

CHAPTER I

Post-Katrina New Orleans:

*The Strangely Vacant Article II Actor Denying or Delaying
Right or Justice**

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*(see Magna Carta; pages 60-61 below)

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RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO
CHAIRWOMAN, THE HONORABLE SUSAN COLLINS (R-ME),
RANKING MEMBER, THE HONORABLE JOSEPH LIEBERMAN (D-CT),
AND ALL CURRENT MEMBERS,

**THE SENATE'S COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS,**

**TO ASSIST THE COMMITTEE IN FULFILLING ITS DUTY
TO REPORT TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**ON THE RESPONSE ON ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT
TO THE ARMAGEDDON ON THE GROUND IN LOUISIANA AND MISSISSIPPI
IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA**

* * * *

It is agreed upon by all that this is an age of liberty, and while people keep within the bounds of truth, I hope they may with safety both speak and write their sentiments of the conduct of men of power; I mean of that part of their conduct only which affects the liberty or property of the people under their administration; were this to be denied, then the next step may make them slaves. **For what notions can be entertained of slavery beyond that of suffering the greatest injuries and oppressions without the liberty of complaining; or if they do, to be destroyed, body and estate, for so doing?**

- Alexander Hamilton (1735)
*Statement At Trial of
John Peter Zenger*
(emphasis added)

How doth the city sit solitary, *that was* full of people! *how* is she become as a widow! she *that was* great among the nations, *and* princess among the provinces, *how* is she become the tributary!

She weepeth sore in the night, and her tears *are* on her cheeks: among her lovers she hath none to comfort *her*: all her friends have dealt treacherously with her, they are become her enemies.

- Lamentations 1: 1-2
HOLY BIBLE (King James edition)

ESSAY-BRIDGING AMERICAN HISTORY EPIGRAPH 1

PRESIDENT THOMAS JEFFERSON

FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS: 1801

Let us, then, with courage and confidence pursue our own Federal and Republican principles, our attachment to union and representative government.

Kindly separated by nature and a wide ocean from the exterminating havoc of one quarter of the globe; too high-minded to endure the degradations of the others;

possessing a chosen country, with room enough for our descendants to the thousandth and thousandth generation;

entertaining a due sense of our equal right to the use of our own faculties, to the acquisitions of our own industry, **to honor and confidence from our fellow-citizens**, resulting not from birth, but from our actions and their sense of them;

enlightened by a benign religion, professed, indeed, and practiced in various forms, yet all of them inculcating honesty, truth, temperance, gratitude, and the love of man;

acknowledging and adoring an overruling Providence, which by all its dispensations proves that it delights in the happiness of man here and his great happiness hereafter --

with all these blessings, what more is necessary to make us a happy and a prosperous people? Still one thing more, fellow-citizens --

a wise and frugal Government, which *shall* restrain men from injuring one another,

shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement,

and shall not take from them from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. **This is the sum of good government,**

and this is necessary to close the circle of our felicities. (emphasis added)

PROLOGUE

OPENING STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

PROCEEDINGS ON IMPEACHMENT OF RICHARD NIXON

By Representative Barbara Jordan*

July 25, 1974

Text that appears within regular margins below [or intertextually in brackets] in this Times New Roman font supplements Representative Jordan's opening statement. *(see page 7 below)

Text that appears indented below in this Ariel Narrow font is quoted from her statement.

Earlier today we heard the beginning of the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States, "We, the people." It is a very eloquent beginning. But when that document was completed, on the seventeenth of September in 1787, I was not included in that "We, the people." I felt somehow for many years that George Washington and Alexander Hamilton just left me out by mistake. But through the process of amendment, interpretation, and court decision I have finally been included in "We, the people."

Today, I am an inquisitor. I believe that hyperbole would not be fictional and would not overstate the solemnness that I feel right now. **My faith in the Constitution is whole, it is complete, it is total. I am not going to sit here and be an idle spectator to the diminution, the subversion, the destruction of the Constitution.**

No, many times in my life already I have raised my own right hand and have myself sworn to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America. It is to fulfill all of those solemn oaths that I have now already sworn many times before God that I now write all of this to you.

"Who can properly be the inquisitors for the nation as the representatives of the nation themselves?" (*Federalist*, no. 65.) The subject of its jurisdiction are those offenses which proceed from the misconduct of public men. That is what we are talking about. In other words, the jurisdiction comes from the abuse of violation of some public trust. It is wrong, I suggest, it is a misreading of the Constitution for any member here to assert that for a member to vote for an article of impeachment means that that member must be convinced that the

president should be removed for office. The Constitution doesn't say that. The power relating to impeachment are an essential check in the hands of this body, the legislature, against and upon the encroachment of the executive. In establishing the division between the two branches of the legislature, the House and the Senate, assigning to the one the right to accuse and to the other the right to judge, the framers of this Constitution were very astute. They did not make the accusers and the judges the same person.

We know the nature of impeachment. We have been talking about it awhile now. **“It is chiefly designed for the president and his high ministers” to somehow be called into account. It is designed to “bridle” the executive if he engages in excesses. “It is designed as a method of national inquest into the conduct of public men.”**

(Hamilton, *Federalist*, no. 65.) The framers confined in the Congress the power if need be, to remove the president in order to strike a delicate balance between a president swollen with power and grown tyrannical, and preservation of the independence of the executive. The nature of impeachment is a narrowly channeled exception to the separation-of-powers maxim; the federal convention of 1787 said that. It limited impeachment to high crimes and misdemeanors and discounted and opposed the term “maladministration.” “It is to be used only for great misdemeanors,” so it was said in the North Carolina ratification convention. And in the Virginia ratification convention: “We do not trust our liberty to a particular branch. We need one branch to check the others.” . . .

Of the impeachment process, it was Woodrow Wilson who said that “nothing short of the grossest offenses against the plain law of the land will suffice to give them speed and effectiveness. Indignation so great as to overgrow party interest may secure a conviction; but nothing else can.”

Common sense would be revolted if we engaged upon this process for petty reasons. Congress [still] has a lot to do [from this same 1974 laundry list]. Appropriations, tax reform, health insurance, campaign finance reform, housing, environmental priorities, energy sufficiency, mass transportation. Pettiness cannot be allowed to stand in the face of such overwhelming problems. So today we are not being petty. We are trying to be big because the task we have before us is a big one. . . .

At this point I would like to juxtapose a few of the impeachment criteria with some of the President's actions.

Impeachment criteria: James Madison, from the Virginia ratification convention. “If the president be connected in any suspicious manner with any person and there be ground to believe that he will shelter him, he may be impeached.” . . .

Justice Story: “Impeachment is intended for occasional and extraordinary cases where a superior power acting for the whole people is put into operation to protect their rights and rescue their liberties from violations.” . . .

The South Carolina ratification convention impeachment criteria: those are impeachable “who behave amiss or betray their public trust.” . . .

James Madison again at the Constitutional Convention: “A president is impeachable if he attempts to subvert the Constitution.”

The Constitution charges the president with the task of taking care that the laws be faithfully executed, and yet the president has . . .

by his derelictions of duty and lethal non-actions immediately pre- and post- Katrina managed but an abysmal disaster planning and response that needlessly magnified the very great losses of citizens’ lives and property. This is especially so in New Orleans -- where Federal levees massively failed -- inundating 180 square miles (80%) of the City, abruptly trapping thousands of citizens in their attics and on the rooftops of their destroyed homes. Hundreds if not thousands died before rescue came. Now, six months later, some 2,000 are still missing.

The disconsolate diaspora survivors remain to this day mostly still scattered, still despoiled of *all* of their possessions taken by the floodwaters swiftly surging when Federal levees failed. Because the far-ranging Federal recovery relief the President promised last September from Jackson Square is so far largely *not* forthcoming, very soon they will be stripped also of their last vestiges of hope -- as well as of the possibility of maintaining any faith in the Government that destroyed them (after the hurricane did *not*). How long, for example, can they continue paying from afar on destroyed homes and live? Many already are committing suicide.

For all these consequences, the buck stops, as it should, with the Commander-in-Chief. It was after all Mr. Bush who in that Constitutional role -- for which he has claimed great (some would say unprecedented) inherent power -- chose to deploy away from home to overseas postings 3,000 of Louisiana’s trained historic first-hurricane responder National Guard (the entire 256th Brigade for example to Iraq). Yet, knowing this, the President did *not* replace a single troop of them with prepositioned reinforcements who could have provided even a modicum of the “incredible search and rescue needs (60,000-plus)” that his own Department of Homeland Security had properly warned would be needed in an e-mail sent the White House Situation Room a few hours before Katrina slammed the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005. See, e.g., *White*

House Got Early Warning on Katrina, by Joby Warrick, The Washington Post, January 24, 2006

The National Weather Service and the media had already correctly been predicting for days before that Katrina could be “Armageddon” to the entire Gulf Coast region: and especially in New Orleans. When Katrina so proved, the incompetent Federal disaster response -- as massive a failure as those of Federal levees -- exponentially increased the crisis begun by the storm. Such abysmal homeland security is *not* what We the People believed we paid many hundreds of billions of dollars since 2001 to buy when, per the President’s request, *We* created a massive new Federal Department of Homeland Security Leviathan.

If the impeachment provision in the Constitution of the United States will not reach the offenses charged here, then perhaps that eighteenth-century Constitution should be abandoned to a [twenty-first]-century paper shredder. Has the president committed offenses and planned and directed and acquiesced in a course of conduct which the Constitution will not tolerate? That is the question. We know *that*. We know the question. It is reason, and not passion, which must guide our deliberations, guide our debate, and guide our decision.

(emphasis added)

* Representative Barbara Jordan, **D-Tx.** (1936-1996) opened the House Judiciary Committee’s televised hearings of the impeachment proceedings of President Richard Nixon with the statement excerpted above. She was previously the first black woman elected to the Texas State Senate. Later in the impeachment proceedings, during deliberations of the Senate’s Watergate Committee, Senator Howard Baker, **R-Tn.**, famously asked the “smoking-gun” question:

What did the President know and when did he know it?

(T for Texas, T for Tennessee!)

Compare:

We hold these truths to be self-evident.

That all people are created equal;

that they are endowed by their Creator with **certain unalienable rights;**

that among these are **life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness;**

that, **to secure these rights, governments are instituted among people, deriving their just powers from *the consent of the governed*;**

that *whenever** any form of government becomes destructive of these ends,
it is the right of the people *to alter or change it*,

and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and
organizing its powers in such form,

as to *them* shall seem *most likely to effect their safety and happiness*.

- American Declaration of Independence
July 4, 1776 (emphasis added)

***Whenever** has now happened to the destroyed people of New Orleans:
should the Spirit of Jefferson return,

what course of action would It now commend to them?

*Come gather 'round people
Wherever you roam
And admit that the waters
Around you have grown
And accept it that soon
You'll be drenched to the bone.
If your time to you
Is worth savin'
**Then you better start swimmin'
Or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a changin'***

- Bob Dylan (1963) (emphasis added)
The Times They Are A Changin'

* * * *

NOTE: *Here begins an account of Leon Doby's post-Katrina New Orleans nightmarish attempts to save the lives of his small daughters after the Federal levees abruptly failed, from*

'It Was As If All of Us Were Already Pronounced Dead': Convention Center Left A Five-Day Legacy of Chaos and Violence, by Wil Haygood, Ann Scott Tyson, The Washington Post, September 15, 2005 (*hereinafter cited as at * immediately below*).

Leon Doby, 26, had gotten daughters Leah, 1, and Khaylin, 3, out of their home, put them in a crate, tied the crate with a rope to his waist, then *began swimming*. He hustled his way, finally, onto a motorboat. It sped off to the Superdome, all aboard exhausted.

At the Superdome, they were rebuffed, and pointed in the direction of the convention center, 10 blocks away.

By the time Doby -- with the crate and the two daughters -- arrived [there] Tuesday [the day after Katrina passed], he found himself gazing into thousands of bewildered faces. Gripping his daughters, he walked fast -- exactly where he was going, he did not know -- but he passed an elderly lady who seemed to be listing in a wheelchair.

"I went down the hall," he said. "By the time I was back, **she was already gone.**"

- *The Washington Post (emphasis added)
September 15, 2005

LEITMOTIF

NEW ORLEANS IS WHY WE NEED THE NATIONAL GUARD AT HOME

by Cynthia A. Drew ©

MIAMI, Sept. 5 -- **To all Our fellow Americans who didn't grow up in New Orleans, please understand:**

It was *not* Katrina who alone destroyed New Orleans and caused tremendous unnecessary loss of life all along the Gulf Coast:

It was *mainly* the lackadaisical United States' disaster planning and response -- *particularly before and also for the two days' immediately after* the catastrophic storm passed:

***the only two days* post-killer hurricane in which it is possible to recover *mainly* the living, *not just* the dead.**

Every horrified American or anguished citizen of any country anywhere in the entire world who watched any TV at all on September 11th, 12th, or 13th, 2001, can easily grasp *that*. As Horatio said to Hamlet, ***There needs no ghost come from the grave to tell us that.***

I will explain. I'm from New Orleans and my family is at least alive and temporarily safe. But I know how much even they are suffering right now in the three far-flung states where they've ended up, even though absolutely they're the lucky ones and people are taking care of them amazingly well. But I know some things you don't right now about why this utter catastrophe went down the way it did -- some basic facts of life about living in the Crescent City for example that every schoolchild over the age of seven who has been through even one hurricane season in New Orleans knows -- and I also know from your compassionate American outpouring this past week to your suffering brothers and sisters that you would want to know too. So I'll tell you. Then you'll also know.

And in the name of God -- who spared New Orleans once again from a direct hit from such a storm, but must then have been weeping bitter, horrified tears to see such unbelievable human error needlessly destroying so many precious human souls so miserably, causing so much abysmally awful increased suffering, to the very people **God** had just preserved -- I beg you to heed the lessons learned I explain now below. Heed them because your sisters and brothers need help. Heed them before such miserably miserly leadership happens to **your** hometown. Heed

them if you believe in God. Heed them if you believe in humanity. Clearly, we need a new M.O. (*modus operandi*) in this country. So heed them. For whatever reasons move you. I beg you. Heed them.

And to all Americans as I write you now on Labor Day, I beg you also to remember that the 80% of the 1 million plus residents just of the New Orleans metropolitan area -- and of course so many more hundreds, thousands, of all their still-suffering Gulf state neighbors as well -- are now abruptly homeless and jobless and scattered all across the face of America. This is your head's-up about them. This is your clarion call to action. To everyone who turned away from the TV last week in numb disgust saying "***Why isn't anyone doing anything to help those people?***," I say: A new day has dawned in this country. We know now that under present management the vast machinery of the United States Government somehow couldn't rouse itself in time last week to help even those very visible poorest, sickest, most needy people so abominably abandoned in the New Orleans Superdome.

So guess what? The immense diaspora of former Gulf state residents -- including the hundreds of thousands from New Orleans who can't go home right now and don't know when or even *if* they'll ever be able to go home again -- hasn't even appeared on the United States' radar screen. This includes for example my grieving retired mom and dad suddenly worried about a lot of new things these days, but most especially heartsick at not knowing when they might be able to see again (or even just hug) their grand-daughter stranded now in North Carolina.

For the first time in American history hundreds of thousands of intact American families were in an instant fractured abruptly, many already irrevocably. Yet these multitudinous shell-shocked sisters and brothers *yet* struggling to live and breathe beside roadsides all across America are unbelievably *not yet* on the radar screen of the present management of the United States of America. Maybe sometime next week they'll finally manage to remember them -- and that they really ought to be doing something for them. (Reality Check: One week out, our present management hadn't.)

No, today the present management of the United States of America has *forgotten* how to be *proactive*. They no longer believe an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. They apparently no longer believe in liberty and justice *for all*. **We the People of the United States of America ought to say right now to the present leadership of the United States of America: "You're fired!"**

We're paying them, remember? They work for us, right? Well, it's pretty clear right now that **WE** couldn't possibly imagine any other company in this country's top management turning in anywhere *near* as abysmal a job of crisis management as ours did last week -- and still have a job to come back to Monday, any Monday, but especially **today, Labor Day** -- the already one-week anniversary now of the catastrophic killer storm's slam into New Orleans and all along the Gulf coast states *last* Monday morning.

PRELUDE

I know that *you* precious fellow brothers and sisters throughout this great land of *Ours do care*, care very deeply, are in fact absolutely anguished in your souls right now about everything that has gone down in New Orleans this week. I know this because since New Orleans went under water a week ago tonight you've been writing me agonized e-mails from all over the country at all hours of the day and night to assure me how deeply you care. If you are not yet receiving these sorts of dispirited, downtrodden, oh so depressing e-mail messages streaming from all over cyberspace this week to you from all those nearest and dearest to you, thank your God or your lucky stars or whatever you most believe in: and then reach out your hands across America from the overflowing compassion of your great hearts and help someone who is. Just do it. Now.

E-mail 1:

to me from a career Federal Agency employee who had no family or friends from New Orleans she knew to whom to write about this but me, and who like me was also living and working in the DC area when Saudi terrorists abruptly attacked the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 -- in an instant at 9:37 a.m. snuffing out 189 priceless American lives -- of those both on the plane and on the ground, both civilian and active-duty military, both black and white, both straight and gay -- and seriously injuring an additional 106 of our beloved sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, wives and husbands, children and friends -- who were then raced from the flaming site to area hospitals:

Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2005 8:52 PM

Subject: Your Stress Level

Must be soaring. I find that the NO event has taken an even larger emotional toll than 9/11. There, it was discrete lives lost, not entire families; it was displaced offices and condo owners, all of which had friends nearby or resources to stay at the Ritz-Carlton if they wanted. There was sad loss, but it was finite. It also in a sense was not controllable. Although we could blame lax action by the Government, one could also understand the concept of a needle in the haystack law enforcement.

That was *so* not the case in NO. That storm hit Florida and spun for days. We all saw it... and did nothing. Much of the loss could have been prevented, both people and structures. Unconscionable. I wonder if Bush was just not told what was really happening. He has said he does not read the newspapers or watch TV. Could his handlers be that naïve?

I am so sorry for you and your family, your niece, everyone so disrupted. I have not called because I know how much you already have on your plate. Just know that I think of you often.

E-mail 2:

to me from my good friend in high school.

It is a detailed report of her painstaking efforts to account for what *is* known and what is *not yet* known about the fate of her many family members and their homes.

My brother was good friends with one of her brothers in grammar school.

Since she now lives in Houston, it is also an update on the wonderful welcome that current Texans have jumped to follow the marvelous lead of their present Governor in extending to all their sisters and brothers they saw suffering so terribly in New Orleans and along all the Gulf coast after Armageddon happened to them there last Monday, a week ago, a life-altering decade ago, now.

Sent: Friday, September 02, 2005 11:02 AM

Subject: Re: Katrina update - from Denise

Cindy - I feel deeply about the situation in LA. I feel they were initially forsaken at a critical time. My heart is broken over what is happening. Over here in Texas there is a great outpouring to the people who have been affected. The good heartedness is a blessing to see. Houston Texas is available for the needs. My church is a Red Cross shelter that is now full. San Antonio is taking refugees also. I don't know what the attitude of the rest of the country is but here in the south there is an outpouring. I was appalled yesterday to hear the Speaker of the House talking about not rebuilding NO and trying to place the responsibility for rebuilding (if there is any), on private funds, not sapping federal aid. He's heartless and prejudiced.

I'm glad your family is OK. Where are they? We still have family flowing into Houston. How business is going to be conducted for their industries is totally uncertain. My boss here has offered to take in 8 of my family members -- Randy's two daughters and their children. Melanie, nanny and baby Nathan may be showing up tomorrow. Christine was accepted yesterday at UT in Austin for the fall semester so they are headed back there today with nothing. All of their possessions are in NO, including one car filled with the most important possessions. All of her furniture is sitting in an uptown apt on the second floor on Milan St. She has her old apt through Sept 13. It's empty of course. Ok, better go. Got to get a little work done.

Love and prayers, Denise

E-mail 3:

Sent: Thursday, September 01, 2005 9:50 AM

Subject: Katrina update - from Denise

Dear Friends & Family,

Many of you have contacted me by phone or email inquiring of my family in the New Orleans area. Thank you for your love and concern. This is a summary/update of what has happened and what is now occurring. We presently have five family members with us.

My daughter Christine & husband Joe - Had moved to NO two weeks ago from Austin to attend Loyola University. They had an apt uptown (one of the highest parts of the city). They weathered the storm from a hotel in the French quarter - the Ritz Carlton. They weren't able to evacuate in time because of some other circumstances. Their plans were to leave the hotel on Tuesday or Wednesday whenever the local authorities said it was OK to leave (their car was parked on the 5th floor of the garage loaded with personal possessions and valuables). *During the night on Monday night the water began to rise from the breaks in levee so that they could not drive out on Tuesday morning.* They walked instead through some water to another parking garage where a friend's car was parked and it was dry enough to drive away. They went to their apt uptown and found it dry, no wind damage to the house, but trees everywhere had fallen around their little Honda parked on the street which was preserved. They jump started the Honda with its quarter tank of gas and fled the city when reports of rising water were coming in all over the city. They were able to leave by the route called the Crescent City Connection. In Baton Rouge they filled the tank with gas and made it to our house in Houston on Tuesday night. They were badly shaken from the experience. They are uncertain what they will do now but may go back to Austin and work. They hope to get back to NO to get their furniture and other vehicle as soon as it is safe to do so.

My Dad and brother John/nieces - Dad was living with brother John in Slidell, LA. They evacuated to Monroe, LA. On Tuesday night they flew Dad to Houston to be with us, not knowing what remains of their home in Slidell. This brother works in Metairie, LA but lives in Slidell. The twin [interstate] spans [across Lake Ponchartrain] that lead to Slidell from NO east are out. John's wife, Julie has a son Chris whose wife gave birth to a baby boy on Monday in Monroe, LA where they had evacuated to. John's daughters are all OK. Katy, his middle daughter, husband & son lived in the Slidell area where all of the flooding was. She had evacuated to northern Alabama with her husband's family. No first hand info on her house but John says it won't be good. His youngest daughter Caroline was safe in Baton Rouge where she attends LSU. Melanie, his oldest daughter

and her baby evacuated to Baton Rouge to be with Caroline. She lives in the mid-city area of NO - no word on her house. No direct word on John & Julie's house in Slidell.

Brother Randy/nieces - Lived in Slidell, LA. He & his wife came to visit us last weekend on Friday before we knew where the storm was headed. They have become evacuees now and are living with us until they know if they can go home or what is in store for them there. He is in the computer networking business. His daughter Jessica also lived in Slidell with her husband and four children. They evacuated to Lumberton Miss where one of his other daughters lives, Sarah. This turned out to be on the I-59 corridor that Katrina took north after devastating LA. They are all OK - *they have a family of 8 living under their roof now*. She has sustained minimal damage to the roof which had produced some leaks in the second story. *They have water and supplies for at least a week and they have a generator to run fridge and TV. No gas available where they are*. We heard last night through some friends of theirs that Jessica's house in Slidell has had the roof caved in from trees. She lives on the same street that my brother John lives on.

Brother Greg - Lives in Mandeville, LA. He & his family evacuated to Little Rock, AK. At this time they are still there waiting to find out what news they can on his area. It is our understanding that the Covington & Mandeville area did not sustain the worst of the damage. We are hopeful that their home is OK.

I also have some aunts living in the Kenner, LA area. We have been unable to reach them in the last couple of days. *We know that on Monday before the water started rising that they had weathered the storm in one of my aunts' houses*. (They had refused to evacuate even though her daughter urged her to come with them to Dallas). We have numerous friends and first cousins that live in NO. We have not been able to get word about how they all have fared. The ones that live on the west side of town have less of a chance of severe damage.

If ever there is a time to pray and trust God it is now. Lives are being changed forever. The city of New Orleans will never be the same again. It is heartbreaking to me to see what has happened. I am thankful to God for preserving the lives of my loved ones. God will reveal day by day what is to unfold and how lives are to be rebuilt. I believe there will be a great restoration/renovation from this, both spiritually and physically. It is a time to see what God will do - He has a plan that will bring blessing from destruction. Please pray for the President and our nation. A kick to the stomach brings someone to their knees. Let's take this opportunity to pray and be thankful because the Lord is in control. He is so much bigger than this catastrophe. There will be victory and life to rise up from the debris of the storm!

I love you all and thank you for your prayers and concern. Denise

For all my wonderful friends in the Northeast who've been leaving phonemails and sending e-mails conveying all their care and concern, thank you. I love you too. And please stop: at least for now. So far I'm holding up. But let me call you when I can. I need to leave the lines open because communication these days with some of the family members is sporadic. At best. So I need to know they will at least be able to leave messages if they do manage to get through from wherever some of them are that I don't know. For example, I now know that my sister's absence from the hotel near Charlotte, North Carolina (where she'd said would be her next land line hook-up at a certain time on a certain night), was not because she'd been hit by a truck or encountered the tornados that suddenly moved through the area she was planning to drive through that day. It was just because her car had broken down outside of Atlanta and it was going to take a while to fix it -- so long it turned out that she had to stand in line the other night when they started rationing gas there (paying \$6/gallon amidst reports of no gas at all in many places ahead) to try to get enough to reach Charlotte.

But now at least I know she didn't get hit by a truck or tornado.

FUGUE I

When Katrina made landfall by dawn's early light on the Mississippi Gulf coast last Monday, my brother was still at his home in the Northeast. That was the last normal (even jubilant) day my family -- and so many other New Orleans families -- knew (maybe now will ever know) -- at least will ever know for the entire grey, foreseeable future that stretches out before us now so grimly. You see, Katrina moved through fast. She didn't drop a lot of rain. Our hearts went out to the people east of New Orleans, especially those on the Mississippi Gulf coast. We knew they were taking the brunt of the storm. We knew, just like with Camille in '69, they were taking it away from us. Not that we had any control over where it made landfall, not that we wished it on anyone (least of all them, our good neighbors, whom we all knew so well had taken the worst of it other times too) -- it's such a goddamn conflicted feeling. We don't want it to go anywhere but out to sea and dissipate and never make landfall anywhere. Yet we all also always knew that the loss of life could have been so much worse in New Orleans than anywhere else if it were New Orleans that ever took the direct hit from a Category 5 hurricane.

In fact, Sunday, the day before Katrina's Gulf coast landfall, we'd thought OK, this is it, the big one's finally coming, tomorrow *could* be the Armageddon for New Orleans the papers have always warned before was possible but now looks like it really is. Sunday Katrina was on the track of Betsy, with the strength of Camille: the deadliest possible combination for New Orleans. Good God, we all knew that could have been the death of New Orleans. All our lives we'd been warned that could have been the death of New Orleans. But Monday morning Katrina veered right to make landfall instead on the Mississippi Gulf coast. It did not directly hit New Orleans. It passed through quickly. It did not drop a lot of rain. Once again the City That Care Forgot was spared. Hallelujah, it was even dry: most places it was actually even dry!

There was one last jubilant afternoon. New Orleans had dodged the Category 5 storm bullet again. Thank God.

By Tuesday morning we tasted bitterer truths. While *God* may have spared New Orleans from a Category 5 hurricane, human error did not – and doomed the city in Katrina’s aftermath. So we woke that grim Tuesday morning to the cruelest possible situation: New Orleans going under water *and* the Louisiana parishes around Buras *and* the Mississippi Gulf coast wiped out *and* this burgeoning crisis suddenly now too in the Superdome? What was that all about? We’d never had such a situation in the Dome before. How can you put people somewhere to shelter where you’ve made no provisions for them? *What* was that all about, what *could* that possibly have all been about? And what would happen to all those people there now that the levees were failing and the floodwaters rapidly rising? Everybody in Louisiana and Mississippi knows they can mostly only rescue live people the first 48 hours after a killer hurricane passes. After that -- barring the miraculous rare exception they are all still praying for as they search -- they can mostly take their time because they’ll be bringing home only corpses.

For those of you not as familiar with the unique geography, terrain, and swampy ecosystems of Louisiana and Mississippi, here’s an unpalatable fact you probably don’t know about the time, expertise, and energy it takes even to get accurate final body counts there. Our local troops well know it since they know New Orleans historically buries its dead above ground. (We must because the water table’s so high, since, as everyone now knows, the city’s mostly below sea level). So our local boys know that after killer hurricanes in New Orleans they may find floating around *either* the recently dead *or* the formerly embalmed that the vaults have yielded to the storm. While it’s obviously important to be able to tell the difference, sometimes that’s not easy. Such occurrences are rarer along the Mississippi Gulf coast, where burial in the ground *is* the norm. However, Mississippi first responders after Camille sometimes found coffins popped out of the ground, and (warning: this is gruesome) both the recently dead and the formerly embalmed shot up to and entangled in the Spanish moss that somehow managed still to be hanging in whatever great oak trees yet stood after the great storm passed.

Everybody all over the country is by now familiar with the dramatic images of the kind of one-on-one rescues we grew up seeing heroic individual Guardsmen making by plucking people 1) from roofs to boats *or* 2) hauling them up in baskets lowered from choppers hovering overhead *or* by a Guardsman 3) standing on a roof, chopping a hole with an axe, so the family trapped inside in the attic with floodwaters now lapping at the floor of the attic can escape without drowning. Heroic as these one-on-one rescues are, they are obviously also labor-intensive and time-consuming. So my first thought on hearing of the totally new kind of burgeoning Dome catastrophe was: If they now *also* have to tend to *all those* critically urgent situations and people in the Dome, how could they *possibly still* have time to do their “ordinary” search and rescues?

Obviously something was going to have to give. And whatever gave now was clearly going to end up costing so many more lives than we'd ever before had to count lost in the immediate aftermath of any other killer hurricane -- maybe even an order of magnitude more than even after Betsy, even after Camille -- *all those precious human lives to be needlessly lost now for lack of resources.*

But the crisis burgeoning at the Superdome couldn't be ignored! It was now, instant-time, completely unprecedented, catastrophically urgent. At a stroke, the immediate post-recovery landscape had been startlingly and irrevocably transformed, now made so much more impossibly difficult than post-Betsy, post-Camille. They had even put the special-needs people at the Dome! the ones the Guard after past killer storms had always been so good at getting to fast, triaging on the scene, making split-second decisions, either trying to stabilize them on the spot or getting them out pronto, treating them as they go. So even before the levees broke, the Guard -- our historic competent life-saving (non-bureaucratic) first responders that we've always known would be there in an emergency for us with their specialized tried-and-true local do-or-die emergency response expertise -- were already stretched way too thin.

Even without the unconscionably increased death toll we've already seen because of our frailest, poorest peoples' unbelievably drawn-out ordeals in unspeakably squalid Dome conditions, **the single fact that the Guard was stretched way too thin going in was alone going to cost so very many more New Orleans lives -- lives the Guard otherwise could have saved in the only brief 48-hour-window it's still mainly possible to preserve life.**

Everybody all over the country is by now probably familiar with images of the sorts of specialized high-water recovery vehicles and equipment in which the Louisiana and Mississippi Guards are particularly trained and that they have procured to facilitate their often risky one-on-one rescues. You know, the kind with the 12-foot truck tires -- or, if you've not seen one (they *are* impressive), the Post photo gallery includes a great shot of one in action, so go to www.washingtonpost.com and take a look. Obviously, having trained operators for this kind of specialized high-water equipment makes it easier and faster to make the sorts of dramatic rescues we were all so heartened to see happening the first two days. Sometimes having them is the only thing that makes a particular rescue possible at all.

Naturally, it's also much better psychologically for the rescuers to be saving lives rather than counting corpses. More than anything in the world, Guardsmen dread the rapidly approaching end of that all-too-brief 48-hour window. Once they're out in hazardous conditions, risking their lives to help save lives, they push themselves constantly, working nonstop if they can through those first two days. When that window passes, they know it's unlikely there'll be any more joyful experiences like the thrill of actually saving those two kids plucked off that roof by the chopper (seeming to be dangling precariously far below it in that tiny basket but really only *now* safe). And of course when they can actually pull off the complicated and hazardous technical maneuvers needed to save those young lives without a hitch, they also have the exultant personal satisfaction that comes with knowing **Mission Accomplished!** But once such happy and energizing moments abruptly turn into mainly corpse recovery, it's a much harder row to hoe.

My brother (a New York Times reporter who started at the Times-Picayune in New Orleans) and apparently every other reporter who could possibly be spared from their home base left the next day for the war zone. We have their courage, too, to thank that we have actually learned the facts about what's happened real-time this week in New Orleans. Image after image of horrific human misery 24/7: they are so graphic, raw, appalling, terrible, and seemed to be exponentially multiplying with each grim dawn. We just can't take any more. They make us numb. They disgust us. No one wants to even look at the TV any more.

The only other time I ever experienced a similar feeling is just after the September 11, 2001 attacks on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon. I lived in the DC area then and was probably the first (maybe also the last) person to drive across the 14th Street bridge (that crosses the Potomac River between DC and Virginia) when it was first opened up again around 6:30 p.m. -- after of course having been closed all day. Everyone else who didn't live in DC was already long gone. Though I didn't know it at the time, by then they'd closed down the District, and weren't letting anyone back in who couldn't prove by her driver's license she lived there. But I pulled over on the side of the road just before the interstate entrance near Union Station and H Street, both hands resting -- visibly -- on the car open window sill, and asked the shell-shocked, wary, but still-polite MP (Military Police) in camouflage slowly approaching holding his M-16 loosely, could I pass there then?

“Why, yes, ma'am, that way was closed but they just opened it up again.”

So I got on to clover-leaf around, as always, right in front of the Pentagon, to take the Parkway south to Alexandria. Many reading this know only too well the usual traffic on that bridge, so can appreciate how eerie it felt to be the only vehicle anywhere on that road at that particular rush hour, **driving through the severe haze and acridly searing smell of burning petrochemicals straight at the flaming Pentagon.**

That's the only other time in my life that I ever felt anything like this.

It wasn't nearly as bad.

We did this one to ourselves:

The President of the United States helped make New Orleans look like Baghdad.

New Orleans is *his* Alamo:

but *he* didn't die *with US* defending *US* to *his* last gasp.

It's clear that these agonizing images of the citizens of my beautiful hometown dying like dogs in wheelchairs on the street, lying on baggage returns in airport terminals awaiting

shamefully belated treatment, laid out on stretchers nearby without being afforded the least shred of human dignity -- clad only, for instance, in a hospital gown hiked up so far it exposes most of a pair of bare, frail, elderly legs (and any of us who has ever been in a hospital knows how substantial and comforting *those* gowns are) -- it's clear that these images can only be a source of the deepest and most abiding shame to all Americans. Similarly, so many other citizens of so many other civilized countries in our world community are recoiling in horror and saying this looks like Somalia, this looks like Bangladesh, ***this is the United States??*** A Sri Lankan says, "When the tsunami hit, we all ran to help those people but the Americans ran away."

So thank God all the reporters from all the media outlets there from all over the country **are still able to file their stories** from the now-*also*-very beleaguered Baton Rouge where these days everyone's not exactly just cool, calm, collected, laid back, hanging out waiting for Mardi Gras. No, Louisiana's state capitol just doubled its 225,000 population overnight, since all the media as well as most of the New Orleans city government is trying to squeeze into whatever space New Orleans storm evacuees haven't already snapped up. Baton Rouge's permanent residents are coping (and of course are understanding and welcoming), but the consequent instant gridlock, Manhattan-type housing prices, and gas rationing are wearing on everyone.

But I really don't know how all those reporters *are* still able to file their stories -- for example, mid- the first afternoon my brother got there, my e-mails to him began bouncing back. Sometimes they go through now, sometimes not. Sometimes he can get through and leave me a phonemail. He said on one of those that e-mails can arrive hours late and he tries to read them if he can through his text messenger but even that doesn't always work. I also have his cell phone number, but somehow trying to call from a Miami 305 area code to a New Jersey 973 area code isn't a guaranteed connection these days any more either.

But who knows? I certainly don't. **I just know I often can't from Miami call my mother in Oklahoma back when, for example,** picking up a phonemail message like "Cindy! I finally got through to that hotel in Gastonia where Laura said she was going tonight. She's not there! I haven't heard from her! Have you? Please call me back right away and tell me!"

That's just not a call I want to be shut out of the ability to return right now by all those damn circuits always being busy. At this point, I don't care where all those circuits are. I know nothing about circuits anyway. **It shouldn't be up to me to figure this out.** I just want those circuits fixed. All of them. Now.

Is it really too much to ask at this time in this country that I simply can make and receive phone calls from all over the country (OK, I realize maybe not from 504 area code but from everywhere else) just like I could before last Monday?

And, if that *is* too much to ask, could someone please tell me why?

FUGUE II

All-points bulletin to Commander-in-Chief, then all Homeland Security politicians:

Today, at this moment, at the end of your first one-week performance rating period, understand fully that *We*, *your* taxpayers and constituents, right now rate *your* lackadaisical, reactive New Orleans and Gulf states Katrina disaster prevention and recovery efforts as miserably failing. Louisiana Republican Senator David Vitter told you *that* last week. In so many other words and ways and pleadings throughout the week since last Monday morning when Katrina first struck, so have Louisiana Democratic Governor Blanco, Mississippi Republican Governor Barbour, Louisiana Democratic Senator Landrieu, Mississippi Republican Senator Lott, Mayor Nagin and Emergency Manager Colonel Ebbett in New Orleans, Sheriff Byrd in Pascagoula and, I'm sure, every other state or local official who talked to you last week about anything at all remotely connected with Katrina. Your failures in every respect are in fact stunningly obvious to We the People of the United States of America. And the simple fact you haven't yet grasped -- *unbelievably inconceivably don't seem yet to have the slightest grasp of* -- is that *from the point of view of needless loss of life* -- it really doesn't much matter what you do from here on out.

Your window of opportunity's slammed shut on this one, Commander-in-Chief. New Orleans 8/29/05 approximately 0dark630 was Custer's last stand, and you sent the cavalry way too late. **The people you could have saved are dead. Justice delayed is justice denied.** No fourth-quarter rally's possible for our beloved dead. Don't insult their memory now by pretending there is -- much less that *you're* now -- or *ever could* on this one now *be our savior*. In this context, that's actually bordering on the blasphemous, Mr. President. You already have a lot on your soul to account for in this as you deal about it now and in the future with *your* Higher Father.

Mr. Bush, you could not possibly still at this point be so clueless as to believe that your personal best job performance in the only two jobs that only you hold because We the People of the United States of America elected only you and pay only you to do these two most important executive jobs in the United States of America which you have now sworn twice before us all by most solemn binding oaths to do what the Constitution of the United States of America gives only you to do and in giving only you the power to do of course We the People of the United States of America can hold only you accountable for any personal dereliction of these most sacred solemn sworn duties that you and only you owed today and last week to all Americans and especially to all our suffering sisters and brothers in New Orleans and along the Gulf coast states after catastrophic killer hurricane Katrina made landfall near Biloxi and Gulfport, Mississippi, last Monday morning and in short order wreaked inconceivable havoc across a whole region:

and these *your* two jobs are:

1) **President of the United States**

(that is as a business-type CEO directing all federal Agencies' job performances as, for example, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) performance in New Orleans and all along the flattened Gulf states' coasts last week); and

2) **Commander-in-Chief of the United States of America**

(that is for example as the one and only human being in this country authorized by the Constitution to call up the 82nd Airborne and to order them down to New Orleans and the Gulf Coast PDQ [pretty damn quick] to help save lives which you so parsimoniously realized and eventually did anyway only waaaay too late to save such a multitude of the precious lives *we* cared about *we* loved equally the citizens of New Orleans and Louisiana and Mississippi especially the lives of *our* and should just as much have also been *your* beloved neighbors good-hearted American sisters and brothers all especially the babies and the elders of our dearest beloved city not only who suffered so appallingly in plain view of all of us and some of whom even also died there in plain view of all of us all of them in protracted agonies for days tortured so miserably before our collective TV eyes begging for water begging for food begging for toilets begging for relief from the heat begging for just a breath of clean cool air last week in New Orleans babies! Mr. "pro-life" President! American "chosen" babies died in their weeping mothers' arms died of dehydration last week in the Superdome when their mothers could do nothing but hold them sobbing as these our new American citizens their little babies died in their arms USA! USA! and so many others also especially our oldest and frailest great-grandmas our elders put there deliberately so that their special needs could be particularly tended to and their urgent medical conditions especially taken care of and unbelievably selfless doctors and nurses in stranded hospitals around the flooded city were even then giving their own food and water trying to save their own patients in their dark powerless buildings and hearing then how no effective medical care even to fill basic human needs much less basic urgent medical special needs of our New Orleans elders was being done there or could be done then anywhere at the Superdome under those conditions so that was causing yes that worst of all possible medical outcomes ***preventable and needless deaths of so many patients just for simple lack of basic resources*** and all of our beloved dead ***precious to us if not to you*** Mr. President many of whom are still floating in the toxic soup that is now the late great city of New Orleans that except for your unconscionable delay in getting them the help you were all too belatedly all too willing to rush in to the scene when apparently finally after days of the world reeling and screaming out take their help take their relief supplies even "third-world" countries like El Salvador were begging us now! please! take ***our*** troops now just get help to ***your*** own suffering people if ***you*** can't somehow won't send ***your*** own and Mr. Castro even offered us humanitarian relief pronto for New Orleans didn't he Mr. President because anyone anywhere in the world would have done anything he or she could have done as

those agonizingly horrific days mounted each one showing to the world the exponentially increasing degradation Americans were suffering in their own country in their own city and you didn't take El Salvador's offer of troops to help keep order on the streets of New Orleans and you didn't take Cuba's offer of emergency doctors to treat the people of New Orleans and no other civilized country anywhere in the world who was begging you to **let us help you** get this **unrelieved human misery** off **our** TV screens could believe that all that horrific 24/7 agony of Americans could go completely unrelieved even apparently inconceivably totally unnoticed for days by an American President and Commander-in-Chief who otherwise with a simple phone call that no one else in the country could make that everyone else in this great-hearted planet of ours was begging him in their hearts to make that he eventually did make but too late so that we all now have even the crueler piling-on compounded agony of knowing that our American President coulda shoulda but just somehow wouldna till it was just too damn late lift a finger to save so many of our nearest and dearest American citizens that could otherwise have been saved and would be today with us walking even if still dazed and reeling still at least among us all walking yet among the living on God's green earth walking and I am weeping as I write this and can hardly go on....)

So --

yes Mr. Bush, in case you really *were* that indifferent or oblivious about the appalling life-destroying inadequacies of your personal best job performance last week since Armageddon happened to New Orleans and the Gulf coast states by dawn's early light last Monday morning in **either** of the only two Constitutionally-bestowed and **uniquely-your** jobs that **only you** hold today and held last week **in all** -- and supposedly **for all** of We the People -- of the United States of America:

For starters, Mr. Bush, let's just say it emphatically does *not* merit a **promotion**.

So just please turn off your spinmeisters trying to lay any of this on *any* completely overstretched state or local elected official or emergency responder or on **anybody but yourself**.

You and you alone ultimately dropped Katrina's ball in New Orleans and all the Gulf Coast, President Bush.

You alone thus most harmed Our international image of strong national security, Commander-in-Chief Bush.

And that is **both as President** in not better managing *your*-brand-new-redesigned-since-2001-completely-on-*your*-watch-**guaranteed**-better-to-serve-all-Americans-in-emergencies-that-huge-Goliath-created-despite-*your*-otherwise-shrink-the-government-shrink-the-budget-run-up-

brehtaking-deficits-to-force-the-government-not-to-be-able-to-grow-philosophy-so-now-presenting-ladies-and-gentlemen-new-and-improved-for-its-maiden-voyage:

the United States Department of Homeland Security!

now made so much more effective for the defense of all American homelands
now like take for example the better defense of the particular American homelands of
Louisiana and Mississippi! --

and it is also and especially as Commander-in-Chief in *not* sending sooner to an obvious off-the-charts catastrophe of unprecedented scope the troops you clearly *could* have sent sooner (because *you did send them* later) ***but you didn't choose to send in time:***

in fact, you didn't send them at all till it was already way too late.

So please make all the President's men stop whining now about how unreasonable it is, for example, for Louisiana Governor Blanco suddenly to be thinking that maybe ***it's not now the best idea in the world or even the best idea she's heard this week*** to hand over what little power that she as Governor of the relatively poverty-stricken State of Louisiana has compared to the very great power at the instant command of the Commander-in-Chief and President of the world's last superpower, the United States of America --

I mean, Mr. President, ***reality-check time*** here --

and here I stop and ask every current or former active-duty or reservist American who ever served honorably in the service of the United States of America ***and every*** American who does now or ever served in any kind of law enforcement capacity in this county ***and every*** American who does now or ever served in any kind of first-response emergency operations in this country, including medical and fire and grid repair responders--

based on anyone's observation last week of what's best for the citizens of Louisiana -- whom the Governor of Louisiana has also sworn a solemn oath to preserve and protect and defend --

just as so many of you good-hearted fellow Americans did when you undertook your own honorable public service on behalf of the greater good of all Americans --

then when considering the kind of ***Mission Accomplished!*** life-saving concern the

President of the United States showed for Louisiana and Mississippi last week on behalf of his suffering American sisters and brothers,

even just considering those so-visibly-in-his-face ones screaming in New Orleans in the Superdome, **Our** New Orleans black babies, **Our** New Orleans white great-grandmas, **all** New Orleans' neediest frailest ones crying, begging for help, **even some dying altogether now**, and all of their collective tears a floodtide gathering, gushing, overflowing now the TV screens of not only this country but also the entire world community, piercing the good hearts of every person on the entire planet who saw, heard those poor souls 24/7 crying, begging for relief --

would any of you active-duty or former military or law enforcement or emergency responders including medical and fire and grid repair responders think *that* the President of the United States of America *now* deserved a *promotion* based on his abysmally derelict job performance last week in not getting *any* effective help for days *even to all* those people
--

all of whom anybody in the world would have then helped in any way possible as soon as possible ***if*** any of them could have made the call to order out the troops that ***only*** the President of the United States can make? --

especially when the Commander of the 82nd Airborne ***already*** had his troops all ready to roll out the Sunday the day ***before*** the Monday that Katrina slammed New Orleans and the Gulf coast states ***because he expected that call from the President to come then***, even before the storm struck --

well of course he did, good Commander that he is (and just like all Americans everywhere that long weekend able to pick up on the obvious), he must also have been watching the Weather Channel, that big red blob the catastrophic killer hurricane growing spinning for days

rapidly metastasizing to occupy the entire Gulf of Mexico it seemed --

and the day before close now so very, very close now and still taking aim now directly at New Orleans.

Yep, that Commander was prepared, good boy scout, that Commander honorably not only applied basic common-sense knowledge to his specialized military intelligence, but also in doing so quickly he accurately reached the ***only*** conclusion those facts could lead ***any*** similarly quick-thinking and prepared military commander or law enforcement officer or first responder ***to*** reach anytime anywhere facing such an Armageddon polite enough to give a couple-three days' notice of its intentions to wipe an entire region of the United States of America off the face of the earth --

and that is to prepare the way,

make ready for the call for the President,

which was surely imminent in the face of such appalling impending threatening force,
of Biblical proportions all the newspapers were saying,

the kind and size of catastrophic killer hurricane able to destroy thousands of people, smash entire cities, and take out all the various grids all over the Gulf coast states at one fell swoop.

But to that virtuous Commander's doubtless abiding shame, as it is also to all of ours -- because we -- every single American in this otherwise great nation --

now know what that Commander *then already* knew the Sunday before that catastrophic killer hurricane struck:

and that is that:

President George W. Bush,

forty-third President of the United States of America,

in callous disregard for this catastrophically imminent threat to the precious human lives of all his sisters and brothers American citizens all

did not make that call:

not that Sunday the day before the killer hurricane's landfall Monday when it was *already* well-known that this catastrophic storm would soon slam the Gulf coast region including New Orleans

even though that Sunday was the time when the 82nd Airbourne Commander could have effectively prepositioned his troops and supplies to maximize strategic use of his life-saving resources for immediate emergency post-hurricane search and rescue and relief missions --

nor at any time soon enough to get that resourceful Commander's troops there *even* the next day to begin relieving all those ***tens of thousands*** of poor suffering souls at the New Orleans Superdome:

no, not even for many days after that.

FUGUE III

I mean, Mr. President, *reality-check time* here again --
and here I stop and ask every single American living today anywhere across this great land,

do any of you sisters and brothers *really* believe that just maybe Mr. Bush mighta got to all those tens of thousands of poor souls whom *he as President of the United States of America* left suffering all week (unbelievably invisible to him it seemed) in the *Superdome*

if they had *instead* been agonizing all week all over the world's TV screens from the *Astrodome*?

that is, generally, if they were *not* suffering in the great state of Louisiana, but *instead* in the great state of Texas?

that is, specifically, if they were *not* suffering in the great city of New Orleans, but *instead* in the great city of Houston?

Ya know, some of you have told me ya think he would of, but I don't know:

I mean, the man did his honorable Vietnam-era military service in the *Texas National Guard*, right?

So he himself was trained as one of those State emergency first responders for times of crises in State American homelands, right?

In the *very next* State over from Louisiana, right?

In *Texas*, another State on the Gulf of Mexico that occasionally gets socked by hurricanes itself, right?

And then his last job before becomin' President of the United States of America was as *Governor* of that same State of *Texas*, right?

The very same State in which **the present Governor, Governor Bush's successor**, doesn't seem to be havin' any problems at all graspin' right off *either* the immediate dangers caused by catastrophic hurricanes *or* how much urgent help his desperately-stricken Louisiana and Mississippi neighbors need: *pronto!*

The very same neighborin' State in which the Commander-in-Chief was hisself *then* sittin' on his ranch **the whole week people were dyin' in Louisiana and Mississippi --**

and *he* didn't seem to notice one little bit for way too long, right?

So I know the man seemed to take pride during the last election campaign when he said he didn't read any newspapers or watch any TV news, but I don't think any of *US* really believed him then, now did we?

I guess *We* all thought ha-ha he was 'xaggeratin' then to make some kinda political point then, didn't *We*?

But I guess *We* know now that he wasn't.

But yeah you right, even I woulda thought the man woulda paid enough attention -- or at least *paid* the people around him *enough* to *pay enough* attention to **tell him --**

***if* people were dyin' like that**

anywhere in any of the Fifty United States he is today still personally responsible for,
anywhere anytime on *his* watch --

but I guess we know now that's not true --

that is

We now know that:

our very own personal American President is ***not*** now just like that good ole Navy captain in days of yore, supposed to be the last guy off the sinking ship, takes cares of his people first, and if there finally needs to be anybody goin' down with the ship now there at the end of things, it's '***sposed*** to be ***him*** before anyone else --

and if there's only one ultimately goin' down it's still 'sposed to be him.

In fact, the greatest generation Americans alive today know well the saying that says this best:

The buck stops here.

Yep, that one was from the American President ten ago, the thirty-third President of the United States of America, Mr. Harry Truman, the American President who made the twentieth-century world-rocking decisions to drop them ‘Merican atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki to end World War II and who then put *those* accountability-accepting ‘Merican words right there on that sign he *then* put *right there* on his *very own* Presidential desk in the White House Oval Office -- the very office of course in which his successor *Our* very own American President George W. Bush (ten later now than *that* Harry) *now* sits making *his own* American Presidential decisions about war and peace.

But I kinda doubt that sign’s *still* there, whaddya think?

Because *Our* very own President Bush finally does *not* really seem very much like them *his* predecessor Presidents in days of yore **acceptin’ that ole buck completely now all by himself**

does he now?--

whether it’s all *his* or not!

but especially ***not even*** when it *is!* --

just like ole Harry Truman did then and sure woulda done now if he were still President now, wouldn’t he?

Nor is our very own President Bush bearin’ much resemblance *We* can see *neither* to them ole Navy captains goin’ down and under if they needed to then **but no matter what**

not abandonin’ either *their sinking ships* nor *their pledged sacred honors*.

Come to think of it, our very own President Bush is also right now *not* even a whole heckuva lot like Mayor Nagin of New Orleans--

who’s still *himself* sittin’ down there right now workin’ outta some probably-not-the-most-upscale-loaded-with-comforts-right-now room somewhere *still* near the still-flooded Nawlins Superdome --

now *that* man’s *own* home’s already been done in by the dark polluted waters but *that* man’s still workin’ *still* workin’ in fact even still *knowin’* he’s *got* no more home left to go home to --

and that man's at this moment knowin' too even while he's still workin' there in that room that his wife's bizness is also now gone so even that man's very own wife right now don't have neither a home nor any place at all ta go back to whether ya be talkin' day nor night now that woman's outta luck.

And that man's also had ta sent his own personal family to Texas so he can know they be safe while he keeps on still workin' through the night surrounded by the dark waters, plus that man's also had ta sent most a the rest a his own personal city government ta Baton Rouge the better ta try ta work existin' phone lines the better ta try to get on any radar screen at all these days the President's men may some days sometimes-when-the-mood-strikes-'em-maybe occasionally still be trackin'.

Yep that's gotta be some kinda irony don't it now?

Here's a man mayor of a pretty poor half-a-mil population American City maybe makin' some mistakes along the way I grant you that but not givin' up, still in there tryin', still apparently bustin' his balls ta do anything he can think of ta help save all his people, all his city, still sufferin' greatly personally but still even if it comes ta that apparently still willin' to go down with the ship of the late great city of New Orleans.

While the President of the United States *himself*

apparently even this past Friday (four days after Katrina-slaughter) still hadn't even yet been informed enough even yet to have gotten hisself motivated enough even yet to have begun acting even yet to get the United States of America's myriad wheels in motion even yet to have already started helping out Mayor Nagin in any meaningful way in any of the Mayor's still ongoin' by now fairly heroic fights to save as much as he personally can save of all those precious nawlins lives and all that precious nawlins town against by now kinda overwhelmin' odds --

which by the way I don't recall in our 'Merican democracy set up by them there Foundin' Fathers was ever 'sposed to include odds against States of the Newnited States of 'Merica worsened on States by the Federal guv'mint of those same Newnited States whew that one musta made that ole Tommy boy Jefferson be' turnin' over in his grave somethin' fierce that day why that man hisself said many times the purpose of guv'mint was to prevent men from harmin' each other so don't believe even in his wildest nightmares then poor old Tom would ever a thought to see the day his bright shinin' Declaration of Independence creatin' a Federal guv'mint for them first 13 States would itself become the means for inflictin' harm on its citizens or its States and probly 'specially not one of them States that Tom hisself had gone ta so much trouble ta bargain away at such a good price from that there French empire builder runnin' inta a tad of political troubles himself then back at home weren't he then all the way back in 1803 --

why even that ole *Hobbes* whose best view 'bout life was his famous sayin' that it was nasty brutish and short woulda agreed with Tommy J that *that's* why we needed guv'mints that is to *protect US* from all those other *men* who were that way but *certainly* not ta band together under some *guv'mint* that *not only* didn't protect us better *but also* then that did *US more harm with* than *without* it! no it's a sad day in these Newnited States of 'Merica when *that* can be said.

FUGUE IV

Because when the President finally landed then *this past Friday* after Katrina passed [September 2] at that still-mainly-closed-down Louey Armstrong nawlins airport --

yall doubtless *well* rememba *that was already then* a coupla days even *after* the President's *very first two-days-too-late* mere flyover of the then-totaled Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf coasts --

which wuz a course *this past Wednesday* [August 31] when the President *finally* condescended at least ta overlook them now-destroyed Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf coasts on his way roarin' back overhead from Crawford Texas to Washington DC --

hatin' to hafta cut his month-long vacation short by a coupla days now weren't he then?

Now I do believe they said they had the Air Force One jet he always gets to ride around in as President ta *slow* down a bit and ta *drop* down a bit *lower* so that he the President of the United States of America could then take *just a tad longer* gander at those now-obliterated Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf coasts as he raced by *still* goin' some hundreds-a-miles per hour *still just flyin' by overhead* zoomin' *over US* even if he weren't for those particular moments at the very highest possible full throttle that there Air Force One jet could do but even so goin' then so fast I guarantee yall that it couldn't *possibly* let him see much *but for a few minutes* at most *from the air* what he *shoul*da been then spendin' all day to be 'xaminin' for hissself *on the ground* and talkin' all day *into the night* then and there with all the poor sufferin' Louisiana and Mississippi souls who didn't even *then* or *for many days after* get a whole heckuva lotta help outta that gracious Presidential pause in that roarin' Presidential flyover **of** them now did they?

What could the man possibly ha' been thinkin' then: let 'em eat cake??*

And if the man really didna wanna be a President, why the heck'd he run ta become one?

[* French Queen Marie Antoinette was contemporaneously reported to have remarked "Let them eat cake!" when told late eighteenth-century peasants had no bread. Though later historians dispute that she did, certainly the Queen and her husband Louis XVI's early lavish lifestyles and perceived callous disregard of the plight of their country's suffering and starving poor helped seal

their fates at their later trials for treason. They both died on the guillotine at the hands of French revolutionaries, he first. Their imprisoned children did not long survive them.]

So the big moment was *then* gonna be *this past* Friday, yes sirree bob, the President of the Newnited States of America *now!* comin' *his very own self* comin' up close and personal *both* to Louisiana and Mississippi *on the ground* finally ta see the devastation *for hisself* and ta start talkin' with the poor sufferin' souls ta start *comfortin'* the devastated peoples of Louisiana and Mississippi --

coz he sure hadna got too good a press from that there Wednesday flyover did he now?

even Rove seem ta realize he gotta *fast now* get *the man hisself* on the ground with *US* now --

so ok *just maybe* we thought we sure *still* be sufferin' and hurtin' *so maybe just this once* we might could overlook that there insultin' flyby lookover of us *just for today* give the man another chance *maybe* he's now realized he *was wrong* ta do *that* maybe *now* he's finally *comin'* *ta his senses* --

ok so *just maybe* we'll sure nuff be *tryin'* ta be meetin' him halfway now *if he's really* comin' *now* finally ta give us all some a that *help* here *finally* bearin' all that aid he *shoulda sent* us here on the ground *startin'* *at least last weekend* ago now:

now better late than never?

no! already way too late for that!

but maybe ***just maybe better after he's here than not***

maybe

we'll hafta see!

Because there sure does need to be a terrible lotta healin' now *started* and maybe *just maybe* if he does *his own personal* best to get it started *right now today* maybe *just maybe* today he'll 'pologize to us all for *overlookin' us for so long* while he was vacationing weren't he then? *forgettin' all 'bout us sufferin' so terribly* then *when only he coulda really help relieve us* we so needed that help then and there *hell we so needed him!*

But 'stead we got the great 'Merican President asleep at the switch at our 'Merican moment of greatest need but today he's finally comin' really comin' finally to help they say so maybe *just maybe* he'll finally today make his 'sposed-ta-look-like-he's- carin'-'bout-us photo op into no photo op at all but into

a *really-just-carin'* - 'bout-us-actual visit.

ok well *if* he does that on the ground here today maybe *just maybe* we could find it in our hearts *ta meet him halfway* then and maybe we *just maybe* we could *take that there olive branch* right outta his hand then and there maybe *just maybe* that is *if he holds it out ta us now today* sayin' he's sorry *we'll see won't we?*

But no!

That's not what happened.

Because *even then* on this past Friday ***HE the President of the United States of America*** lands at the mostly-still-closed-down Louey Armstrong airport in New Orleans *still* jokin' and laughin' 'bout what a whooieeee good taim he useta have *hissself* in Nawlins town comin' over to party a lotta those years he was livin' in Austin governin' that neighborin' great State of Texas --

no good Samaritan HE then,

no sirree bob, the President just got hisself raight then and there *twice* in n out of that there Louey Armstrong airport this past Friday **PDQ** (pretty damn quick)

but he didn't stop then did he?

No HE the President of the United States of America didn't even have the common human decency *then* to go visit all them frail old nawlins ladies the widows and maiden great-aunts ya know the real special medical-needs folks who spent a lotta days last week in the nawlins Superdome without nothin' special at all happenin' for them and without much basic needs met either like no food air toilets water so that one a the nawlins po-lice officers who wuz interviewed on the radio said somma them comin' outta that there damn Dome finally then by last Friday mornin' when the President hisself finally sashayed into nawlins town looked like they'd been on that ole Bataan death march they did and could hardly stand up by theirselves now and the survivors of *that* horrible week were somma them ole nawlins ladies *then* laid out all around the airport somma them even then laid out *on the baggage returns* --

just like they wuz some kinda lost unclaimed luggage or somethin' --

at that same Louey Armstrong nawlins airport then and there laid out in their puny hospital gowns hiked up just about to their poor ole butts and all of 'em *still* just waitin' *still* just prayin' for someone to get them some basic medical care or even just a drink of water --

but no! HE didn't even pause then did he?

no Mother Theresa HE then --

and what could his own mama then a been thinkin' just seein' her son's such bad behavior?

and all the worse for her, all over TV-land it was too, it weren't like she could preten' it never happened! and *she'd* had a renown at one time to be a gracious lady herself in some parts surely *she'd* taught her son better manners than *that!*

surely *she'd* at least taught him somma that old-school silver-spoon chivalry like the younger man's 'sposed to visit *first* and show the *most* respect to any older ladies who just might happen to be present before he's at all free to follow through on whatever his own devices might be otherwise leadin' him to --

but no! that's not at all what he did now is it?

and she a diplomat's wife *and a President's wife herself* first before she was a President's mama *she* musta been *hangin' her very own head way down low in deepest shame* to see *her* very own personal eldest survivin' son just walk on by *all them old sick ladies* showin' to *all* the world *what* he wuz and wuz *not* made of then:

when he was also *not* very *much* like his daddy the diplomat then was he neither?

nor necessarily like his daddy the ex-President two before him then neither!

and that would be:

the forty-first President of the United States of America, the President whom his son our current 'Merican President has apparently spent so much of his own Presidential time tryin' ta best I don't know ya got me maybe it's some male macho thing but it's clear for whatever reasons that our current 'Merican President George W. Bush has been actin' for some time like he was in some kinda competition maybe for the best place in history? tryin' hard ta beat out even his very own personal father President George H.W. Bush tryin' hard ta show he's better at this here Presidential stuff than even his own daddy wuz I don't know but it almost kinda seems like when our current President talks 'bout his being born again mid-life and God's givin' him then the grace to stop drinkin' and to stop his partyin' ways just in time to save his own personal family as the man hissself has shared that the man's own nice wife'd told him would happen soon if he didn't shape up but this hard thing for him with his daddy still seems to remain past that healin' it's

almost like he never also got then **whatever the grace** it was he still needs ta forgive his daddy
or

maybe he did but he's just never tried ta use it?

actually ta try ta *forgive* his own personal dad for *whatever* wrongs real or imagined the man clearly *still* believes his own father did to him growin' up a 'Merican boy into a 'Merican President so now with that all that deep unforgiveness apparently lodged *still* so hard around his heart weighin' it down so that sometimes there's no room left at all 'round that now stony hard heart a his for growin' past old wrongs or for new points of view to be comin' on in or for new people he's *now* taken on the responsibility to care for 'em *even* yet for him ta *begin thinkin'* of 'em enough *even* yet for him ta *begin carin'* for 'em at all *even in their time of very greatest need* yep we've seen us some real Presidential consequences stemmin' here in these last few 'Merican years from the man's apparently not bein' able ta come to terms with whatever his very own daddy was and shoulda been and *still* now is ta him.

So:

no not even Dr. Bill Frist HE then --

because **TIMEOUT!** for just one minute here!

I gotta stop right now and tell yall 'bout what Dr. Frist just did on his very own time this past holiday weekend before I can go on to finish 'bout what the President of the United States of America did *not* at all do even on *Our* very own official time of *his* even the last Friday *workin'* day before this same past holiday weekend --

and just to make sure we're all on the Same 'Merican Page here just so yall will know *really* know what we're all up against here and that would be *all* of what we're *all* up against now here in America in these latter days just to make sure if I know somethin' that could help yall I'm telling ya just so yall know *I'm* keepin' no secrets here just so yall know I'm tellin' *all* you American sisters and brothers throughout this great land *everything* I know --

so then you'll know too --

and a lotta what I know right now that yall don't yall'd *already* know too if ya had to follow it as close as I've had ta just ta make sure *your own mama* didn't suddenly up and die of grief on ya the next time ya happened to be on the phone with her when all of a sudden she gets real choked-up on ya doesn't she then because she *still* don't know *right now* either when or if she'll ever *really* be able to go home again and a course she really *really* wants to go home

right now!

Then a course ya get all choked-up yaself too just listenin' to her goin' on like that now coz there ain't a whole heckuva lot you yaself can do 'bout all that right now *either* is there?

So ok listen up American sisters and brothers *still* readin' along with me and now you'll hear [of the midnight ride of Paul Revere] and now yall will really *really* understand too.

Because along with everything else goin' down in Nawlins last week, this part 'bout what Dr. Frist did didn't get written up hardly at all in the papers and if I hadn't been a-combin' the daily coverage on-line of the poor courageous brave nawlins Times-Picayune our long-time historic daily newspaper the little engine that could that kept printing till its very own nawlins plant on Howard Street there was flooded out too by the dark waters rapidly rising but that even when that went underwater never stopped posting on-line and that got up again borrowing other papers' presses in just three days and whose dedicated staff kept workin' too *still* kept workin' through all of their own personal grief and sorrow some even worse than Mayor Nagin *still* workin' somma those first coupla days of Katrina-slaughter not even knowin' what was *then* happenin' or even worse what mighta *already* happened ta their very own loved ones and homes with whom of course they'd instan'ly lost touch when the dark floodwaters swiftly rose takin' out various grids all over nawlins in a flash but since *they* were trapped there *still* in that newspaper building *still* they kept workin' where they *still* were till they could flee themselves *still* workin' that is till the last possible moment before they fled so as to *still* try to help their own peoples any way they could while they *still* could –

so back to what Dr. Frist did:

that *the President of the United States* of America did *not* do.

FUGUE V

It's really quite simple:

FIRST, Dr. Frist flew down from DC on the Labor Day holiday weekend and volunteered his own personal time workin' for free as a basic-care doctor for all those poor sufferin' souls who'd been in the Superdome all week:

Good Samaritan he!

SECOND, and all the more worthy a praise 'specially considerin' the behavior of mosta them Beltway politicians that whole long dreadful week –

when mosta them *stayed* on vacation *not* doin' even *any* little thing at all helpful for *any* of *their* own 'Merican sisters and brothers dyin' *then* –

in Nawlins particularly but *all* up n down the Luziana and Mississippi Gulf coast too.

**And Dr. Frist didn't make no big deal 'bout it neither:
he just did it.**

THIRD, givin' of himself this way in humble service especially showed *US* all that Dr. Frist weren't too old or inflexible ta have learned some very needed new tricks *now* didn't it?

Coz in the case a that poor brain-damaged Schiavo lady just last spring in Florida, Dr. Frist had made a whole lotta pronouncements 'bout her medical condition:

from thousands a miles away without ever actually physically 'xaminin' her didn't he *then*?

All over the national news it were too!

And he'd justifiably taken a whole lotta heat as a doctor on that one hadn't he *then*?

So a few months later **we can be right proud a Dr. Frist** showin' us all he's *at least* learned some **humility** --

and a *whole lot better ethical medical* practice since last spring's bungled mess now didn't he:

comin' *now* ta Nawlins helpin' out the poor n needy *his very own self in person* this whole holiday weekend he coulda been barbequin' in his back yard in Nashville isn't that right?

So at least one famous 'Merican doctor stood in during those desperate two days for at least *one* a those hundreds of a Cuban doctors Mr. Bush'd refused as not needed didn't Mr. Frist *then*?

And shame on you, Mr. Bush!

As if we sure couldna used every single one a them Cuban doctors *then* --

inna heartbeat!

to **save** heartbeats! –

We asked you before, and *We* have to stop n ask *you* again *here*, Mr. Bush:

Are you sure you're a "pro-life" President?

Coz *nowhere* in your post-Katrina actions do you show yourself ta be:

**When you showed *but* callous indifference to human sufferin' and losin' lotsa lives needlessly
all along the whole *Luziana and Mississippi Gulf Coast this week*
and especially in *Nawlins*.**

For 'xample Mr. Bush you sure right quick interrupted *another* of your Crawford vacations
last spring didn't you?

sayin' you were *then** happy to do *that*:

that is:

ta fly back ta DC ta give just *one* person
a *chance* at life!

But *that* wuz *then** --

and we sure don't see you 'xhibitin' no similar right quick willin'ness *now!* --

**when* the family a that poor Schiavo lady who'd been in *whatever* state of non-awareness
for some fifteen years or so wuz fightin' 'bout wuz it best to keep her *on* all them machines *or* just
ta finally let her go --

but compare Louisiana 2005, where *at least one* post-Katrina *potential* Ms. Schiavo who
still at least *now* had *had* her feeding tube *still in* nonetheless **died** *anyway*:

that is

from *drowning* when her nursing home did *not* evacuate her --

but *then** in Ms. Schiavo's case you **had** *then** hurried on back *from* Crawford *all the way*
to DC just ta sign a bill ta let somma her family take *their* case *against* the resta her family *into*
Federal court.

but *now* you didn't hurry *anywhere* for *US* in the *many* days **before** *nor* **after** predicted, **now**
actual Katrina-Armageddon --

except to a California fundraiser *We* hear --

no, not *even* when *now* thousands of **your** citizens **did die**.

And We blush ta have ta say it ‘bout *any* ‘Merican President, Mr. Bush:
but We sure ain’t seen *any* kinda such helpful solicitude *now* --

**no not one little damn bit from you --
the President of the United States of America --**

**this whole long dreadful week of post-Katrina-slaughter --
you have instead through *your* passive neglect
done naught**

***but* what has hurt and diminished a whole lotta lives’ chances *for life* --
naught in fact *but***

**what has *ensured* so many of *their*
deaths.**

So ‘Merican peoples!
Don’t let Mr. Bush deceive you again sayin’ *he’s* “pro-life”!

Your great-grandma mighta taught *you* too before *she* died that the *proof* was *in* the puddin’:

**Well in *this* puddin’ it’s *real* clear that Mr. Bush is *not* “pro-life”:
no no no not at all:**

***not* by many once-beatin’ Nawlins hearts!
now forever
stilled.**

So back to **all yall who *unlike* Mr. Bush *were* so very salvific** this terrible holiday end
to a horrific week:

And that would be:

Dr. Frist and lotsa other volunteer medical folks whose names *We don't* even know!

But all very much 'preciated and ta be thanked -- heartfelt -- whenever possible!

Coz when another doctor also helpin' out then and there in Nawlins town this catastrophic Labor Day weekend wuz interviewed on NPR 'bout *his* 'xperiences

he said it'd been in the Louey Armstrong airport *then* like goin' back ta the only kinda real basic medical care they could be doin' as if *he'd* been in some real starvin' area of Africa now didn't he?

So kudos to you Dr. Frist!

and ta this other doctor *and* ta *all* the doctors and nurses and *all* the other 'mergency medical peoples who did so much against such overwhelmin' odds

ta try ta help all those poor abandoned Nawlins folks

live.

Coz yall are the real "pro-life" Heroes

of this dreadful Katrina week and Labor Day weekend at the Louey Armstrong airport --

not the President --

and *We* particularly praise **you** in this Dr. Frist

coz **you saw the need** and **yourself came down from DC to help fill it --**

We didn't see none other of your Congressional colleagues *doin' that*.

So please!

Keep up *all such inspirational* work for all your big DC beltway Capitol Hill colleagues!

And that would be:

just as this your example now proves:

FIRST, please continue performing such *pro bono* work for poor n needy 'Mericans --
yep that's short for Latin *pro bono publico* ("for the public good") --

as that phrase is also often used referrin' to the free legal work a whole lotta lawyers do for *US* representin' criminal defendants who can't afford lawyers

so *We* can all be sure *We* can still get fair trials outta *Our* judicial system.

SECOND, Dr. Frist, please stay humble:

Coz *We* sure have noticed that the rarefied air yall must be breathin' in DC these days goes way too fast to somma your new colleagues' heads --
whether they be incomin' Congress people or incomin' Presidents or incomin' Presidents' men:

***We* have observed this happens like clockwork in *both* **Our** new lawmaker
and **Our** new 'sposedly executive officers --
and ***We* don't like it one damn bit.****

Yall **all** need to **stay down to earth** like the folks you're 'sposed to be servin' --
or how on earth will **you** know what *We* need?

THIRD, please keep learnin' from your mistakes and doin' better next time --

just like you stunningly did learn from your prior bad medical behavior in that *way-too-politicized* poor Schiavo family tragedy --

and then you had *both* the good will *and* the smarts immediately ta apply those *better* lessons learned on the ground in post-Katrina Nawlins town:

And that's why *We*'re praisin' you! Dr. Frist

here n now as a good example to the President's *really really* bad example:

Coz for all *Our* kids whom President Reagan was rightly worried needed ta be learnin' a lot more 'bout what made 'Merica special

than they'd like ta be even in school in *these history-deprived latter days* --

We sure gotta be real clear 'bout WHO *Our* kids *should* and WHO they *should* not emulate of all the folks they be seein' all over the TV 24/7 now:

**and here that would definitely be you Dr. Frist and all volunteer medical folks *TO* emulate --
and it would definitely be Mr. Bush *NOT* to emulate!**

And yes it **is** a *very* sad day in the land of the free and the home of the brave when the ‘Merican **President** has ta be put in *that bad example* category --

**but here it’s only too true *We* gotta tell *Our* kids loud n clear:
doan ya be doin’ what ya see Mr. Bush doin’! --
coz *We be doin’ Our best ta raise good not bad Samaritans!***

And for all yall that may not know **that** story even though ya sure don’t even hafta be a Christian ta know ‘bout it these days:

Coz probly mosta your very own States got “Good Samaritan” laws that try ta help out someone who stops ta help out another person in need --

which is what the original good Samaritan did in the teachin’ ‘xample story Jesus told.
That is:

the Samaritan earned bein’ called “good” **by his behavior** when he stopped and helped someone in great need,

a man who’d been robbed and beaten and left by the side of the road where two of **that** man’s very own countrymen had **already** seen him there

but just passed him by on the other side of the road --

and even though in that part of the country where they were **then** the **Samaritan** was a **foreigner** and the peoples who lived there didn’t really like Samaritans all that much:

it was only the foreign stranger “good” Samaritan who helped the poor beaten man:
that is:

**it was only the more despised outcast person there in the minority who stopped to help
the beaten-up “majority” stranger lyin’ by the side of the road bleedin’:**

that is:

**only the “sojourner” treated that “native” victim of highwaymen and thieves
as a “neighbor” worthy of top-notch care!**

So just think Golden Rule:

Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

So thanks again, Dr. Frist, coz *you did this* and *We're* sure a whole lotta peoples *really really* 'preciate all your extra-hours medical efforts

to help Nawlins' poorest n neediest live through their terrible ordeals! --

that were yes all too greatly prolonged by mosta the *other* representatives of *their very own* Federal government who were 'sposed ta be helpin' care for *them*.

And Dr. Frist please rememba:

We're gonna be trustin' ya now, son, ta be keepin' up *that* kinda good work all year long now:

Coz **sure as shootin'** there's *still* a whole buncha poor Anacostia peoples who *still* be needin' somma that real basic kindly medical care n attention you were so good

at givin' this past weekend ta the Nawlins widows and other desperate folks who'd just been abandoned so torturously at that damn Dome for so way too long (Mother Theresa you).

FUGUE VI

**But obviously Mr Bush has yet to learn all these lessons,
coz the President of the United States just walked on by *all* them poor ole sufferin' souls
at the Louey Armstrong airport last Friday without *even* stopping
didn't he?**

So the President certainly didn't go a bit further down that long hall either did he *then*?

So *neither* did the President of the United States *then* bother to see what was left of --
that is **the remains** --
of all the 'Merican peoples who had *already* **had ta wait in the Nawlins Superdome last week
just a lil too long**

for that help it was up to the President *then already long ago* ta have sent --

ya know **the help that *mighta* made *such* a difference
just a coupla days ago now and that would be**

**ta all the ones already laid out *then and there* at the Louey Armstrong airport
in the *next-over* terminal they'd already had ta *quickly* turn into a morgue:**

**to *all* them cold ones *then all* that help that *even* then
the President *still* had not *even* yet sent
would clearly be
too late.**

*Well really there was a lotta evidence right then and there on the floors, on the shelves,
on the tables, of the Louey Armstrong airport in Nawlins town that day*

*on the ground also lay the evidence that any lotsa help the President of the United States
of America might suddenly be starting ta get real motivated ta start sending a whole lot sooner
now ta save lives **would be a lot too late** for a whole buncha them*

whose lives had already been neglected away.

So while I might wonder which version of that ole familiar song the President coulda just possibly have been hearin' runnin' through his mind all this time he was quickly passing to n fro at the Louey Armstrong airport in nawlins this past Friday laughin' n jokin' n clearly not lookin' neither down nor around when he passed by on the other side --

Dionne's his right age group, but Britney's the local girl now ain't she? --

*If you see me walking down the street
And I start to cry each time we meet
Walk on by, walk on by*

*Make believe
that you don't see the tears
Just let me grieve
in private 'cause each time I see you
I break down and cry
And walk on by (don't stop) And walk on by (don't stop)
And walk on by --*

But I gotta finally answer you that no, I don't believe the man was last week just ignoring his sufferin' and dyin' fellow 'Mericans in the Nawlins Superdome but *woulda* noticed those

same miserable ‘Merican citizens had they *instead* been in the the Houston *Astrodome*.

No, I’m afraid American sisters and brothers that the truth ain’t even that pretty.

Because when ya look at all the facts ‘bout all the ways the President *did and did not act* the entire first week post-Katrina-slaughter to help *all* his fellow ‘Merican citizens living *anywhere* along the entire 99,000 square miles of the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf coasts -- *especially* all those tens of thousands of American citizens most obviously visibly suffering all over the entire world’s TV’s brought to you ***live now!*** from the Nawlins Superdome --

Well it’s pretty clear now isn’t it that *even* Houston, Texas, woulda been too far away from the President’s ranch in Crawford, Texas, last week when Armageddon slammed **CONUS**

(military-speak, that’s the **CON**tinental United States) --

for any of us Americans desperate last week for just an encouraging word from the President of the United States of America to be able to say with certainty that:

HAD those tens of thousands of horrifically agonized American citizens just been a few hundred miles closer to the President than they *then* were,

that *that* alone woulda made *any* difference *at all* in our very own American President’s ability to notice *either*

a) their existence *or*

b) their terrible human misery **even deaths of babies and elders**

that were then and there needlessly and unconscionably prolonged

yes and even caused!

because *HE the President of the United States did not hear* their screams for help --

that then being broadcast 24/7 to the world just ‘bout everybody else in the whole world did hear.

So *even* though it’s absolutely unbelievably inconceivable for me to be goin’ there for *any*

POTUS

(yeah, you right you probably guessed that's **President Of The United States**) --

based on our current POTUS's very own actions --
and especially based on his very own completely humiliating and shameful non-actions --

I now believe that apparently if the man didn't walk out his own front door and actually **stumble** over the person *right then and there* dyin' on **his** very own doorstep --

(and *We* can all prob'ly clear 'nuff now get the picture that *that* couldn't happen coz the Secret Service woulda *long ago* cleared *any* such person *away* from the man's *very own* doorstep

-- yep long before *they'd* thought the POTUS might be deignin' to step forth on *any* particular morning *they* woulda done *that*) --

so apparently --

if the man *really doesn't* read any newspapers or watch any TV news --

he *really might* **not** happen to get the word that there was a person right then and there dyin' even on his very own doorstep

in time to do anything about it.

But **WHO** 'xackly does **HE** think **WE** elected him to be if not a **PRESIDENT** in time of need?

So **WHO** 'xackly does **HE** think he **IS** ?

NOT even that last powerful Stuart who all the way back in 1642 lost his head somehow thinkin' **he** was divinely appointed forever to rule was **THAT** far behind on his current events!

So no, I finally think *somma yall* are probly wrong to suggest that *this* President woulda sent help any sooner to those tens of thousands of American sisters and brothers starving for days and some of them including little babies and frail great-grandmas dying of dehydration after the greatest natural disaster ever to slam the United States of America **if** all those American citizens happened to have *then* had their very own butts parked for days without food or water sittin' in

the Houston *Astrodome* rather than the Nawlins *Superdome*.

Because the worse-even-than *that* truth is:

Last Monday August 29, 2005, it doesn't seem like it woulda mattered to the President *where* those tens of thousands of suffering American sisters and brothers for whom he was ultimately responsible *were*.

As Bette Midler says, "*But enough about me! Let's talk about you! What do you think about me?*"

The man was apparently then just too oblivious.

Now even Machiavelli said that a prince (governor: that is the one who is in charge of a government) should *ask* his ministers about everything, and then *listen* to their opinions, and then *reflect* on them, and then *only after that form his own resolutions*.

But as far as *this* President's attitude toward *any* American citizens living *anywhere* along the now-destroyed Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf coasts last week and especially in New Orleans:

it was apparently a complete void.

At the moment of gravest national crisis, absolutely *nothing* –

and certainly *nothing quick or helpful* –

seemed *either* to be going *to* or coming *from*
***this* American President.**

FUGUE VII

Now if the President doesn't bother even to *ask* his very own men what's been going on these days with major events around his very own country now while he's been takin' it easy these past few weeks layin' up at Crawford --

and since we now know the President really *doesn't* read any newspapers or watch any TV news on his own,

and since the President apparently can't be counted on *even* to have surrounded himself with men *loyal enough* to know *when* --

even if it *is* gonna be a shoot-the-messenger day *big-time* now --

but somethin' so *really* big's just started goin' down *right now!* --

somethin' so big that *maybe* only a *really* loyal President's man better stiffen up his own spine, borrow some backbone if *he* really doesn't have any and just then and there just stand there and

***tell the President of the United States the bad news anyway:
real-time --***

And if not a single one of the other high-paid President's men had the guts to do this *then*:
it wuz most definitely your job, Mr. Vice-President Dick Cheney!

So Mr. Cheney please right now give *US* a complete accounting of yourself and your activities the last more n a week:

that is:

from August 25th when Katrina slammed South Florida till today, Labor Day, September 5th.

And *We* 'specially want to know what *you* were doin' when Mr. Bush finally deigned to pass by on the other side a all them sorrowful sufferin' ole widows and maiden great-aunts

then laid out on the baggage returns at the Nawlins Louey Armstrong airport:

**tellin' Mr. Brown, Chief-in-Charge of disastrous FEMA response, didn't Mr. Bush *then* that
"Brownie" was doin' a *heckuva* job!**

It sure was hard for *US* to tell *that* media day *which* one a *them* --
***that is* Mr. Bush *or* Mr. Brown --**

was more out to lunch then
in destroyed and drowned-out Nawlins town.

So Mr. Vice-President Dick Cheney! We already asked once: Where were you that day?

FIRST, you couldna been so completely under the weather *all* that time that you *neither* noticed for mosta a whole week how an entire region of the United States had been wiped out and people were sufferin' and dyin' all that time could you?

Coz *if* you were, you ain't been straight with *US* no how no way 'bout the state a your health!

So 'xactly why were you completely AWOL (yes Absent WithOut Leave) too that entire week?

Coz, SECOND, you *and* Mr. Bush *both* know that you were sold to *US* in 2000 as that sage wise ole head that wuz gonna be keepin' young George on the straight and narrow weren't you?

That is:

just in the *unlikely* event through *his* inexperience comin' from mainly havin' had jobs he got through his Daddy's friends like you till he were Governor of Texas at least a term before he *then* became *Our* President,

That is:

just in case the man was a tad immature ta be a surefire top-notch Father of Our Country, *We* were 'posed ta feel *just fine* that you the 'parent grey-haired Grandfather would be there ta back the boy up.

Yep *We* were 'sposed ta feel so much better coz you the 'xperienced ole hand from his daddy the President two ago's 'Ministration was right there ta hold young George's hand

if somewhere somehow sometime *he* be gettin' in a little deep over *his* head:

weren't we *then* told Mr. Cheney *We* could rely on you for *that*?

So We repeat Mr. Cheney, where the hell were you when HE the President went AWOL?

(Biking! they tell us.

Proibly worried *he'd* been gainin' a few pounds 'bout the middle weren't *he* then?

But what else could he 'xpect with all that high livin' in DC?)

But Mr.Cheney the time the President's *already* gone AWOL is **not** the time we would 'xpect you ta be settin' aside for *yourself also* ta go AWOL --

that is in fact the very dead-last time that We'd allow you also ta go AWOL!

Really, Mr. Cheney, who dya 'xpect *US* ta go to for help *then*?

Mr. *Delay*?

Coz it sure looks to US like you were *just* as asleep at the switch --
just as derelict in performance of *your own* sworn Constitutional duties and offices --

as that young George *you* were 'sposed to be helpin' ta stay on *his* toes:

And that's particularly egregious behavior in a Vice-President!

That is:

you were not *ready, willin', and able* (no Boy Scout you) ta step right up ta the Katrina plate ta backstop the President *if* as 'parently for whatever reason

the President wuz incapacitated or unwillin' or unable ta take the Presidential actions needed ta protect the homeland security of

***his* dyin' 'Merican sisters and brothers in Luziana and Mississippi.**

And *We* know you *well* know how ta do this Mr.Cheney -- you in fact *well* know *We all* saw you do it big-time for young George on September 11, 2001:

flyin' him all around the country from one undisclosed location ta another didn't you *then*?

till *We* wuz all just 'bout dizzy tryin' ta keep up with where you be lettin' *him* touch down *next* --

and all the time *then* on *that* awful day We be still hurtin' somethin' fierce still *really really* needin' most of all the reassurance of knowin' that *We* still had *US*

a Father of *Our* Country gonna do somethin' ta help *US all* at

Our time of direst need.

**But *We* were then only *Fatherless* that one day as it turned out
till *you* finally brought the man hisself back to the White House:**

the only place he belonged on *that* day or *any* day of *any* such crisis as Katrina-slaughter.

**But you didn't do *that* this time, Mr. Cheney!
Why not?**

Coz *We* sure don't 'ppreciate your neglectin' ta do for Luziana and Mississippi what *you* were ready, willin', and able ta do for New York and Washington on *their* day of deepest disaster.

No, *We* do not appreciate *that* one damn bit in these 'sposedly *United States*.

So:

IF among all the President's men there's really not at least one of 'em --

unbelievably, not even the *Vice-President* of the United States of America --

who'll tell the President some really bad news he really needs to know as soon as it happens:

***THEN completely foreseeable and bad things are gonna consequentially be happenin' now
anywhere anytime throughout the United States of America:***

***ALL of for which the President is gonna be both personally accountable to his God
AND per the terms of his sacred solemn Presidential oath***

HE's twice now sworn to us all

(as taken straight out of the Constitution of the United States of America)

HE the President's also then personally accountable for all those consequential bad things to

WE THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA --

WHO --

NOT the President --

*(in case the President or the Vice-President
needs a basic civics refresher at this point) --*

***ARE the ultimate SOVEREIGN
TO WHOM allegiance is pledged***

***in the Republic for which our flag stands
in the United States of America.***

So:

as to Mr. Bush himself, I finally think the man's just not *curious* enough to be President.

A man like that's just *not tuned-in enough* to have been *able enough* to have *picked advisors clued-in enough* to have made up for *that* glaring grievous character flaw of *his --*

***as a direct result of which they're now predicting
thousands dead all up and down and along
the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf coast:***

***and predicting moreover that so many of them
will ultimately be found floating***

***in the toxic soup that is now all that's left
of the late great city of New Orleans.***

POSTLUDE

So you think *now*, Mr. Bush,
that Governor Blanco should *now* let you Federalize Louisiana?
like maybe *now* you deserve some kind of a *promotion*, Mr. Bush?

No, Mr. President, that dog don't hunt.
And it ultimately won't anymore anywhere either (whether you realize it yet or not).
We good-hearted Americans may have been keeping faith with *you*,
may in our wholehearted way have trusted *you* more than *you ever* deserved.

But New Orleans opened our eyes.
New Orleans woke us up.
Maybe before she died your great-grandma also taught you:
Fool me once, shame on you!
Fool me twice, shame on me!

Even if she didn't,
surely you know the story 'bout how
if you prove yourself faithful in little things,

you then also prove yourself faithful
to take on bigger things?

**But I don't think there was any opposite story
in that Good Book, Mr. Bush,
now was there?**

That is, a story saying that *if*
you *don't* prove yourself faithful
in little (much less big) things,
then you're entitled to a *promotion*?

No, Mr. Bush, I'm sure no one anywhere reading this would be thinking *that* right now, so please don't even try to go *there* again either --

And as a fellow Christian I say to you, Mr. Bush:

You know James, don't you?

You know where James says if any of you do err from the truth and one convert him,

let him know,

that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death?

That's why I'm writing you now, Mr. Bush, to let you know, to help convert your heart from the error of your way that wreaked such **blackhearted** results,

to help please God!
save your soul from death.

May God have mercy on us all.

And Mr. Bush:

May God have mercy on your soul.
Amen.

END

* * * *

You came at last, but too late, and with too little strength.

- J.R.R. Tolkien
THE TWO TOWERS (1955)

The State exists simply to promote and protect the ordinary happiness of human beings in this life. A husband and wife over a fire, a couple of friends having a game of darts in a pub, a man reading a book in his own room or digging in his own garden -- that is what the State is there for.

And unless they are helping to increase and prolong and protect such moments, all the laws, parliaments, courts, armies, policy, economics, [presidents,] etc., are simply a waste of time.

- C.S. Lewis
MERE CHRISTIANITY (1952)

5/26/06 Newsflash! Just in from Houston, this breaking news: the jury rejected the testimony of Enron's former chief executives Kenneth L. Lay and Jeffrey K. Skilling that they did *not* know there were such serious problems at Enron before their company's spectacular crash economically devastated thousands --

see **2 *Enron Chiefs Are Convicted In Fraud and Conspiracy Trial***, by Alexei Barrionuevo, The New York Times; ***Enron Jury Unswayed by "I Didn't Know"***, by Vidas Bajaj and Kyle Whitmire, The New York Times (the latter is quoted below in this Ariel Narrow font):

One after another, the jurors spoke and, in different voices, it all added up to the same thing. . . .

How, they repeatedly wondered, could Enron's former chief executives *not* have known what was going on? . . .

Freddy Delgado, an elementary-school principal, questioned how the two men could testify that they "had their hands firmly on the wheel" at Enron and then say they did not know about the improper accounting and the intensifying financial problems?

After all, parents hold him accountable for their children's welfare and safety. "I can't say that I don't know what my teachers were doing in the classroom," Mr. Delgado said. "I am still responsible if a child gets lost."

So is the President of the United States of America when thousands of *his* citizens are lost -- so many of whom could have been saved had so many of *Our* highest Federal officers turned in

less derelict job performances at the time of predicted catastrophe:

starting of course at the top with the Commander-in-Chief and continuing down the chain-of-command *at least* through Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chertoff *and* Department of Defense Secretary Rumsfeld. (See House February 2006 Report; Senate May 2006 Report.)

The jury included people of widely different backgrounds – a dairy farmer, payroll manager, two engineers, a ship inspector, county court clerk, personnel manager, retired sales assistant and dental hygienist – but they **drew on their own life experiences, making clear that they thought of themselves as responsible for knowing everything about their jobs. Certainly, richly paid corporate executives should, too?**

Certainly the President of the United States of America should too. Twice before US all the forty-third President of the United States, George W. Bush, has "sworn before [US] and Almighty God the same solemn oath our forebears prescribed" -- "nearly a century and three quarters ago," as *then* President Kennedy continued in *his* 1961 Inaugural Address (see page 58 below -- *now* of course that oath was prescribed by our forebears *nearly two centuries and one*

quarter ago. That is the Constitutionally-prescribed oath of office whereby the incoming President “solemnly swear[s] to faithfully execute the Office of President of the United States.” (See also next two pages below; Chapter II, pages 61-65 below.)

One juror contrasted their determination with Mr. Lay’s and Mr. Skilling’s approach to their top positions at Enron --

compare President Bush’s (biking in Crawford as New Orleans drowned), Secretary Chertoff’s (more out-of-touch *even* than “Brownie” as New Orleans drowned), and Secretary Rumsfeld’s (at Padres game in San Diego as New Orleans drowned) approaches to their top positions for US *We* the People of the United States. (See, e.g., Chapter III, page 112, 74; Chapter II, page 4 below.)

“Those of us that have full-time jobs, we did our jobs at night when we went home so tired we hardly knew who we were,” said Carolyn Kuchera, a payroll manager. “We were responsible, we were always accountable and we always found a way to circle back around to tie up the loose ends.”

To all of *Our* and the world’s collective horror that interminable post-Katrina Superdome week in New Orleans, *We* all *now* know that none of the three messieurs named above share *even* the ordinary people of *Our* Enron jury’s honorable work ethic. For *these jurors* every day for months at great personal sacrifice to themselves and their families did *two* jobs when asked *also* to take on *besides* their “normal” day jobs the *additional* public service for *US* of sitting for months to determine the outcome of a significant trial in *Our* American commercial life.

Important, yes:

an immediate critical life-or-death matter for thousands of desperate citizens, no.

So of course the most damning difference for the three messieurs named above whose lethally derelict job performances for US are *still* so much at issue is that it was *not* the Enron jury members’ “normal” day job to perform the public service of sitting on *that* jury. But they did *that* “extra” “civic-duty” job well *anyway*: *besides* their “normal” jobs (true patriots, *they*).

But it was the President’s, Secretary Chertoff’s, and Secretary Rumsfeld’s “normal” day jobs to take care of US *all* immediately post-Katrina landfall.

To do so was in fact their *sworn* duty.

**So when *they* did not, *they* did *not* fail at doing some “extra” thing for US:
they failed miserably at doing the main thing for which *We* pay *them*.**

ESSAY-BRIDGING AMERICAN HISTORY EPIGRAPHS 2

**We observe today not a victory of party
but a celebration of freedom --**
symbolizing an end as well as a beginning --
signifying a renewal as well as change.

**For I have here *sworn*
before you and Almighty God
the same solemn oath* our forebears prescribed
nearly a century and three quarters ago.**

- President John Fitzgerald Kennedy
Inaugural Address (emphasis added)
January 20, 1961 *(see next page)

**Moreover, I am cognizant of the interrelatedness
of all communities and states.**

I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta [Crawford]
and not be concerned about
what happens in Selma [New Orleans].

**Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.
We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality,
tied in a single garment of destiny.**

- Dr. Martin Luther King
April 16, 1963 (emphasis added)
Letter from Birmingham City Jail

If we forget what we did, we won't know who we are.

- President Ronald Reagan
January 11, 1989
Farewell Address

* * * *

**Before [the President] enter on the Execution of his Office,
[the President] shall take the following Oath or Affirmation:**

***“I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute
the Office of President of the United States, and will to the best of
my Ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the
United States.”***

**- CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES
Article II, Section 1, para. 8
(1787) (emphasis added)**

**He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much;
and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.**

**- Jesus Christ
Luke 16:9
HOLY BIBLE (King James edition)**

* * * *

To no one will we [King John of England] sell, to no one will we deny or delay right or justice.

- Magna Carta (Great Charter) (1215)*
*(see next page)

I will have no part in the creation of a constitutional double-standard to benefit the President. He is not above the law.

- Senator Bill Frist (R.-Tn.)
*When Considering Impeachment
of President Bill Clinton*
(emphasis added)

*Now my heart is doubtful.
The world changes,
and all that once was strong
now proves unsure.*

- J.R.R. Tolkien
THE TWO TOWERS (1955)

*NOTE ON THE GREAT CHARTER

*(see prior page)

The Magna Carta, long regarded as England's most significant constitutional document, was extracted by force of arms from an exasperating monarch by nobles fearing that overweening growth of royal power would destroy their ancient rights and privileges as free men. **It engendered the Anglo-American tradition of political thought valuing freedom that over half a millennium later informed and inspired the American Declaration of Independence.**

The Great Charter had been neglected almost to oblivion in the heady Tudor fifteenth and sixteenth centuries of strong kings and queens. Fortunately -- for the Anglo-American legal tradition in general and us latter-day Americans in particular -- the Magna Carta was rediscovered and reinvigorated by seventeenth-century judges and lawyers like Sir Edward Coke.

Once its powerful groundbreaking [insert Greek symbols: Platonic idea] that **not only the governed but also the government must obey the law** had been put to use against the Stuarts' divine-right-of-king proponents, the rest, as they say, is history. The Stuart sovereign who chose despite vast evidence of changing times to stick willy-nilly with *that* theory (James I's son Charles I) lost his head in 1649 -- after the Commons passed an "act" establishing a High Court of Justice that tried and adjudged the King himself *guilty* of a capital offense of treason *against* the people of England.

Though this Court so did -- and the King indeed lost his head (a "cruel necessity," per reportedly Oliver Cromwell's more frank if Machiavellian assessment) -- since the King was *still* the sovereign, per contemporary English law it was an impossibility for the King to commit treason *against* himself. The High Court rendering the sentence was thus illegal.

Although brand-new "Leveller" theories of universal suffrage and equal opportunity for all were just surfacing on the English political landscape in the mid-seventeenth century, they were scarcely yet accepted by the Members who established the High Court that condemned Charles. Development and acceptance of some of *those* [Pl. ideas] of popular sovereignty would reach full flower only a century or so later in America.

For it is *Our* next-century Constitution that since *then* provides for all the world the model whereby *We* the People -- *now* the Sovereign -- *are* authorized to *impeach* (though not to kill) *Our* wayward political officers who commit Treason, Bribery, and Other High Crimes and Misdemeanors.

ESSAY-BRIDGING AMERICAN HISTORY EPIGRAPHS 3

I am sure that each of you would want to go
beyond the superficial social analyst
who looks merely at effects,
and does not **grapple with the underlying causes.**

- Dr. Martin Luther King
April 16, 1963 (emphasis added)
Letter from Birmingham City Jail

The United States is grateful that many nations and many international organizations have already responded with sympathy and with support.
Nations from Latin America to Asia to Africa to Europe to the Islamic world. . . .

Americans are asking, “What is expected of us?”

I ask you to live your lives and hug your children. I know many citizens have fears tonight and I ask you to be calm and resolute, even in the face of a continuing threat. **I ask you to uphold the values of America and remember why so many have come here.**

We’re in a fight for our principles and our first responsibility is to live by them. . . .

But this country will define our times, not be defined by them. **As long as the United States of America is determined and strong, this** will not be an age of terror. **This will be an age of liberty here and across the world.**

- President George W. Bush
September 20, 2001
Address on Terrorism
(emphasis added)

9/9/04 PRESCORE

AH, *LAST YEAR THE PRESIDENT DID KNOW HOW TO HELP HURRICANE VICTIMS -- PERSONALLY! PROMPTLY! BUT THAT WAS JUST BEFORE THE 2004 ELECTION*

*Below is excerpted from **The Chief Lends a Hand**, by Martin Merzer, Phil Long and Mary Ellen Klas, The Miami Herald.*

Text that appears within regular margins below in this Times New Roman font supplements this news story.

Text that appears indented below in this Ariel Narrow font is quoted from this news story.

Even as forecasters labored to predict Hurricane Ivan's intentions for Jamaica, Cuba, and Florida [later a Category 3 storm to hit worst near Pensacola], the big boss took a few minutes to lend his support Wednesday.

Sure, there were victims to console in Fort Pierce and some points to score in a key political state. . . .

The state medical examiner has confirmed **15 deaths** due to [Hurricane Frances], some of them traffic fatalities. . . .

As of October 31, 2005, due to Hurricane Katrina, Louisiana and Mississippi medical examiners had confirmed -- but had not yet been able to identify hundreds of -- 1,283 dead.

[President] Bush visited workers at the emergency operations center of St. Lucie County, one of the areas hit hardest by Frances last weekend. Then, **accompanied by his brother, Gov. Jeb Bush, he spent about 20 minutes handing out water, ice and food at a distribution center in Fort Pierce.**

Population: Fort Pierce: approximately 50,000 :: New Orleans: approximately 500,000.

When her turn came after waiting more than a half-hour in the long line of cars, Joyzell Friason hardly expected that the man who would give her and her husband, Vernon, a 32-pound box of bottled water would be the president of the United States. "He told us to 'keep up your courage and everything would be all right,'" Friason said. . . .

(emphasis added)

Color photo: CHARLES DHARAPAK / AP HELPING OUT: Gov. Jeb Bush and President George W. Bush pass out ice and water to storm victims.

(emphasis added)

So the President really did know how to pay personal attention helping storm victims didn't he?

Real quick too! At least when the right spirit moved him!

*And what was that right spirit? **Not the Spirit certainly!***

Or he sure woulda been moved to help the tens of thousands citizens suffering in the Superdome!

*No, We the People all now gotta be hangin' our 'Merican heads in shame
just ta finally now know how much **this** President deceived us, used us,
got us to elect him under false carin' pretenses of restorin' integrity to **Our** government
and especially of havin' a big warm compassionate heart for **all** 'Merican peoples!*

***BUT** apparently he **only** does for storm victims if they're in the State his Brother's Governor of!*

***and/or** when they're in the State whose electoral votes gave him the 2000 election!*

***and/or** when the next Presidential election is **just** two months away!*

END

* * * *

Treason has ever been our greatest foe.

- J.R.R. Tolkien

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE RING (1955)

treason \ n [ME *tresoun*, fr. OF *traison*, fr. ML *tradition-*, *traditio*, fr. L., act of handing over, fr. *traditus*, pp. **betrayed – more at TRAITOR (13c) 1 : the betrayal of a trust : TREACHERY 2 : the offense of attempting by overt acts to overthrow the government of the state [the United States of America] to which the offender [the Commander-in-Chief] owes [sworn] allegiance or to kill or personally injure the sovereign [We the People of the United States of America] or his [or her] famil[ies].**

- WEBSTER'S NINTH COLLEGIATE DICTIONARY
(emphasis added)

All authority belongs to the people.

- Thomas Jefferson

Letter to Spencer Roane

Governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

- American Declaration of Independence
July 4, 1776

9/01/05 POSTSCRIPT

AFTER “PREEMPTIVELY” DECLARING A STATE OF EMERGENCY,
THE PRESIDENT “FORGOT TO CARE FOR WHAT HE IS” AND
VACATIONED “THROUGH AN APOCALYPSE”

*Below is excerpted from **The Crescent City Blues**, by Howell Raines, The Los Angeles Times.*

Text that appears within regular margins below in this Times New Roman font supplements this opinion-editorial.

Text that appears indented below in this Ariel Narrow font is quoted from this opinion-editorial.

. . . **Certainly the sacrifices of New Orleans need a kind of national reckoning, one that would enable the people to see the president who forgot to care for what he is.** Every great disaster -- the Blitz, 9/11, the tsunami -- has a political dimension. **The dilatory performance of George Bush during the past week has been outrageous. Almost as unbelievable as Katrina itself is the fact that the leader of the free world has been outshone by the elected leaders of a region renowned for governmental ineptitude.**

Louisiana’s anguished governor, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, climbed into a helicopter at the first possible moment to survey what may become the worst weather-related disaster in American history. **Even Gov. Haley R. Barbour of Mississippi,** a tiresome blowhard as chairman of the Republican National Committee, has **shown a throat-catching public sorrow and sleepless diligence that put Bush to shame.**

This president who flew away Monday to fund-raisers in the West while the hurricane blew away entire towns in coastal Mississippi is very much his father's son. George H.W. Bush couldn't quite connect to the victims of Hurricane Andrew, nor did he mind being photographed tooling his golf cart around Kennebunkport while American troops died in the first Iraq war. **After preemptively declaring a state of emergency, the younger Bush seemed equally determined to show his successors how to vacation through an apocalypse.**

On Tuesday, he urged people to stay where they were, even if their evacuation residence might be the leaking-roof, clogged-toilet

Superdome. **On Wednesday, as he met by intercom with his emergency team and decided to return to Washington, as Pentagon and Homeland Security promised relief by the weekend [!!!]**

-- **at least *five days too late*** when most lives can only be saved in the first 48 hours after a disaster strikes --

intensive-care patients were dying at Charity Hospital in New Orleans. They had languished *for two full days*

-- thus, from early Monday morning when Katrina struck to Wednesday morning (i.e., the entire critical 48-hour window when most lives can still be saved) -- of course all that time without electricity to run either emergency medical or air-conditioning equipment: and without the latter, temperatures inside area hospitals rapidly reached as high as 110 degrees --

because the overworked Coast Guard helicopter crews available in New Orleans did *not* have time to reach them.

(emphasis added)

Those overworked Coast Guard helicopters crews did not have that time and no others were available to reach *those* dying patients and others like them all over the City because the President had not heeded his own Department of Homeland Security's predicted "incredible search and rescue needs (60,000)+'" and so had ***not*** prepositioned the 82nd Airbourne Sunday (the day before the predicted Armageddon struck Monday): i.e., the day the 82nd Airbourne Commander expected the call from the President and had his troops ready to roll out.

Moreover, although virtually no other military search and rescue choppers were in the air besides these completely overstretched Coast Guard crews, the Navy Pensacola Air Operations Commander had rebuked two of his pilots Tuesday (the day *before* Charity's intensive-care patients lay dying after having languished for two full days) for diverting after resupplying another base to answer the Coast Guard's urgent pleas for help with New Orleans search and rescue missions. Even though these two heroic Pensacola pilots saved 110 lives on that first Tuesday after Katrina struck Monday, their Commander the next day forbade them to continue the search and rescue missions still then so desperately needed in New Orleans to save stranded and dying citizens' lives.*

*See *Navy Pilots Who Rescued Victims Are Reprimanded*, by David S. Cloud, The New York Times, September 7, 2005 (hereinafter cited by title): also reporting that

privately some members of the Pensacola unit say the base's two

available transport helicopters should have been allowed to do more to help civilian victims *in the days after the storm hit*, when large numbers of military helicopters had *not* reached the affected areas.

In protest, some members of the unit have stopped wearing a search and rescue patch on their sleeves that reads, "*So Others May Live.*"

(emphasis added)

Love justice, you rulers of the world.

- Book of Wisdom 1:1
HOLY BIBLE

9/13/05 POSTSCRIPT

**THE PRESIDENT'S "PURE AND SIMPLE" "PREPOSTEROUS" INSULT TO LOUISIANA GUARD --
THAT IT WOULD HAVE MADE NO DIFFERENCE IN KATRINA RESPONSE
HAD 3,000 TROOPS HE SENT OVERSEAS *INSTEAD* BEEN HOME --**

**IS BELIED BY THE NATIONAL GUARD'S BUREAU CHIEF AND US COMPTROLLER GENERAL --
AND BY COMMON SENSE**

*Below is excerpted from **The Latest On Katrina's Aftermath**, www.CNN.com.*

Text that appears within regular margins below in this Times New Roman font supplements this news story.

Text that appears indented below in this Ariel Narrow font is quoted from this news story.

WASHINGTON (CNN) -- **President Bush on Tuesday --**

September 13, *then* two *weeks* and one day *already* past Katrina's August 29 landfall --

acknowledged "serious problems" in the government's response to emergencies. . . .

(understatement)

Bush was responding to a reporter's question about whether **Americans should be concerned that the government is *not* prepared to respond to another disaster or terrorist attack *after it took several days* for aid and troops to arrive in New Orleans** and other areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina

Yes.

He said it is **"in our national interest" to find out what went wrong. . . .**

(understatement)

A bipartisan joint congressional committee is to review the response at all levels of government to the hurricane and report its findings to Congress no later than Feb. 15.

(Posted 12:05 p.m. Updated 12:24 p.m.)

(emphasis added)

NEW ORLEANS (CNN) -- After touring parts of severely damaged New Orleans on Monday [September 12, 2005]. . . .

Asked by reporters whether **the federal government should have gotten**

to the disaster scene sooner, [President] Bush said, “I think that’s one of the interesting issues that Congress needs to take a look at”

(understatement)

“and come up with recommendations.”

(understatement)

“My attitude is that we need to learn everything we possibly can”

(understatement)

“All of us want to learn lessons”

(understatement)

[the President] said, noting that the country needs to be prepared “if there were a biological attack of some kind”

Yes.

He rejected suggestions that the war in Iraq contributed to the United States being unprepared to respond to the catastrophe at home. “It is preposterous to claim that the engagement in Iraq meant there wasn’t [sic] enough troops here -- it’s pure and simple,” [the President] said.

(Posted 12:03 p.m.) (emphasis added)

No, it is not “preposterous” to suggest that the war in Iraq contributed to the United States’ being unprepared to respond to the catastrophe at home. Rather, the contrary conclusion is just common sense -- i.e., that the National Guard’s *absence* from home because deployed in Iraq caused a major *detrimental* difference in *Our* capability to respond effectively to the horrific domestic crisis posed by Katrina’s aftermath: especially after Federal levees failed.

See, e.g., immediately below where the National Guard bureau chief’s testimony to Congress, and the US Comptroller General’s report to Congress, supported *that* common-sense -- *rather than* the President’s nonsensical -- conclusion.

*Below is quoted from **Finally Fooling None Of The People**, by Robert Scheer, The Los Angeles Times.*

“Had [they] been at home and not in Iraq, their expertise and capabilities could have been brought to bear,” said Army Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, referring [in Congressional testimony] to the critical first hours of the disaster.

(emphasis added)

*Below is quoted from **U.S. Comptroller General: National Guard’s Critical Shortages Hurt Post-Katrina Response**, by Drew Brown, Knight-Ridder New Service, October 21, 2005.*

“National Guard officials believe that the National Guard’s response to Hurricane Katrina was more complicated because significant

quantities of critical equipment, such as satellite communications equipment, radios, trucks, helicopters **were deployed to Iraq,” said U.S. Comptroller General David M. Walker** in a statement accompanying [his] report’s release. . . .

(emphasis added)

*If you have walked
all these days
with closed ears
and mind asleep,
wake up now!*

- J.R.R. Tolkien

THE RETURN OF THE KING (1955)

What hands are these? Ha: they pluck at mine eyes.

Will all great Neptune’s ocean wash this blood

Clean from my hand? No, this my hand will rather

The multitudinous seas incarnadine

Making the green one red.

- Macbeth

Shakespeare’s MACBETH
(emphasis added)

9/21/05 POSTSCRIPT

“I WAS DEVASTATED,” HE SAID. “I THOUGHT MY MOM WAS SAFE.”

*Below is from **With Information on Bodies Hard To Come By, Relatives of Victims Wait in Anguish**, by Shaila Dewan, The New York Times.*

Text that appears indented below in this Ariel Narrow font is quoted from this news story.

BATON ROUGE, La., Sept. 20 -- **The worst part is the images they cannot blot out. A sister, trapped in rising water without an ax. A brother’s body left in a bathtub by the road in hopes that it would not be overlooked. A father, blind and lame, struggling to swim in a flooding nursing home. An old woman, alone with her cats. If only they could have their loved one’s body, they say, the imagined film loops might stop. If only they could see them, say prayers over them and lay them, finally, to rest.**

But of the 736 known people killed by Hurricane Katrina in Louisiana within the past three weeks, few have been returned to their families for burial. Instead, families tell of an endless series of frantic calls to the Coast Guard, the Red Cross, state troopers and city constables, sheriffs and coroners, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and a call center in Baton Rouge staffed by well-meaning but unknowledgeable volunteers. **The uncertainty has produced anguish in a community known for attaching special importance to final goodbyes, with elaborate rites and elegant cemeteries.**

“I guess **it’s just torture, mental torture,**” said Linda Hymel Lund, whose brother, Daryl J. Hymel, 50, was found dead by a friend in a part of Orleans Parish known as Irish Bayou. National Guardsmen instructed the friend to leave the body in a bathtub for retrieval, and Ms. Lund does not know what happened after that. “Day in and day out, we don’t know where he is,” she said.

For Ms. Lund, the oldest of five siblings, the days swing between tears of

frustration and those of grief, endless rounds of calls to various agencies and a focused meditation of recollection: the v-shaped scar on the back of Daryl's knee, his thin build, the cyst recently removed from his chin, the faint mark on his upper lip. **Surely, she thinks, somewhere there is a body bag marked "Bathtub, Irish Bayou." If she could just look at his teeth, she thinks, she would know him right away.**

"They tell us, 'Don't go to St. Gabriel,' for reasons I don't know," she said, referring to a temporary morgue set up by federal officials. "I just want him, I just pray that he is there. Just do whatever you need to do to tell me. I want to know -- that whatever's in that body bag is my brother."

In Louisiana, FEMA officials, state health officials and local coroners have all declined to say how many bodies have been identified and returned to their next of kin. Out of 6,300 calls as of Monday night, more than 800 families had been connected with living relatives, but just 61 with dead ones, and that does not necessarily mean that those bodies have been released, the spokeswoman there, Heather Murphy, said. . . .

"Families are going through a lot of grief, a lot of uncertainty, and those are the two main themes," said Kathleen Rhodes-Astorga of the Rhodes Funeral Home, adding that **Rhodes calls the FEMA morgue morning and night, trying to find out when bodies will be released.** "They're uncertain as to when they can have their final goodbye, how they can have their final goodbye."

She has suggested that some families have a memorial service before they have a body, to help bring some focus to the grieving process.

But some, like Victor Duvernay, have refused. His mother, a 79-year-old diabetic, Lorraine Rouzan Duvernay, died at the Lafon Nursing Home of the Holy Order in New Orleans, but her body has not been released. Mr. Duvernay hopes to bury her in the family crypt next to her husband.

"For me right now, it's not about placing blame," he said. "I just want to put some closure to my mom's situation, that's all. When my mom is in the tomb, I'll be satisfied."

Mr. Duvernay's grief, like that of many other hurricane survivors, is compounded by uncertainty -- his home is destroyed, his city a question mark. For days after the storm, he

did not know what had become of his mother. Finally, he got a phone number to the nursing home that was receiving evacuees from Lafon. All day Friday, he called. He was told that one more bus was coming, and that his mother would be on it.

Finally, a nun from Lafon told him his mother was dead.

“I was devastated,” he said. “I cried. It was just a hurting situation. I thought my mom was safe.” . . .

Elsewhere, there are glitches in the system. All but one of the 15 hurricane-related victims at the Terrebonne Parish coroner's office have been identified, said Bruce Peters, the chief investigator there. **But he does not have contact information for several of the families, a mortuary response team has not picked up the bodies, and the call center, which is supposed to be matching families to victims, does not have the names of the Terrebonne dead.** The situation is frustrating, Mr. Peters said. . . .

Some families have received help only through personal connections. Tim Aitkens, 44, said that because a woman he went to school with was dating a firefighter in Baton Rouge he was able to learn that his aunt’s house in St. Bernard Parish was still under water and that the roof had caved in.

It was the only shred of information he had after days of phone calls about his aunt, Virginia Aitkens James, 83, who did not evacuate before the storm, choosing instead to stay with her cats.

“I’ve checked every Web site and called a hundred people, and no one can even say if elderly people are being registered somewhere,” Mr. Aitkens said. “If my aunt lived in Thailand, we’d have known by two days after Christmas if she survived the tsunami.”

Betty Mullins, 64, said she learned after many phone calls that her father, Shirley Lott, 94, was on the “death list.” The nursing home he was in, St. Rita’s, had been flooded, and

its owners have since been charged with negligent homicide because 34 people drowned there.

Ms. Mullins said she had given a DNA sample and photographs of her father and had spoken to **the attorney general**, who **is pressing charges against the nursing home owners.**

Finally, she was told that her father's body would be released "sometime this week," she said. "I'm sitting here with my hands folded, waiting for the phone to ring."

Even as the days drag on into weeks, some families are not ready to assume that a missing family member is dead. **Mr. Aitkens said he and his siblings were holding out hope for their aunt. But if she was at the morgue, he said, they did want to know.**

"We don't want her there with strangers," he said.

(emphasis added)

All that I hope to be, I owe to my angel mother.

- Abraham Lincoln

* * * *

**I want to have time to look for my children
and see how many of them I can find.**

**Maybe I shall find them among the dead.
Hear me!**

**I am tired;
my heart is sick and sad.**

- Nez Perce Chief Joseph (1877)
Surrender to the US Army

*How many times must a man look up
Before he can see the sky?
Yes, 'n' how many ears must one man have
Before he can hear people cry?
Yes 'n' how many deaths will it take till he knows
That too many people have died?
The answer, my friend, is blowin' in the wind,
The answer is blowin' in the wind.*

- Bob Dylan (1962)
Blowin' In The Wind

9/21/05 POSTSCRIPT

THIS IS *NOT* A GOOD-NEWS STORY! MR. LYONS IS *NOT* “FINE”! *FIFTEEN DAYS*

WAS UNCONSCIONABLY DEADLY FOR THE LATE MRS. LYONS TO WAIT FOR RESCUE

A. Below is excerpted from *Victory, Tragedy Emerge From A Single Address: Man Pulled From House, But So Is Wife’s Body*, by Brian Thevenot, NOLA.com.

Text that appears within regular margins below in this Times New Roman font supplements this news story.

Text that appears indented below in this Ariel Narrow font is quoted from this news story.

John Lyons was rescued from his flood-damaged Bienville Street house Tuesday, 20 days after riding out Hurricane Katrina there.

His wife, Leola, wasn’t as fortunate. A mortuary team removed her body from the home, where flies massed on a front window screen. **She had died five days ago.**

Agents from the Bureaus of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives found 72-year-old John Lyons in the home, at 2508 Bienville St., after responding to a tip, said Charlie Smith, team leader for the agency’s special response team.

The Lyonses appeared to have ridden out the storm in the house, which had a water line showing the flood reached about 3 feet inside the home in the wake of the Aug. 29 storm. The couple apparently stayed there ever since, Smith said.

Mortuary teams from Kenyon Inc., the private company contracted to retrieve bodies from the flooded and hurricane-ravaged city, pulled the body of Leola Lyons from the home.

“We found the husband alive but her dead,” Smith said. **“They had been married for 40 years.”**

The home, one side of a shotgun double, had been marked “NE”[“Not Entered”] in spray paint, apparently indicating that someone had checked the house previously but been unable to enter. The Kenyon team left a different mark -- “KEN 1” -- indicating the retrieval of one body.

The discovery of a survivor in the city so long after the storm is

exceedingly rare. *But John Lyons appeared fine*

NOT! --

Smith said. He was taken to Ochsner Foundation Hospital. . . . (emphasis added)

To take the most charitable view of Mr. Smith's comment that Mr. Lyons appeared fine, *We* assume that Mr. Smith was at a loss for words at the awful situation he found in the Lyons' home, was desperate to find something positive to say, and grasped for the fact that Mr. Lyons' physical condition did not appear overtly impaired after Mr. Lyons' inconceivable ordeal.

Mr. Lyons was nonetheless undoubtedly reeling, shell-shocked, deeply grieving -- and likely to be unable to stop reliving the horror of seeing his wife of forty years die like *that* when he could do nothing to help her. Of course he'd also been keeping watch by her decomposing body for five days then by the time he was finally rescued.

To describe such despair Words fail.

B. *Below is excerpted from **Katrina's Death Toll Climbs Past 1,000**, by Adam Nossitur, The Associated Press, **September 21**, 2005. (Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on **August 29**, 2005.)*

Bodies are still found scattered around homes and in streets. On Tuesday, a badly decomposed corpse in the Ninth Ward lay draped over a fence, its nearly skeletized head resting on the ground and one leg jutting in the air. There was no outward indication it had been marked for removal by the search crews.

(emphasis added)

Such disrespect for the remains of *Our* beloved dead is unconscionable and unaccountably baffling. *We* have never before seen such casual nonchalance about human remains in any other American crisis before: much less one occurring exclusively on American soil. And *We* pray that *We* never again do, here at home in *Our* own country, home in the United States of America.

C. *Below is quoted from **Brown Defends FEMA's Efforts: Former Agency Director Spreads Blame For Failures in Katrina Response**, by Spencer S. Hsu, The Washington Post, September 28, 2005.*

"You [former Federal Emergency Management Agency director Michael D. Brown] can try to throw as much as you can on the backs of Louisianians, but I'm a witness as to what

happened in Mississippi. You folks fell on your face,” said Rep. Gene Taylor (D-Miss.), who lost his home to the hurricane.

(emphasis added)

Congressman Taylor delivered this retort to Mr. Brown’s attempts to blame Louisiana Governor Blanco and New Orleans Mayor Nagin for the government’s failed post-Katrina disaster response during over Mr. Brown’s six hours of often angry testimony before a House investigative panel on September 27, 2005. At this hearing Mr. Brown also said

- 1) he’d fully briefed the White House *before* Katrina struck the Gulf Coast on August 29, 2005;
- 2) the military was also slow to respond to the disaster; *and*
- 3) FEMA’s own disaster response efforts had been hamstrung by a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) *policy pursuing an “emaciation of FEMA”* through the past three years’ worth of staff and funding cuts.

Initially praised by President Bush for “doing a heckuva job,” “Brownie” was removed from any responsibility for post-Katrina on-the-scene disaster recovery eleven days post-Katrina (on Friday, September 9, 2005) .

That job was then given to Vice-Admiral Thad W. Allen, U.S. Coast Guard. Mr. Brown -- who at first had merely been sent back from New Orleans to DC to continue directing nationwide FEMA disaster response missions from the Agency’s headquarters -- then in short order resigned as FEMA director (on Monday, September 12).

All her people sigh, they seek bread; they have given their pleasant things for meat to relieve the soul: see, O LORD, and consider: for I am become vile. . . .

I called for my lovers, *but* they deceived me: my priests and mine elders gave up the ghost in the city, while they sought their meat to relieve their souls.

Behold, O LORD; for I *am* in distress: my bowels are troubled; mine heart is turned within me; . . . at home *there* is as death.

- Lamentations 1: 11, 19-20
HOLY BIBLE (King James edition)

* * * *

Bureaucracy has committed murder here in the greater New Orleans area.

- Jefferson Parish President Aaron Broussard
Meet the Press Sunday morning
September 4, 2005

**For the killing of Abel
the eternal Lord had exacted a price:
Cain got no good from committing that murder
because the Almighty made him anathema.**

- BEOWULF (before 1000)
Translated by Seamus Heaney (2000)

5/25/06 Newsflash!

*Below is from **Levees Rebuilt Just In Time, But Doubts Remain**, by John Schwarz, The New York Times:*

The degree of vulnerability was underscored Monday [5/22/06], when an independent team of researchers led by engineering professors at the University of California, Berkeley, and supported by the National Science Foundation released a report that found the hurricane protection system riddled with errors in design, construction and maintenance – a pattern of inattention to safety that caused the system to crumble in a hurricane that *should have, for the most part --*

Howl, howl, howl, howl! O you are men of stones!

- Shakespeare's King Lear entering bearing
in his arms the body of his daughter
killed while trying to save *him --*

caused *little more than* wind damage *and a day or so of street flooding.*

(emphasis added)

The poem is about encountering the monstrous, defeating it, and then having to live in the exhausted aftermath.

- Dust jacket of BEOWULF
Translated by Seamus Heaney

ALL SOULS' DAY 2005 (11/02/05) REMEMBRANCE

WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHIN' IN

By Louis Armstrong

**In Commemoration of the Faithful Departed
and Dedicated This Day to President George W. Bush**

**And To All Those Louisiana and Mississippi Loved Ones Who Abruptly Departed
This Life After Hurricane Katrina's August 29, 2005 Landfall --**

**Especially To All Those Beloved Dead
of The Late Great (Now Drowned) City of New Orleans --**

**But One Example of Whom Is Mrs. Helen J. White:
Beloved Mother, Grandmother, Friend, Christian,
Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Specialist --**

Ms. White's former husband, Arnold, said that the floodwaters rose swiftly in the Lower Ninth Ward from about 2 a.m. to 4 a.m. on Monday. He imagines that Ms. White and her older sister . . . clambered up the ladder to the attic and "being womens alone they couldn't cut a hole in the roof."

By a week and then two weeks after the storm, Ms. White's friends and relatives knew that she would have called them if she had survived. The business administration asked the Coast Guard to check her house and they discovered a body on the first floor, which turned out to be a friend's.

It was not until six weeks after Hurricane Katrina that Claude Johnson, a neighbor who worked for the power company, found Ms. White and her sister in the attic.

*Quoted from **At Storm Victim's Funeral, a Celebration of a Life and a City**, by Deborah Sontag, The New York Times, November 13, 2005 -- and now back to you, Louey:*

We are travelin' in the footsteps

*Of those who've gone before
But we'll all be reunited
On a new and sunlit shore.*

*Oh when the saints go marchin' in
When the saints go marchin' in
Oh Lord I want to be in that number
When the saints go marchin' in.*

*And when the sun refuse to shine
And when the sun refuse to shine
Oh Lord I want to be in that number
When the saints go marchin' in.*

*When the moon turns red with blood
When the moon turns red with blood
Oh Lord I want to be in that number
When the saints go marchin' in.*

*On that hallelujah day
On that hallelujah day
Oh Lord I want to be in that number
When the saints go marchin' in.*

*Oh when the trumpet sounds the call
Oh when the trumpet sounds the call
Oh Lord I want to be in that number
When the saints go marchin' in.*

*Some say this world of trouble
Is the only one we need
But I'm waiting for that mornin'
When the new world is revealed.*

When the revelation comes

When the revelation comes
Oh Lord I want to be in that number
When the saints go marchin' in.

When the rich go out and work
When the rich go out and work
Oh Lord I want to be in that number
When the saints go marchin' in.

When the air is pure and clean
When the air is pure and clean
Oh Lord I want to be in that number
When the saints go marchin' in.

When we all have food to eat
When we all have food to eat
Oh Lord I want to be in that number
When the saints go marchin' in.

When our leaders learn to cry
When our leaders learn to cry
Oh Lord I want to be in that number
When the saints go marchin' in.

(emphasis added)

Thank ya, Louey! Yall better be prayin' for us
big-time now. We sho' do need it, Son.

ESSAY-BRIDGING AMERICAN HISTORY EPIGRAPHS 4

**The world is very different now.
For we hold in our mortal hands
the power to abolish all forms of human poverty
and all forms of human life.**

**And yet the same revolutionary beliefs
for what our forebears fought
are still at issue around the globe --**

**the belief that the rights of people
come *not* from the generosity of the state
but from the hand of God.**

- President John Fitzgerald Kennedy
January 20, 1961 (emphasis added)
Inaugural Address

**But I must confess that I am not afraid of the word tension.
I have earnestly worked and preached against violent tension,
but there is a type of constructive nonviolent tension
that is necessary for growth. . . .**

- Dr. Martin Luther King
April 16, 1963
Letter from Birmingham City Jail

12/04/05 POSTSCRIPT

LOUISIANA GOVERNOR BLANCO TO PRESIDENT BUSH: “*WE NEED EVERYTHING YOU’VE GOT!*” (DIDN’T GET IT)

*Below is excerpted from **Blanco Releases Katrina Records**, by Joby Warrick, Spencer S. Hsu and Anne Hull, The Washington Post.*

Text that appears within regular margins below in this Times New Roman font supplements this news story.

Text that appears indented below in this Ariel Narrow font is quoted from this news story.

Thousands of documents released by Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Babineaux Blanco Friday night shed new light on clashes between state officials, New Orleans Mayor C. Ray Nagin and the Bush administration as they struggled to respond to Hurricane Katrina.

Among the more than 100,000 pages of newly released records, which ranged from after-action reports to hand-scrawled notes written at the height of the storm, are memos showing Blanco frustrated and angered over delays in evacuations and the slow delivery of promised federal aid.

“We need everything you’ve got,” Blanco is quoted in a memo as telling President Bush on Aug. 29, the day Katrina made landfall. But despite assurances from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that 500 buses were “standing by,” Blanco’s aides were compelled to take action when the FEMA buses failed to materialize, documents show.

“We need buses,” Andy Kopplin, chief of staff to Blanco, said in an e-mail to Blanco staffers late on Aug. 30, the day after the storm hit. “Find buses that can go to NO [New Orleans] ASAP.”

Two days later, on Sept. 2, Blanco complained to the White House that FEMA had still failed to fulfill its promises of aid. While cloaked in customary political courtesies, Blanco noted that she had already requested 40,000 more troops;

Prompt deployment of 40,000 troops in flooded Orleans Parish would have forestalled looting. See *Guard's In Iraq, But It's Needed Here*, by Carl Hiassen, The Miami Herald, September 4, 2005 (hereinafter "Hiassen"):

Everybody in south Miami-Dade who went through Hurricane Andrew in 1992 well remembers that the turmoil and lawlessness subsided only after the National Guard arrived. . . . [Yet even] . . . last Thursday [Sept. 1, over three full days after Katrina struck Aug. 29 before break of day], there were only 2,800 Guardsmen on the ground in New Orleans.

Returning now, from *Blanco Releases Katrina Records*, to Gov. Blanco's prior requests to the White House for, besides 40,000 troops:

ice, water and food; buses, base camps, staging areas, amphibious vehicles, mobile morgues, rescue teams, housing, airlift and communications systems, according to a press office e-mail of the text of her letter to [President] Bush.

"Even if these initial requests had been fully honored, these assets would not be sufficient," Blanco said. She also asked for the return of the Louisiana Army National Guard's 256th Brigade Combat Team, then deployed to Iraq.

. . .

See also Hiassen: **"Yet the U.S. Central Command said there were no plans to shift U.S. troops from Iraq to Louisiana and Mississippi."**

On August 29, the day Katrina struck the Gulf Coast at approximately 6:10 a.m. CDT, and then (again returning now to *Blanco Releases Katrina Records*):

National Guard helicopters rescued 2,296 people from rooftops and "newly created islands," according to a Louisiana National Guard report. Blackhawks designed to carry 11 passengers ignored standard operating procedures; one crew loaded 31 evacuees into one of the helicopters.

Overnight, the crisis deepened. Although FEMA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers personnel in New Orleans reported witnessing a massive break hundreds of feet long in the 17th Street Canal levee that afternoon -- effectively dooming the city -- **the first report of the collapse in the state police log came at 3 a.m. the next day, Aug. 30. The night of Aug. 30, police recorded a cry for help every**

25 seconds, or 900 calls between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. By 11 a.m. Aug 31, the police log shows, National Guard units *abandoned* air rescues, changing over to dropping food and water.

(emphasis added)

How many of those every 25-second Louisiana citizens' desperate pleas and cries for *life itself* went unanswered? How many of those that went unanswered *would* have been answered had the Louisiana Army National Guard's 256th Brigade Combat Team been *re-deployed from* Iraq *to* Louisiana *before* killer hurricane season began?

That Brigade absolutely *should* have been so re-deployed (or equivalent numbers of replacement troops sent in advance) *if* Louisiana citizens' right to be secure in their lives and property *in their own* Louisiana homeland had in fact been President Bush's *paramount* priority *then* on the ground before Armageddon struck.

At a bare minimum, *had* the 3,000 Louisiana National Guard deployed overseas in foreign postings *instead also then* been at home with *all* their equipment,* they could have completed *many more* search and rescue missions than the *fewer* completely overmastered National Guard on the scene were able to before *abandoning* air rescues of Louisiana citizens barely 36-48 hours post-levee breaches.

*See, e.g., page 70 above, reporting the US Comptroller General's statement to Congress that the National Guard's critical shortages hurt the Guard's post-Katrina response.

The lives of many more citizens in their own American homelands might *then* have been saved: i.e., the lives of neighbors like

1) the late 58-year-old disaster loan specialist Ms. Helen J. White who drowned in her attic with her older sister and whose body (despite an earlier search) was not recovered by a neighbor until six weeks after Katrina passed (see page 82 below); or

2) the late Mrs. Leola Lyons who died in her home in her husband John's presence on their 15th day awaiting the rescue that came unconscionably late to her 72-year-old husband: *not even* until 5 *more* days had passed -- i.e., on the 20th day after Hurricane Katrina passed, and the 5th day after his wife did. The Lyonses had been married for 40 years (see pages 77-78 above).

President Bush's September 13, 2005 statement after touring parts of devastated New Orleans -- that it was "pure and simple" "preposterous" *that* the war in Iraq had contributed to America's *being less able* to respond to the havoc wrought in Katrina's aftermath at home -- undoubtedly rings false both to new widower Mr. Lyons and to Ms. White's 29-year-old widowed daughter Kisa as she tried to explain to her three young children

that their grandmother loved them but “didn’t make it from the hurricane.” *Storm Victim’s Funeral, a Celebration of a Life and a City*, by Deborah Sontag, The New York Times, November 13, 2005.

Nor does it support the troops. It rather insults them. Consider for example the plight of the 35-40% of the Louisiana and Mississippi Guard deployed overseas, watching helplessly from afar, able to do nothing as the families and homelands it is their day jobs in time of crisis to help save and relieve were destroyed.

Meanwhile the President who sent them away to such plight had the chutzpah to call it “preposterous” to think that had *they* instead been at home rescuing neighbors from drowning in attics or dying on rooftops there would have been *any* better search and rescue disaster response *than* the abysmal one inevitably ensuing because the President provided **no** prepositioned troops to replace *them* until it was generally too late to rescue the living –

thus only in time to recover what remains could be recovered of the newly dead.

As a point of comparison, **just the two Pensacola Navy pilots flying search and rescue missions only for the one afternoon and evening after Katrina struck rescued 110 desperately stranded citizens.** Yet even so these two pilots had to pass over many as they rescued others:

Lieutenant Udkow said that he saw few other rescue helicopters in New Orleans that day. The toughest part, he said, was seeing so many people imploring him to pick them up and having to leave some.

“I would be looking at a family of two on one roof and maybe a family of six on another roof, and I would have to make a decision who to rescue,” he said. “It wasn’t easy.”

Navy Pilots Who Rescued Victims Are Reprimanded: see also page 67-68 above.

This is a Sophie’s choice that no American rescuer in any of Our fifty State homelands should ever be constrained to have to make from lack of resources that could easily have been in place had *Our* Commander-in-Chief *not* been so derelict in discharging his duty to defend *US* at home.

Thus the lives of many -- especially the elders -- who died awaiting rescue on rooftops for days in the hot August New Orleans sun might well have been preserved* had the President only heeded his own Department of Homeland Security’s pre-Katrina call for “incredible search and rescue needs (60,000+*).” See, e.g., *White House Got Early Warning On Katrina*, by Joby Warwick, The Washington Post, January 24, 2006, *(see next page).

To what must *now* be *all* Americans' irremediable shame, Mr. Bush did not.

**See, e.g., page 111 below recounting how a grieving lower Ninth Ward son who watched his mother die on their rooftop as they awaited rescue *also* four months later when he was finally able to return home *himself* discovered her skeletal remains in the rubble of their home -- which he *then* recognized only by the clothes he knew she was wearing when she died.

*This number would *still* have been 57,000+ troops *less* than the "incredible search and rescue needs (60,000+)" that the President's own Department of Homeland Security had *in advance* informed him through the White House Situation Room *would* be needed to meet the *unprecedented* predicted crisis.

Mr. Bush *also* could *only* with *any* attempt at credulity have made such his "it's-preposterous-to-think-the-war-in-Iraq-meant-there-weren't-enough-troops-in-Louisiana-adequately-to-respond-to-the-aftermath-of-Katrina" claim *if he had before Katrina struck, called up at least an equal number of National Guard from other states and deployed them to Louisiana* to *replace* the 3,000 Louisiana Guard he had already deployed *to* Iraq and other overseas postings --

who otherwise *would* have been at the beck and call of Louisiana Governor Blanco to preposition to rescue imperiled citizens such as the grieving son's mother**, **(see prior page).

But the President did not.

That he did not is all the more puzzling because for the first time pre-killer hurricane strike in Louisiana and Mississippi the President *had in advance* of a predicted devastating storm's landfall *made* the disaster area declaration that authorized Federal aid (including military assistance) to begin flowing at once to annihilated areas.

However, as events tragically proved, **that sole proactive Presidential action was in vain because Mr. Bush did not follow through** to get United States troops out in force until

many days too late.

Thus, it *first* appeared that the President *was* prepared to get Federal aid flowing to affected areas *even before* Katrina struck. Why the President dropped the ball *so badly* after *first* seeming to have picked it up smartly *and* been preparing to run with it remains a mystery.

Apparently, the Presidential *authority* was in place, but the Presidential *will* was not. Why *not* is a crucial point Congressional investigators should seek to illuminate. **It is a red herring to search for more *or* better authority when authority was *not* the problem.**

For never before in the history of Louisiana or Mississippi had *any* American President stripped the States *of* such strength *from* their National Guards *and* left *their* American citizens *so* nakedly defenseless, so shorn of adequate depth in their trained first-responder expertise at the time of gravest predicted peril from a catastrophic hurricane.

Ultimately, the President's choosing *not* to reposition *at least* equivalent troop strength, equipment and supplies to replace what he had previously stripped away to send overseas was *the* grievous blow to State and local emergency community response capability **that set the stage for unprecedented post-Katrina catastrophe.**

That is, it set up a completely novel, untried situation for both Louisiana's and Mississippi's State and local governments -- i.e., to have to face a catastrophic hurricane -- *even assuming no levee breaks* -- with only 60-65% of their full complement of trained National Guard at the ready.

This previously untried substantially understaffed situation was *especially* crippling because *with* the absent troops overseas were about 50% of the Louisiana Guard's high-water rescue equipment (then being used in Iraqi swamps) and all but one of the Mississippi Guard's satellite telephones. The latter are often the only reliable medium for emergency communication immediately post-storm when land-line service is impaired and cell service circuits overloaded.

Moreover, because so many Guard members are in their day jobs *also* other emergency first-responders -- for example police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians -- **their deployments overseas represented a one-two sucker punch to State and local disaster response capability. Such units to which absent Guard members belonged in their day jobs also desperately needed but then lacked their absent members' critical expertise in their own harrowing post-Katrina struggles under chaotic conditions to save their neighbors' lives.**

The President should be fully cognizant of the implications of *all* of these facts:

FIRST, because he *is* Commander-in-Chief;

SECOND, because he did his own Vietnam-era military service in the *Texas* National Guard -- a neighboring State that *also* gets slammed periodically by catastrophic storms; *and*

THIRD, because *any* catastrophic hurricane -- and *particularly* Katrina, which kindly gave at least three days' warning of the grievous danger she posed to the entire Gulf Coast region -- is but a known threat of a type that has wreaked havoc on American coastal cities for as long as Americans have lived in them.

THE FIRST LESSON THAT Congress should now draw from this Commander-in-Chief travesty of *non-action* is to stop allowing the President to strip American constituents bare

to face killer hurricanes *without* their full complement of locally-trained Guards.

The National Guard belongs at home defending the Homeland Security of American citizens in each and every one of *Our* fifty American States. They are *not* active-duty military. It does *all* Americans a grave disservice *so* to use them for overseas deployments *away* from *Our* American homelands that it *is* their military day jobs in time of domestic crises to protect and defend.

It was for example predictable, *even* well-known, that allowing looting to go unchecked would cause societal chaos that would *not* stop spiraling downward into anarchy *until* adequate numbers of National Guard troops *or* other law enforcement officers were *on* the scene. See ***Guard's In Iraq, But It's Needed Here***, by Carl Hiassen, The Miami Herald, September 4, 2005; see also pages 86-87 above.

But the President *neither* returned the Louisiana 256th Guard Brigade from Iraq --

***nor* deployed 3,000 replacement Guard troops on the imminently threatened Louisiana ground pre-Katrina landfall --**

***nor* on the day itself of Armageddon landfall heeded his own Department of Homeland Security's prediction for incredible search and rescue needs of 60,000+ (see page 89 above) --**

***nor* sent *any* replacement Guard *or* other troops *at all* until way *too late* to save thousands of citizens desperately stranded immediately post-storm when numerous Federal levees broke --**

and so New Orleans lost thousands of lives
and hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses
in 180 square miles of City
yes *even* on some of Its "high ground"
that **never** should have been lost --

and Her economy suffered grievously in ways
from which She *yet* knows not *how* or *when*
much less is it *even* possible
to "recover" **from**.

See, e.g., ***Patchy Recovery In New Orleans; Some People Return, But Only One In Ten Businesses Has Reopened***, by Gary Rivlin, The New York Times, April 5, 2006.

See also ***Big Companies Face Big Hurdles Moving Back To New Orleans***, by Gary Rivlin, The New York Times, March 8, 2006.

See also *For Chevron, North Shore Beats Texas*, by Ron Thibodeaux, The Times-Picayune, May 13, 2006:

Since word broke on May 4 that the second-largest oil company based in New Orleans will relocate its headquarters to an upscale business park near Covington --

Covington: the community across Lake Ponchartrain of some (until now) 9,000 souls in which Walker Percy had chosen to live and write until he died in 1990 (see Chapter , page) --

Shell: the largest-oil company based in New Orleans, *had* chosen to “come home” before Christmas, spending some \$100 million for workers’ housing in order to do so --

public officials, business leaders and others [in Covington] have been giddy – discreetly, mind you, but giddy nonetheless – over what its impact will be. . . .

Chevron returned to its office at 935 Gravier St. In New Orleans’ Central Business District in March, but company officials voiced concerns about the city’s utilities,* levees and infrastructure. . . .

*See, e.g., *Bailout For Entergy A Shot In The Dark*, by Jeffrey Meitrodt, The Times-Picayune, May 14, 2006.

The announcement disappointed New Orleans officials, who spoke in terms of Chevron abandoning the city.

“I was hopeful that some of the big companies would make decisions to help stabilize this community, but obviously they have other thoughts,” Mayor Ray Nagin said. “It would be great for them to at least stick around and give the community some comfort and not have another negative out there while folks are trying to figure out what to do.”

(emphasis added)

Ah, but Mr. Mayor, doncha know that

Corporations cannot commit treason, nor be outlawed, nor excommunicated, [nor required to help stabilize or comfort annihilated American cities?], for they have no souls.

- Sir Edward Coke (1612)
Case of Sutton’s Hospital

Now there's a real lesson immediately above for Secretary Snow isn't there
Our Congress?? –

and for any of *Our* Members foolish enough to have believed *his* recent testimony that
local communities whose tax bases have been annihilated
could come back just fine on their own
without “bailouts”

like You before gave New York City a time or two
even when *Our* Federal Government *then*

was *not* Itself responsible
for causing *so much*
of the dreadful devastation:

So please **now** reconsider here
the demands of **Justice**:
and do *that* for Luziana
now.

Because even with all *that*
ever before the face of
the Spirit of the City of New Orleans
is the more bitter knowledge

and *well* She knows
the **baneful evil** of its influence

again each and every day
as She mightily struggles
to achieve *any* kind
of “recovery” --

and *that*
more bitter knowledge

is that:

with *just* a lil *proactive* Presidential care
so much *less* such “recovery”
would *ever* have *even* been *needed*

because
so much of **now**’s ubiquitous
ever-present

loss and destruction

ever now before Her eyes

coulda shoulda been prevented --
and likely *woulda* been prevented --

if *any other* American President

that is

any one of ‘em *but* 43 --
had been in office on August 29, 2005
(see, e.g., pages 3, 29 above).

And it is particularly *from* such gratuitous post-catastrophe body-blows --
such avulsive rendings *of even* the social fabric itself

that is

of even the [Pl. idea] that a human **life** is worth *something* in a civilized society --

as for example shown by

all the looting with all *its* crueller concomitant piling-on damaging business losses
especially including *its* inculcating economic fears and shaking confidence in the City
far more than ever could have been done by *mere flooding*:

Chevron for example could have easily factored *chance of flooding* alone
into a stay-in-the-City business equation --

but *when It* maybe ain't got no power **nor** knows
*when power may be ever comin' Its way again real reliably now**
or when next time it's gone whose keepin' order on the streets for the duration --

*see, e.g., *The Power Is Often Off, But The Rates May Go Up*, by Adam Nossitur, The New York Times, July 22, 2005 --

well, ain't **that** now 'xactly the kinda thing **all** taxpayin' 'Merican citizens '*pecially* pay *their* State militias to stand ready to prevent after *any* kind of societal crisis *or* disaster??

But *this* time in New Orleans
We did not get what We had already paid for in advance:

In fact apparently since 2001 *We've paid more*
lots more ever more --

can't ever now seem ta shovel 'nuff new resources
Its all-consumin' way now can *We --*

that goddamn "Homeland Security"
sure has got some kinda veritable insatiable maw
now don't it --

goblin' hundreds a billions a dollars
at a fell swoop
n still wantin'

lots more ever more
n still nothin's never 'nuff for *It*.

And yet even with Our payin' ***all*** this ***to It***
for four years
We paid It in advance
jest to be safe

but it were all some kinda nightmare joke
on *US* now weren't it?

real funny ha-ha what a laugh
payin' all them big-billions-a-bucks *in advance*
'parently jest to get killed worse on the ground
this *very next* time around –

when *We* first *most again* needed
Our homeland security --

no sanctity of contract
in *Its* ravenous corporate bureaucratic mind
now wuz there?

nope not at all not at all
no more n what delivered
all them FEMA-promised buses
right there ta the Nawlins Superdome

jest when they said they would
isn't that right Secretary Chertoff:

lil more n a day late and a dollar short
on the City's side
countin' up the damages owed
on that there breach a contract
now aren't they?

So No
You *Our* Congress

You do not **now**
need *US* to remind You

that *this* was *not* why for *US*
You created *that* new Leviathan.

For starters, *We* want *Our* money back:

all of it

now

(yeah you right
fat chance
ha).

But in this case *Our* Congress
even if You could do all *that*
all *that* wouldn't *even begin* to do the trick --

as how ever could it?? --

not near, not near, nowhere not near, not near enough, not even in any kind of same ball park

to compensate *US* now
for the loss of thousands of *US*
and *Our* beloved City.

**Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any
sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me. . . .**

**For these *things* I weep: mine eye, mine eye runneth down with water,
because the comforter that should relieve my soul is far from me: my
children are desolate. . . .**

[New Orleans] spreadeth forth her hands, *and there is none to comfort her.* .

..

- Lamentations 1: 12-16
HOLY BIBLE (King James edition)

Memo to *Our* Congress:

**Have the Guard fully deployed at home before this next hurricane season begins June 1.
Reinstate the draft if *Our* Nation needs more active-duty military than now volunteer.**

THE SECOND LESSON THAT the Senate should now draw from this Executive Branch Agency travesty of *non-action* is *that it is the Senate's job --*

and it is each individual Senator's sworn duty --

to exercise the Senate's Constitutional "advise and consent" power *much* more solemnly, seriously, in a non-partisan manner *for* the public good and *as* a public trust *than* Senators have *lately* been wont to do.

For if the Senate initially passes too casually on a Federal officer's appointment *without* requiring that person to possess relevant job qualifications, credentials, or skills to be the particular kind of high-level public servant that the President has nominated her or him to be, it is likely going to be much tougher for *Our* Congress later to muster the gumption to hold such a Federal officer sufficiently accountable --

even for life-destroying dereliction of duties --

under *We* the People's only Constitutional means of redress at such a point: removal from office pursuant to Article II, section 4.

Nonetheless, six months later now, some 1,300 Americans have died at home, and some 2,000 are still missing* in Katrina's horrific aftermath of the massive concurrent failure of so many Federal levees.

*See *Where They Died*, by Coleman Warner and Robert Travis, NOLA.com, October 23, 2005, especially where Captain Tim Bayard -- a New Orleans Police Department unit commander who spent weeks overseeing body-recovery efforts in the Lower Ninth Ward -- explained that

***the fate of some victims may never be known because they floated away with the tide.**

****"There's a lot of bodies that went out with the current that we'll never find," he said. (emphasis added)**

Moreover, *all too many of these* thousands of beloved citizens *apparently* needlessly died *because of*

the woefully belated, inadequate, catastrophically mismanaged Federal emergency response.

In light of such facts, it of course *still now* falls to *Our* Congress to screw its courage to the sticking point, investigate fully, and punish appropriately all *Our* high-level Federal officers who contributed to such life-destroying fiascos.

So yes, even *if* the President and his men should in such grave matters reprehensibly try to hide themselves, their actions, *or* the consequences that have ineluctably flowed therefrom behind the guise of “executive privilege” --

Our Congress will *now* be called to test this likely overreaching Constitutional claim:

i.e., to subpoena documents, take depositions if necessary from White House officials, and *particularly* be prepared to seek judicial review

if the President continues to deny legitimate Congressional oversight requests regarding any documents bearing upon the consequentially lethal performance of official duties by many Agency officials in several Agencies that the Congress of the United States of America created and funds.

When so many *thousands* of American citizens in their own personal homelands and *hundreds of thousands* of homes and businesses have been destroyed and despoiled,

it is *no* time for *Our* Congress passively to roll over *and* allow the President to continue despoiling

***even* the Congress of the United States of America**

of *Its* Constitutional power to check and balance an unbridled Executive going -- or gone -- wrong --

a power that *We* moreover created *and* entrusted to *Our* Congress to exercise *for* US:

when *We* deemed *Our* Congress needed to exercise it.

See CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, Article II, section 4.

And *We* now say unto *Our* Congress:

***We* now so deem.**

So please exercise it for *US now*, *Our* Congress,

As *Our* Founding Patriots **now** would have led *US*.
(See e.g., pages 2-8 above.)

**For *We* are now
at *that* historic a moment
in *Our* American Constitutional politics.**

After the Federal debacles that destroyed New Orleans
and caused so many hundreds of thousands of her peoples *still* to be so sufferin' --

**and *with* You *Our* Congress sharin' *much* of the blame
with the President and *Our* Federal Agencies**

for precisely *how* things went down on *that* annihilated ground --

(see, e.g., pages 91-92, 97-98 above, 107-108 below) --

***if* You *Our* Congress were **now** to prove to be **partisans**
rather than patriots who now save *US*
in the name of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness --**

We would weep for *Our* Posterity
for *We* would *then* be well-nigh toward achieving
that nadir
in *Our* American Constitutional life

that both **1)** President Ronald Reagan *and*
2) Senator Margaret Chase Smith
(R-Me., 1897-1995)
urgently warned *US* to prevent:

that is

1) “an eradication of the American memory” resulting in
“an erosion of the American spirit,”
(in his *Farewell Address*, predicting the danger to the American polity

if We neglected properly to teach Our children American history), *and*

- 2) “suicide for the Republican Party and the two-party system
that has protected *Our* American liberties
from the dictatorship of a one-party system”

(in her June 1, 1950 *Statement of A Declaration of Conscience*, speaking on the Senate floor
against Senator McCarthy’s unjust proceedings that the Senate was then countenancing).

Our Congress of the United States of America!

You owe Our beloved dead
Our Posterity
and *US*

unspeakably more than *that*.

We still have faith that You may still yet
be roused past partisanship
to
true patriotism

to deliver *this** now for US:
but just barely.
*(see pages 105-108 below)

So succeed for *US*
in this*
now
please:

It may well be Your most important single act
in Your whole Congressional tenure --
for all *Our* lives

and in particular *in* your own life
even for the lives of your *own* Posterity:

for post-Katrina New Orleans proved that --
until *We* have *full* accountability for *all* deadly Federal actions

that is

from all Federal actors *whose* derelict actions *or* non-actions --

that is

sins of commission *or* sins of omission --

**helped in *any* way to desecrate that once-sacred ground
of Our once-proud City We were once proud to call Home --**

by destroying and despoiling the lives and property
of hundreds of thousands of citizens
as effectively

as historically
only “foreign” invaders
did ***to*** conquered cities (***not*** their own)
that had resisted *them*:

that is

laid them waste --

(see, e.g., Lamentations 1: 1-2, 11, 12-16, 19-20; pages 2, 79, 98 above)

because yes

until *We* have *full* accountability for *all* deadly Federal actions

that is

from the top-down *to* the bottom-up --
and *in this* You may *well* believe, *Our* Congress, *that*

***We* do know what *We* say *and* say what *We* mean
when *We* say *We* now demand from You**

**full accountability from all culpable Federal actors,
greatest to least --**

**for until You *Our* Congress give *We* the People *that* --
*post-Katrina New Orleans is rock-hard proof***

that

no children *anywhere* in America

and no Americans in *any* of their *very own* personal American homelands

are safe

***from those very same* Federal actors' *likely repeated* fiascos
post- next catastrophe**

(see, e.g., ***Governor Bush Takes The Blame For Delayed Aid Shipments***, by Mary Ellen Klas,
Noah Bierman, and Evan S. Benn, The Miami Herald, October 27, 2005:

United States and Florida apply post-Katrina lessons learned for Category 1-2 Wilma really badly)

(see also ***Actually, It Was FEMA's Job***, editorial staff, The New York Times, October 2, 2005:

United States apparently learned nothing for Katrina from presciently accurate faux-Category 3 Pam
2004 exercise predicting levees overtopped, half a million left homeless in southeast Louisiana strike)

(see also ***5/25/06 Newsflash! Cabinet Has Drill On The Big One***, by Bill Walsh, The Times-Picayune*:

Members of the president's Cabinet spent three hours Wednesday afternoon
testing their reflexes in the face of the faux-Hurricane Boudreaux, a theoretical
Category 5 storm that scored a direct hit on New Orleans with 161 winds. . . .

President Bush was traveling and did not take part (citation for latter
sentence given hereafter as *)).

**So strike whichever State of *Our* Fifty
and Whoever's of Your Constituents *It* does *then***

none of US

are safe:

that is

because

[President Bush was traveling and did not take part*]

*post-Katrina New Orleans also proved that
catastrophe could next strike
as easily for example*

*from a dam failure
as from a hurricane --*

**And then abruptly neither would any of you
Have anybody “to keep the water away.”**
[President Bush was traveling and did not take part.*]
Memphis Minnie’s *When The Levee Breaks*.

**And then suddenly many of you would also
drown.**

Memorial Day 2006 Memo to *Our* Congress:

**Please get hoppin’ to redress all this
right now.**

In mid-February, with the Senate report still to come, it was acceptable
for the House oversight committee --
which otherwise completed an excellently detailed report --

thank you, Chairman Davis!
and all your hard-workin’ dedicated Committee members and invited participants --
then not to wait to acquire disputed documents.

We also understand that the Senate Committee on Homeland Security --

thank you, Chairman Collins!
Ranking Member Lieberman
and all your hard-workin’ dedicated Committee members --

which otherwise also completed an excellently detailed report --

felt constrained by the near-now-approach of the next hurricane season June 1.

So when **the Executive** all this past spring continued **so recalcitrant** as to refuse
just 'bout all of the Committee's reasonable requests for documents
(see May 2006 Senate Report) –

claiming executive privilege --
(but see, e.g., pages 62, 65-66 above, 106-107 below) --

We understand that the Senate Committee did not wait for the President's documents
to release its report
that *We* might gain what lessons learned *We* could
from the other parts of *its* lengthy report now.

**But it would now be entirely inadequate --
as derelict in fact**

as the President's unaccountable passivity
Superdome week in the face of predicted Armageddon comin' true

jest as they's always feared it could
on the Luziana and Mississippi Gulf Coast grounds --

***and* American History would harshly judge this 109th Congress
too *then***

the same as 43
[President Bush was traveling and did not take part*] --

***if Our* Congress of the United States of America
does not now persist in uncovering**

**the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth
regarding these grave matters.**

Kindly recall that *had* the 9/11 Commission stopped
when **the President** first wanted it to stop,

much of what *We* now know about how the September 11th attacks happened
We would *not* now know --

or We would “know” wrong “facts”:
thus leaving *US* capable of drawing *only* the wrong lessons learned.

Our Congress must not permit that to happen here:
Catastrophic hurricanes are too frequent --
And the Constitutional stakes here too grave.

Our Congress now owes all of US full accountability for all deadly Federal actions, as well as full assurances that all past problems

- 1) have been uncovered,
- 2) brought to light, *and*
- 3) redressed
- 4) in a *fully* transparent process
- 4) that *fully* satisfies

Your Sovereign Too
as well as
the President's

that is

We The People Of The United States Of America.

THE THIRD LESSON THAT lesson *Our Congress* should now draw -- in a matter in which *Our Congress* alone owes *US* accountability -- is *not* to pass *any* line-items in *any* President's proposed budget emasculating Agency functions that *We* need.

For example, the \$2.5 billion line-item the Army Corps of Engineers requested in its budget each year since 2001 to repair the Seventeenth Street Canal was **cut** each year *from* the President's

budget. Despite pleas from the Louisiana delegation to restore these funds, each year Congress did *not* restore them.

See, e.g., *Intricate Flood Protection Long A Focus Of Dispute*, by Christopher Drew and Andrew Revkin, The New York Times, September 1, 2005.

This is of course the portion of levee that failed immediately post-Katrina, inundating Lakeview, destroying thousands of homes, devastating the entire neighborhood as far as the eye can see -- and drowning residents in, and despoiling thousands of residents in a flash of, those homes and all their possessions.

In so many places throughout the City, surging floodwaters cruelly rose swiftly in the night *only after* residents had gone to sleep *feeling safe* because the hurricane had already passed and largely spared the City. When *so many* Federal levees *then* abruptly failed, many of *them* woke up drowning.

Indeed in some homes close to levee collapses, the powerful waters poured in rising inside a foot a second. Close your eyes for a moment, Honorable Members, and imagine your own likely success in saving the lives of your kids or your aged mom even before your own in such terrifying plight.

Hindsight is of course 20-20. Nonetheless, *We* have long observed that the manner in which *Our* Congress conducts *We* the People's public business is all too often unseemly, unedifying, even irrational.

We observed this well *before* the recent Abramoff scandals disclosed corruption on a grander scale than many of *US* would have been cynical enough to believe of public servants supposedly elected

and sworn --

to conduct national business for the public good.

Memo to *Our* Congress:

***We* expect more integrity of Congress's dealings on *Our* behalf.**

Now.

And from now on.

**Congressional "bidness" as usual has already
proven all too deadly**

**for all too many
of *US*.**

END

* * * *

Each man must for himself alone decide what is right and what is wrong, which course is patriotic and which isn't. You cannot shirk this and be a man.

- Mark Twain

Democracy is . . . a system of constraints on power to keep politics and government secondary to the important things in life, the true sources of value found only in family and faith.

- President Ronald Reagan
Speech at Moscow State University
May 31, 1988

SIDEBAR 1: To 12/04/05 POSTSCRIPT “*WE NEED EVERYTHING YOU’VE GOT!*” (DIDN’T GET IT)

**PRESIDENT REAGAN’S FAREWELL ADVICE:
THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING OUR CHILDREN AMERICAN HISTORY**

January 11, 1989

Finally, there is a great tradition of warnings in Presidential farewells, and I’ve got one that’s been on my mind for some time. But oddly enough it starts with one of the things I’m proudest of in the past 8 years: the resurgence of national pride that I called **the new patriotism**. This national feeling is good, but it won’t count for much, and it **won’t last unless it’s grounded in** thoughtfulness and **knowledge**.

An informed patriotism is what we want. And are we doing a good enough job teaching our children what America is and what she represents in the long history of the world? Those of us who are over 35 or so years of age grew up in a different America. We were taught, very directly, what it means to be an American. And we absorbed, almost in the air, a love of country and an appreciation of its institutions. If you didn’t get these things from your family you got them from the neighborhood, from the father down the street who fought in Korea or the family who lost someone at Anzio. Or you could get a sense of patriotism from school. And if all else failed you could get a sense of patriotism from the popular culture. The movies celebrated democratic values and implicitly reinforced the idea that America was special. TV was like that, too, through the mid-sixties.

But now, we’re about to enter the nineties, and some things have changed. Younger parents aren’t sure that an unambivalent appreciation of America is the right thing to teach modern children. And as for those who create the popular culture, well-grounded patriotism is no longer the style. **Our spirit is back, but we haven’t reinstitutionalized it**. We’ve got to do a better job of getting across that America is freedom -- freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of enterprise. And **freedom is special and rare. It’s fragile; it needs protection**.

So, we’ve got to teach history based not on what’s in fashion but what’s important -- why the Pilgrims came here, who Jimmy Doolittle was, and what those 30 seconds over Tokyo meant. You know, 4 years ago on the 40th anniversary of D-day, I read a letter from a young woman writing to her late father, who’d fought on Omaha Beach. Her name was Lisa Zanatta Henn, and she said, “we will always remember, we will never forget what the boys of Normandy did.” Well, let’s help her keep her word. If we forget what we did, we won’t know who we are. **I’m warning of an**

eradication of the American memory that could result, ultimately, in an erosion of the American spirit. Let's start with some basics: more attention to American history and a greater emphasis on civic ritual.

. . . **All great change in America begins at the dinner table.** So, tomorrow night in the kitchen I hope the talking begins. And children, if your parents haven't been teaching you what it means to be an American, let 'em know and nail 'em on it. That would be a very American thing to do.

(emphasis added)

“If Bush and FEMA couldn't deliver meals after 5 days how could LA expect them to take over our Natl Guard and do better job????”

- John B. Breaux, former Senator (D-La.),
now DC lawyer, in e-mail message
to Louisiana official

President Bush was traveling and did not take part.*

*(see page 104 above)

12/30/05 POSTSCRIPT

THE HORROR OF IT:

HE RECOGNIZED MOTHER'S SKELETAL REMAINS IN RUBBLE OF THEIR HOME BY HER CLOTHES

*Below is excerpted from **Son Finds Body In Rubble: He Had Watched Mother Die On Roof**, by Walt Philbin, The Times-Picayune.*

Text that appears within regular margins below in this Times New Roman font supplements the news stories.

Text that appears indented below in this Ariel Narrow font is quoted from the news stories.

A Lower 9th Ward man who saw his mother die on the roof of their home as Hurricane Katrina's floodwaters rose in their neighborhood, returned Thursday and found their house collapsed and her skeletal remains in the rubble, police said.

The body was tentatively identified by police as Joyce Green, after her son found her remains in the debris outside their home about 3:30 p.m. in the 1600 block of Tennessee Street, said officer Juan Barnes, a police spokesman.

Her son, whose name wasn't released by police, told police he and another relative had taken refuge on the roof of the home with his mother after the Industrial Canal levee broke, police said.

He told police his mother died before he and the other relative were rescued and evacuated from New Orleans.

After returning to New Orleans, the son told police that he went to the home Thursday and found his mother's remains. The grieving son said he recognized her body from the clothes she was wearing at the time she died.

An autopsy will be done at the coroner's office at St. Gabriel to obtain a positive identification.

Not much of a Happy New Year in *that* homecoming.

Indeed, many still-mourning inconsolable New Orleanians -- perhaps this grieving son -- would consider themselves blessed at this point to be able to "start again" with "just" what Lee Greenwood apparently considered the *worst* that could happen to *him*:

*If tomorrow all the things were gone
I'd worked for all my life,
And I had to start again
With just my children and my wife,
I'd thank my lucky stars
To be living here today
'Cause the flag still stands for freedom
And they can't take that away.*

*I'm proud to be an American
Where at least I know I'm free,
And I won't forget the men who died
Who gave that right to me,
And I gladly stand up next to you
And defend her still today,
'Cause there ain't no doubt I love this land
God bless the USA.*

- Lee Greenwood (1984) (emphasis added)
*God Bless The USA**

*(used as rallying anthem of 1991 Operation Desert Storm)

But far worse (see above) has now happened to so many New Orleanians,

things the like of which *We* have never before seen in this country --

things from which they don't know how even to begin recovering --

things from which they don't even know if they can recover:

“Looking down a street where it's house after house, and the garbage and the innards of the houses, there's something about it that people in general can't grasp,” Dr. Dorsey said.

“It's not within the realm of any experience anyone's ever had. Your ordinary American doesn't have that in their repertoire of experience.”

Children, too, are suffering, said Dr. Douglas S. Pool, a psychiatrist who treats the young.

“You actually get kids as young as 5 talk about not wanting to live, wanting to die.”

The above quotations are from *Long After The Storm, Shortages Overwhelm New Orleans’s Few Hospitals*, by Felicity Barringer, The New York Times, January 23, 2006 (emphasis added).

See also, e.g., *Hurricane Takes a Further Toll: Suicides Up In New Orleans*, by Adam Nossiter, The New York Times, December 27, 2005 (emphasis added):

The signs of despair are pervasive here: a woman, having returned to see her flooded-out house for the first time, runs screaming down Mirabeau Avenue in the Gentilly neighborhood, where the police find her babbling uncontrollably; in a Bourbon Street nightclub, a man draws a gun and shoots himself in the head, even as dancers sway to the music; from half-ruined houses, the police retrieve homeowners, weeping and distraught; psychiatrists report that previously stable patients are now preoccupied with death and suicide.

“I would call the scope of this disaster, the scale of mental health problems, unprecedented,” said Charles G. Curie, the mental health administrator at the federal Department of Health and Human Services. . . .

See also, e.g., *Mental Health Crisis Calls Showing Storm’s Grim Effects*, by Bruce Nolan, The Times-Picayune, December 31, 2005:

“A state mental health agency said Friday that calls to its crisis hotline have mushroomed since Hurricane Katrina, which is increasingly driving vulnerable people to drugs, the bottle, domestic violence and worse.” . . . “[S]tress is skyrocketing all over the community as Katrina victims struggle with devastating material losses, family dislocation, storm-related unemployment and other stresses”

(emphasis added) --

and of course not only all the deaths but so often also *how* all those deaths of all those family members and friends occurred continues to trigger a pervasive feedback loop of replayed suffering: **from which so many can as yet find no exit.** *Est-ce que Les Jeux Sont Fait?*

In considering whether there can be but a deterministic answer to this existential question, We recall and compare the surprising strength of the first Anglo-American Constitutional right to petition the Government for redress of grievances: i.e., that wrung by those hardy barons in 1215 from a ruling monarch even in an age believing that the King represented God on earth to His subjects:

Since moreover for [the love of God], for the improvement of our kingdom, and for the better allayment of the conflict that has arisen between us and our barons, we have granted all these [liberties] aforesaid*, **wishing them to enjoy those [liberties] by full and firm establishment forever, we have made and granted them the following security: . . . so that, specifically, if we . . . or any or our ministers are in any respect delinquent toward any one** or transgress any article of the peace or the security, and if the delinquency is shown to four barons . . . those **four barons shall come to us . . . to explain to us the wrong asking that without delay we cause this wrong to be redressed. And if** within a period of forty days, counted from the time that notification is made to us . . . **we do not redress the wrong . . . the four barons aforesaid . . . together with the community of the entire country, shall distress and injure us in all ways possible** -- namely, by capturing our castles, lands, and possessions and in all ways that they can -- **until they secure redress according to their own decision**, saving our person and [the person] of our queen and [the persons] of our children. And when redress has been made, they shall be obedient to us as they were before. . . .

[(cite), *(the Magna Carta's 61st (and last) numbered paragraph is excerpted above)]

The Great Charter thus provides the origin, not only of that Great foundational principle that the Government as well as the governed must obey the law (see pages 61-62 above), but also of the Constitutional bedrock upon which rests the edifice of one of Our First American rights, i.e., that

Congress shall make no law . . . abridging . . . the right of the people . . . to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

- CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AMEND. I (1791)

So *We* wonder in the matter of *Our* post-Katrina New Orleans grievances, will the 109th Congress ultimately now honor *Our* historic right to petition *Our* Government for redress of grievances to anywhere near the extent that a despotic medieval king did at the start of *Our* Anglo-American Constitutional history almost now eight hundred years ago? That is, will Congress accord US redress "according to *Our* own decision" or declare *We* shall "distress and injure" *Our* Members *denying* such redress "in all ways possible" (saving only their persons and those of their families)?

* * * *

The President, Vice President, and all civil Officers of the United States, shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other High Crimes and Misdemeanors.

- CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES
Article II, *Section 4* (1787)
(emphasis added)

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

- CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES
Amendment IX (1791)

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

- CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES
Amendment X (1791)

***Treason doth never prosper: what's the reason?
Why, if it prosper, none dare call it treason.***

- Sir John Harington (1561-1612)
Acilia

FINAL MEMORIAL DAY 2006 REVERIES

upon the *following quoted late 1990's reveries* signaling some of the **talismanic significances** in American Constitutional politics of those ultimate “word-signs”

1) “the rule of law” and 2) “no man is above the law”:

This nation sits at a crossroads. One direction points to the higher road of the rule of law. Sometimes hard, sometimes unpleasant, this path relies on truth, justice and the rigorous application of the principle that no man is above the law.

Yes, *We* have just heard “word-signs” such as these stated in answer to Judiciary Committee questions by Supreme Court nominee Judge Alito: **but what do such phrases really mean until applied?**

As always, *We* don’t know until *We* see how, for example, a speaker of the phrase would apply the principle ostensibly espoused by that marvelous vessel “no man is above the law” to particular facts on the ground. And *We* presume that speakers of that clause today now also means “no woman either”).

Thus, the clause “no person is above the law” could ultimately *be either*

- 1) larded with significantly admirable Constitutional meaning, *or*
- 2) in a given speaker’s mind, a complete void:

clearly the devil’s in the details for *US* when Constitutional meaning is left unacted or undefined.

Now, the other road is the path of least resistance. This is where we start making exceptions to our laws based on poll numbers and spin control. This is when we pitch the law completely overboard when the mood fits us, **when we ignore the facts in order to cover up the truth.**

And so this essay is written now as a courtesy to *Our* Congressional Members, to assist *US* all in *Our* better knowledge of *the facts* concerning *all* grave post-Katrina Constitutional matters –

including the deadly irrevocable consequences of the major derelictions of duties of many

of our Federal Agencies and highest-level Federal officers --
that *Our* Congress has undertaken to investigate for *Our* better safety and security.

We have never before lost an entire American city.

We demand to know how this happened, and precisely whom We should hold accountable for what.

For We know that the storm did not destroy New Orleans.

We know that thousands of lives and hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses were lost after Federal levees abruptly failed.

And We know that the President of the United States of America

somehow did not rouse himself to become sufficiently engage even to attempt to begin dealing adequately with the catastrophic collapse of Federal disaster response until far too late:

i.e., not until after

1) thousands of citizens had already died or were missing,

2) tens of thousands of suffering citizens had been trapped for days in the damaged Superdome, and

3) hundreds of thousands of diaspora citizens had already scattered to the four winds after having been despoiled of their homes and everything they owned, taken in a flash *when Federal levees abruptly failed* --

after sustaining but a storm the size of which these United States had told these citizens that the United States's levees were designed to protect them from.

Once We better know the facts concerning these grave matters, We shall not ultimately cover up the truth unwittingly out of ignorance of the facts We shall then know --

**which could but exponentially increase
the future danger**

to *US*
and to *Our* Posterity.

Let the *facts* fall where they may.

Let the truth of those *facts* dictate the appropriate corrective actions, be *they* what *they* may.

Just investigate the *facts* fully -- just the *facts*, *Our* Congress, is all that *We* now first demand be found.

We shall consider the implications of those facts *with Our* Members once *We* all know *what* the facts are.

Thus, in *Our* Congress's present investigation of *all* relevant *facts*,

it would be reprehensible for the President or *any* of his men to try to hide *any* needed *facts* behind *any* claim of executive privilege. ***If*** he does or they do,

***We* now rely at *this* rapidly approaching moment of American Constitutional politics on *Our* Article I actor, *Our* United States Congress,**

to take the Constitutionally correct action --

i.e., to check and balance the President if necessary by immediately submitting *any* such claims of executive privilege to judicial review.

**In no event do *We* authorize *Our* Congress to stop
at *any* point short of *that***

in relentlessly seeking the *facts* needed to ensure that *Our* Nation gets the full benefit of *every possible* post-Katrina lesson learned.

This goal to learn every possible lesson --

which *We* now well recall that while touring devastated New Orleans last September 13th President Bush said was also *his* goal (see pages 69-70 above) --

is one that all Americans of good faith should be able to pursue altogether now with but one single-hearted purpose:

**to do what belated justice may *yet* still be done
for New Orleans:**

for both her living and her dead.

We remind *Our* Representatives in Congress --
as the 2006 elections are close at hand --

that *We* now count on the Congress of the United States of America to succeed
for *US in this, especially because*

**No man is above the law, and no man is below the law.
That's the principle that we all hold very dear in this
country.**

- Rep. Tom Delay (R-Tx.)
*When Considering The
Impeachment of President
Bill Clinton*

* * * *

Recounting their pleas for milk for their babies, for food, for protection, many survivors described the same sense of bewilderment and anger -- broadcast, surreally, on live television. **“This is America,”** one woman shouted into the TV cameras. **What she meant was, this is *not* supposed to happen here.**

- The Washington Post (emphasis added)
September 15, 2005*
(see also page 9 above)

Let us make a vow to our dead. Let us show them by our actions that we understand what they died for. Let our actions say to them the words for which Matthew Ridgeway listened: “I will *not* fail thee *nor* forsake thee.”

- President Ronald Reagan
June 6, 1984 (emphasis added)
Pointe du Hoc Speech
40th Anniversary of D-Day