that called them to the mat. Because we are Americans, and that is our role constitutionally in making sure that this country operates in a good way, because we are the representatives of the people of this country. A Senator can be appointed, but if you are a Member of the House, you have to be elected, and we are elected by the people to what? Lead and have oversight. And if you are not willing to do that, and I say this to the Majority side, I guarantee you, Democrats, Republicans, Independents, white, black, veteran, nonveteran, they want people to lead and they are going to get it. And I am going to tell you right now, I would much rather see some correction take place in the very near future so that lives are not lost and individuals are not told one thing and it is another, turn right, I meant left. We do not have time for that. We need accountability.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, we absolutely need accountability. There are people's lives at stake here. We are not here to be partisan.

I remember a few weeks ago when Katrina hit and after Katrina hit, and you and I and the gentleman from Ohio had been on this floor day after day, week after week, and talking about what the government's response needed to be and should have been and what our process should have done, which is establish an independent Katrina commission so that we could get some of these things resolved. Because it is very nice that the President is going to come down and land his helicopter or fly Air Force One or whatever he is going to do because the airports have not been open so, hopefully, he is going to have a place to land. That is very nice. I remember the movie "The Candidate," and Robert Redford's character is running against another guy for the U.S. Senate, and there is a big fire, and his opponent flies the helicopter down into the disaster area to survey the damage. And you know, the whole thing is a fiery mess and the guy flies in, surveys the damage, and flies out, looks important and impressive, and that is great. But what help did he provide to the people who were there? Did he grab a hose and start spraying?

I am glad that the President is coming because he is the symbol of the United States of America, and there is

one person in this country who everyone looks to, but it is only helpful if, when he sits down at the hurricane center and goes through that briefing, it is only helpful if he learns something, if the Federal Government and the administration learn something and change it for the next time. Because we were on this floor weeks ago offering our advice and our suggestions and our opinion about the aftermath of Katrina and how disturbed we were, because we said, and I remember using these words: there but for the grace of God go I, and now we have. Now it has happened to us. So it is our responsibility.

Mr. Speaker, there are those on the Majority side of the aisle that will accuse us of doing this on a nightly basis to be political and to be partisan. No. It is the fact that particularly with natural disasters, natural or manmade disasters, you just know that at some point, especially where we live and in other parts of the country that are more prone to natural disasters, you just know it is going to happen to you at some point. I have talked to constituents, I have read constituents' comments in the paper, that it is all well and good that they come in and they do this review and this assessment, but it is only good if they learn something.

One of the things, when I was at the Broward Emergency Operations Center yesterday, Tony Carper, the director, was talking about how they are trying to find generators, both the big generators that can help run the power grid while they are trying to get the power lines up and running again, and the small ones that people are going to need to run their facilities, and I asked him, I said, why, if we knew this storm was coming for so many days in advance, why did we not get those in position ahead of time? He said, because we do not have enough flexibility in our homeland security funding, because we get a lot of money for terrorism, but they are not able to use that money to respond to natural disasters. Well, we are much more certain on a regular basis that we are going to get hit with natural disasters than we are, God forbid, going to get hit by a manmade disaster.

That is the kind of responsiveness that could have been fixed several storms ago. I mean, we have our eighth storm in 15 months. How is it that that was not fixed already? How is it that we still have people sitting in the dark? How is it that we were denied individual assistance after Katrina in Florida, when you had people looking through the roof at sky, both in Florida and in Louisiana, and then the very next time that we get hit by a storm, we have to fight to get individual assistance granted when all you have to do is walk out your front door or turn on the television and you can see 100 or 800 homes damaged, severely damaged. Do they not care? I mean, have they no shame? Have they no heart?

It feels like that. It feels like they are up on high in the White House and Capitol Hill and it is not me, it is them. They are 1,100 miles from here and: my roof is not caving in, so I am okay. And I have money, I have water, I have ice, my kids are not going to get pink eye when I give them a bath and run water over their heads. I just, I do not understand. I do not understand why we had to spend the last 72 hours pounding on people, pounding on this government to get our folks some help. It is just inexcusable. It is incompetence. It is corruption, it is a crisis. We are going to have a whole collection, a whole necklace full of seeds by the time we are done with this year. God forbid. I hope that somebody decides to read the book, "Everything I Needed to Know I Learned in Kindergarten" and start remembering that we need to care about each other and that we need to be responsive and put partisan politics aside. It is not about the next election; it is about taking care of each other.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Congresswoman, the issue is the fact that if folks would say, well, why are the Democrats not doing something? They may well, I do not know, maybe they are saying what they should be doing and they are not doing. Guess what? I just want to remind the Members just in case, Mr. Speaker, someone bumped their head and has a little amnesia going on, the Republican-controlled Senate, Republican-controlled House, a majority, okay? A Republican-controlled White House. That is legislative and executive branch, all right? They are in control of this government.

The bottom line is in the minority, as it relates to the rules, they cannot agenda bills here on the Floor, they cannot call committee meetings. They cannot even get votes to take place here on this floor, and within the time that it is supposed to take place, especially when the majority is not on the prevailing side, because it is bad policy that they are passing. All we can do is make sure that not only the Members know exactly what they are doing, not only fight them in committee as it relates to amendments to try to make bills better and shame the majority into accepting those amendments so that the bill and the legislation could be better, or we can have better oversight over Federal agencies to make sure what? That the American people get their taxpayer dollars' worth of accountability out of those Federal agencies, and even sometimes out of individuals that are within the Federal Government.

So when that does not happen, we are at the point that we are now: a brick wall. A brick wall of just saying, listen, I am in the majority, and guess what? Live with it. It is not personal, it is just business. And believe it or not, it would be okay if things were properly managed in the Federal Government. It would be okay if we did not have White House folks outing, or rumors of well,

the Vice President told his chief of staff who the agent was, the CIA agent was, and somehow it got out to a reporter, and then now her life is in jeopardy, and we have lost someone who had the opportunity to go to the other side where many of our intelligence officers could not go to find out where or how individuals possessed weapons of mass destruction to what? To protect our country, and someone thought because of politics, that they should out her. Okay? It would be okay, Congresswoman, but guess what? It is not.

We have one of the highest deficits in the history of the republic as we stand here in the 109th Congress. We have an emergency management agency/homeland security agency that cannot perform in the way that it is supposed to perform, let alone the public assistance that is supposed to go to local governments after these disasters to be able to replenish their dollars so that they can provide for who? The people that we represent and the Americans that are counting on us to respond in their time of need, let alone the fact that goodness, we cannot even get water and ice right and food. If we cannot get that right, then how can we count on, if we are under the gun of a terrorist attacks, and we do not know what area is safe, can we breath the air, can you drink the water, when is the next attack taking place, at least we have an opportunity with a natural disaster to say, we can see a storm coming, we can prepare for it as best we can, and say this is what we need to do and folks get in place. You get a terrorist attack, you do not get a warning. The terrorist did not call you up and say hey, guess what? We are going to carry out a terrorist attack in maybe another month so we want to make sure you guys are ready.

So unless we scrutinize our system that we have now, it will not be better and we will not be prepared. That is far beyond politics. And it should be far beyond cronyism. And you would say, as much as we talk about cronyism which is, in reality, we do not need to paint a picture there; just open your local paper. Just turn on the television. It is covered with corruption and cronyism. I mean I do not even need to waste time on that. I just need to say that for us to get better, either the majority is going to say, you know something, we are going to do what we are supposed to do, even if it embarrasses some of our friends in and outside of our party, because this is what we have to do. And that is not happening right now.

We have a committee right now, a partisan committee that has been created, more Republicans than Democrats, that is are supposed to be assigned to the committee. I am glad the democratic leader and other folks here on this side of the aisle have said, you know something? We are not going to participate in Operation I Have Your Back, You Have Mine. We are not going to participate in, you know something?

We have lunch together and I am going to make sure that you are okay and you look good, because we are friends, and what time are we going to play golf? We are not going to participate in turning our backs on those victims of Katrina and storms after Katrina who are counting on some assessment, true assessment, an independent assessment of what took place so it would never happen again. The fact that water, ice, and food cannot be distributed in Florida right now or is spottily distributed in Florida right now, and yes, I am pretty sure things are getting better before they get worse, but I am going to tell you, if we cannot do that, then how in the world can we sit here with a straight face and say, well, the White House is doing a review of what went wrong with Katrina so that we can correct the future, when it is not even stated on their website of who is on this committee or what is going to happen with the findings, or where are we going to go from there? And in the House, we have a partisan committee that is calling folks up, that is supposed to put together a report by February, Congresswoman. So I guess we are supposed to take that and say, we have it right now. Oh, I am sorry, I go back to my example. My name is KENDRICK MEEK and I know we had some missteps and I have done possibly something wrong or something, but maybe I need to, I will tell you what, I am going to do a review of myself and I will be back and I will give you a report of where I went wrong. It is just not going to happen. And even on the other side of the building here, they are having some sort of evaluation of what took place. We need an independent Katrina commission.

Congresswoman, I just want to share this. USA Today said we need an independent commission. Let me put my little chart up here, right here. These major papers throughout the country, and these are just the major ones. I am not talking about the small paper that said it is the right thing to do. The News Observer in North Carolina; the Capital Times, Madison, Wisconsin; the Atlanta Constitutional Journal; the Courier Journal, Louisville, Kentucky; St. Petersburg Times in Florida; Salt Lake Tribune in Utah; Denver Post in Colorado; the San Antonio Express News, that is in Texas; Houston Chronicle, they have all said, and that is just to name a few, that we need an independent Katrina commission to evaluate what went wrong and how it went wrong so that we can be better.

□ 2315

They are not saying, well, we need to do it so we can figure out who was wrong. No, we need to have an independent Katrina Commission so they can put together a report and so that we can correct our wrongs.

Unless we are willing to do that, because I guarantee you right now, it is not going to happen under normal circumstances.

I think we must, on behalf of Americans not only our constituents that are Americans too, continue to push and fight and get in the face of folks who are supposed to be doing the right thing and allowing an independent commission to come about so that we can have this kind of change that is needed in our country, so that we can have a better America and a safer America.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, if I can close us out by saying that their priorities are wrong. It is not an independent Katrina Commission; it is Katrina, Wilma, Rita. We have got to do better.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to let you know that we did not try to pass the time. But we want to thank the Democratic leader and thank you for your indulgence here.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. MEEK of Florida (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today before 4:40 p.m.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today before 1:30 p.m.

Mr. FOLEY (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today and the balance of the week on account of assessing damage from Hurricane Wilma.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DEFAZIO) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DOGGETT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GINGREY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. HENSARLING, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, November 2.

Mr. HAYES, for 5 minutes, November 2.

Mrs. SCHMIDT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, November 2.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's

table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 443. An act to improve the investigation of criminal antitrust offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.) the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 27, 2005, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4763. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for drawdown under sections 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act to authorize Department of Defense commodities and services as part of the mission to support the deployment of AU forces to Darfur, Sudan; to the Committee on International Relations.

4764. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification regarding the proposed license for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Canada (Transmittal No. DDTC 031-05); to the Committee on International Relations.

4765. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Justice, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

4766. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's Annual Report for 2005 on the Implementation of the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999, pursuant to Public Law 106-107, section 5 (113 Stat. 1488); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4767. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

4768. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Executive Office of the President, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

4769. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

4770. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

4771. A letter from the Executive Secretary/Chief of Staff, U.S. Agency for Economic Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

4772. A letter from the Executive Secretary/Chief of Staff, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting a report

pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

4773. A letter from the Executive Secretary/Chief of Staff, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

4774. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041126333-5040-02; I.D. 091505B] received October 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4775. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041126333-5040-02; I.D. 090605F] received September 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4776. A letter from the Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Sea Turtle Conservation; Exemptions to Taking Prohibitions for Endangered Sea Turtles [Docket No. 050224044-5185-02; I.D. 092304A] received October 7, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4777. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pelagic Shelf Rockfish in the West Yakutat District of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041126333-5040-02; I.D. 080305A] received August 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4778. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Prohibition of the use of Regular B Days-at-Sea in the Georges Bank Cod Stock Area [Docket No. 040804229-4300-02; I.D. 071305B] received August 2, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4779. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Aleutian District of Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 041126332-5039-02; I.D. 071805A] received August 2, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4780. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Framework Adjustment 41 [Docket No. 050630174-5234-02; I.D. 062005B-X] (RIN: 0648-AT08) received September 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4781. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Various Transport