

MILITARY

State and local law enforcement and the National Guard are working to restore order throughout the affected areas.

13,000 National Guard are stationed in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida, under control of the Governors. Approximately 6,000 members of the National Guard are stationed in Mississippi.

The total number of National Guard is expected to increase to more than 20,000 by Friday.

The Department of Defense has sent eight Navy ships to the area, including a hospital ship with 100 beds and 800 medical personnel.

The Department of Defense has provided over 20 million ready-to-eat meals.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Army Corps of Engineers is coordinating efforts to repair levees in New Orleans and remove water from the city.

Federal and State departments of transportation are working to repair and reopen highways and interstates.

Interstates 55, 59, 49, and 20 have been reopened in Mississippi. Interstate 10 is open with one lane of traffic for emergency vehicles only.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Department of Health and Human Services has declared a public health emergency in the affected areas.

A network of 40 medical shelters with 10,000 beds is staffed by 4,000 medical personnel.

2,600 beds have been identified in the immediate area, with 40,000 more beds nationwide.

AGRICULTURE

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service is providing shelters and mass feedings sites and issuing emergency food stamps and infant formula. Over 80,000 pounds of commodities arrived in New Orleans today.

OTHER

The Internal Revenue Service announced special relief for taxpayers in the disaster areas.

The Small Business Administration will position loan officers in disaster recovery centers to help small business owners.

The American Red Cross is providing a safe haven for nearly 46,000 evacuees in more than 230 shelters across the region.

MAKING EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, at this point, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the recess or adjournment of the Senate, the Senate may receive from the House an emergency supplemental appropriations bill for relief of the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the text of which is at the desk, and that the measure be considered read three times and passed and a motion to reconsider laid on the table; provided that the text of the House bill is identical to that which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. REID. I want the record to be spread with the fact that the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator ROBERT BYRD, has indicated he fully supports the action tonight and stands arm-in-arm with the chairman of the committee, Senator COCHRAN, to move forward any other

requests that would come down from the administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, my particular thoughts go to our colleague from Mississippi, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, who has experienced visiting such devastation.

I have some idea of how he feels because less than 4 years ago—a little more than 4 years ago—I experienced the same in New York.

Tonight, our Nation is experiencing one of the most tragic and heart-rending natural disasters in our history. Entire towns have been destroyed, lives upturned, families lost, and the chaos we have all watched unfold continues even tonight.

Our hearts go out to the people of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and all of the other Gulf States affected by Hurricane Katrina. Our prayers go out most of all to those still stranded and to those who have lost loved ones. The images on television are devastating—hungry, weeping children sitting on the street amidst garbage; family members returning to the destroyed remains of their neighborhoods discovering they have lost everything they have ever owned, from precious family keepsakes to their houses, cars, and livelihoods; and angry, frightened people with nowhere to go and no rescue in sight.

I join with all Americans and people all over the world in praying for the safe rescue of all the victims of this heartbreaking tragedy.

Four years ago, my city of New York faced a devastating attack, and America stood with us in our time of need. New Yorkers will stand with the people of the gulf region now as they stood with us then.

The love and support New Yorkers received from the rest of the country after 9/11 meant so much in the wake of those attacks and the long, difficult road to recovery. I want the people of New Orleans, Louisiana, Mississippi, and the rest of the gulf to know we will support them, too, no matter how long and difficult their recovery may be. We will do whatever it takes to help now, tomorrow, and into the future.

Our first step comes tonight, when the Senate will agree to provide \$10.5 billion in desperately needed disaster relief funding to the devastated region. And we will stand unified with President Bush and ready to provide everything and anything that New Orleans and the rest of the gulf region will need to rebuild and recover. Just as we did after 9/11, this body and the entire Nation will work together to overcome this disaster. The American people are strong, and we will persevere.

Like so many Americans, I have been watching the terrible images on television, and I worry about the thousands of people still stranded in the Superdome and throughout the city and region without food, water, sanitary fa-

ilities, or medical treatment. I worry so very much about the desperately ill people, including small babies and frail seniors who need medical care, and the people who may still be trapped in places rescuers have not reached, people in attics who retreated to the attics as the waters rose and then were stuck there.

I know firsthand how difficult it can be to organize a massive rescue and recovery effort, and clearly this disaster is unprecedented in its scope and difficulty.

Tonight, a lot of people's lives still hang in the balance. Money for the long run is necessary, and that is why we are here tonight. But there is much more we must do immediately. We must focus all our efforts on rescuing those who are in need of medicine, who are hungry, thirsty, and frightened and despairing. We must get these people to shelter and to medical facilities immediately. We must fly in food, water, clothing, blankets, medicine, and whatever else is needed. We must get as many ships, buses, and trucks as we can, from wherever we can get them, to transport the victims and to begin clearing the wreckage. We must provide the soldiers and law enforcement needed to restore law and order—however many it takes.

This is literally a life-and-death crisis, where every moment of delay has a human price. There is not a minute to lose, no matter the cost.

I know the phones have been ringing off the hook in my office and those of my colleagues. Many have called asking where they can contribute. That act of generosity is also noted. We are hearing from our constituents who have heartfelt questions about what went wrong in this tragedy and what else could have been done to prevent it. At the moment, we must keep our total focus on saving lives. But I want them to know that their questions are not falling on deaf ears. In due time, after we have done everything to save those whose lives hang in the balance, we will ask those difficult questions—not to lay blame but to learn from the mistakes that were made so that the Nation will be better prepared for the next disaster we might face.

But now is the time for action, for solving these problems, and for saving the lives that hang in the balance. In the days and months ahead, this Nation will pull together united as we did after 9/11. We will do everything we can to help the victims and repair and rebuild the cities and towns in the gulf, especially the much beloved city of New Orleans.

Just as we did in New York, we will face difficulties and great sorrow, but I know I join all of my colleagues in the Senate in pledging assistance—financial and beyond—that the gulf region needs and anything else in our power to help our fellow citizens.

Tonight, our prayers—our fervent prayers—are with them.

● Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today with sadness in my heart, yet

firm in my resolve to due whatever is necessary in order to be of assistance to the citizens of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. No amount of Federal compensation can ever make up for the losses that have been suffered or for the tragic circumstances surrounding this event. Lives have been changed forever. However, now, as we have always done in the past, we will band together as a nation and begin the process of healing the wounds caused by this unprecedented tragedy.

I know I speak for all the citizens of Utah when I extend my State's heartfelt sympathies to all who have suffered. The Governor of Utah has graciously volunteered to open our State's doors to the refugees from the New Orleans area, by providing them with shelter, food, and other appropriate assistance. We are all anxious to help and provide as much relief and comfort as possible to these good people.

As a member of our Nation's Federal Government, I pledge my full support to provide assistance to the victims of Hurricane Katrina. I am also grateful for the President's leadership. He has done an extraordinary job of organizing land deploying our Nation's resources in a timely and expeditious manner. Currently, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is spending \$500 million a day to help these citizens. This is a staggering amount of money, but these are staggering times and when we pledge our assistance, we pledge all the assistance we can possibly muster.

The suffering and pain felt by our citizens in the South is abhorrent and I am, once again, in awe of the commitment, selflessness, and skill of our Nation's first responders, disaster agency personnel, military personnel, local volunteers, local leaders, and everyday heroes who are—right now—doing all they can to help. I am also indebted to our congressional leadership for bringing the Congress together in an unprecedented fashion to provide Federal aid in a timely manner so rescue and relief efforts can continue unobstructed.

I am resolved to do everything I can. I know millions of citizens throughout the country are similarly resolved. To those heroes who wish to alleviate the suffering in the South, please heed the President's request and donate cash to the groups that are providing direct assistance in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida. Information can be found at the FEMA Web site or by calling the American Red Cross at 1-800-HELP-NOW.

The compassion and humanitarian efforts going on in this country are astounding. Thank you to all those citizens who have offered assistance and prayers. I know we can count on every American to do their part in this hour of need.●

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, like all Americans, my thoughts are with

those struggling to cope with the terrible effects of Hurricane Katrina. The devastation brought by the storm is absolutely heart-wrenching and beyond description. Many of my constituents are deeply concerned by the scenes of suffering they are witnessing and I share their desire that the Government do all it can to get help to Katrina's victims as soon as possible.

I commend the majority leader and minority leader for acting to make sure that the Federal help is available to deal with Katrina's aftermath. I hope that the emergency supplemental we are passing will help to ensure that disaster relief efforts proceed as smoothly and expeditiously as possible. I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress and with the President to make sure that the Federal Government does all it can to assist those who have lost so much in this national tragedy.●

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, even though we have all been scattered across the country during this past week as the Senate has been in recess, we have all witnessed through television the devastating scenes from Louisiana and Mississippi. My heart goes out to all of those who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina—those who have lost friends and family members; those who have lost homes; those whose lives have been completely upended. My thoughts and my prayers are with them all.

Having represented California in the Senate for the past 12½ years, I have been through my share of disasters—of earthquakes, floods, mudslides, and fires. I know a little of what they are going through right now in the South. But no matter how many disasters I have witnessed first hand in California, I must admit, these are some of the most disturbing and catastrophic scenes I have ever seen.

And here we are, several days after the hurricane struck, and it does not appear to be getting much better. Tens of thousands of people remained stranded and trapped—there is a critical lack of food and water—and people are dying. It is truly a desperate situation.

So I am pleased to support this legislation to provide emergency funding to help the relief efforts. I doubt it will be enough, and I suspect we will need to do more. I trust that the action we are taking tonight will be just the first step—and will serve to underscore our desire to take care of the people of the Gulf States.●

The bill (H.R. 3645) was read the third time and passed.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Con. Res. 51, which is the adjournment resolution. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 51) was agreed to, as follows:

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 51

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That when the Senate recesses or adjourns at the close of business on Thursday, September 1, or on Friday, September 2, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until 12 noon on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Friday, September 2, 2005, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Majority Leader of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the Senate and the Minority Leader of the House, shall notify the Members of the Senate and House, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID):

S. Con. Res. 51. A concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate, and a conditional adjournment or recess of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 51—PROVIDING FOR A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE, AND A CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. REID) submitted the following concurrent