

1 **STATE OF LOUISIANA, HURRICANES KATRINA & RITA EMERGENCY**
2 **OPERATIONS CENTER, BATON ROUGE, LA., LABOR DAY, MONDAY SEPT. 5, 2005**

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5 Photo: George Bush White House Archives.

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7 YOUTUBE VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/-GIAPjJsNuA>

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9 RAW *.MP4 VIDEO: <https://www.fbcoverup.com/docs/library/2005-09-05-Andy-Kopplin-Louisiana-Chief-of-Staff-seven-days-after-Katrina-landfall-announced-Leader-Technologies-and-Bush-FEMA-visit-Labor-Day-Monday-Sep-05-2005.mp4>

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11 FULL AUDIO: <https://www.fbcoverup.com/docs/library/2005-09-05-Andy-Kopplin-Louisiana-Chief-of-Staff-seven-days-after-Katrina-landfall-announced-Leader-Technologies-and-Bush-FEMA-visit-Labor-Day-Monday-Sep-05-2005.mp3>

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13 THIS VIDEO TRANSCRIPT: <https://www.fbcoverup.com/docs/library/2005-09-05-TRANSCRIPT-LAGOV-Emergency-Ops-Center-Presidential-Briefing-Honore-Bush-Chertoff-Blanco-using-Leader-Technologies-Sep-05-2005.pdf>

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18 ANDY KOPPLIN: Good evening. This is Andy Kopplin and welcome to the Monday
19 Labor Day conference calls. This will actually be the very last one of these conference calls.

20 Tomorrow, we will begin with a new system where we will have the reports called in and
21 up in writing submitted so you can log in to www.leader.com/lagov. So again, that will be
22 www.leader.com/lagov.

23 And, Rochelle Michaud Dugas will send that to you by email, and you'll be able to go to
24 that website and click on the report that you want to hear. And so, our report can then be called
25 in as updates are available and you all can listen at your convenience and we can deliver the
26 reports at our convenience.

27 We want to give you a little update on the Governor's activities today. She went and met
28 President Bush in Baton Rouge Airport about 9:30 and rode with him to the Bethany World
29 Prayer Center where they are running a shelter. She met with some of the families there.

30 In fact, she has just returned to Bethany Prayer Center tonight because one of the folks
31 she met had missed – had gotten separated from her son. We were able to track down her son in
32 Alexandria and bring that young man to her mother tonight, and the governor was over there
33 reuniting that family. And, we're hopefully going to be able to do that with a lot more families in
34 the coming weeks. So, that was some good news.

35 In addition, the Governor and the President met with the two generals, General Honore of
36 the federal side, General Landrenau of the state side. Secretary Chertoff and the Louisiana
37 Congressional Delegation this morning got a security briefing or a situation report on the entire
38 state of affairs.

39 There's been some discussion about the organization between the state and the federal
40 government. And, the President said that General Honore is his general, and that if General
41 Honore is satisfied with the arrangements, then the President is satisfied. And, if the Governor is
42 satisfied with the arrangements, and her general, General Landrenau, is satisfied with the
43 arrangements - and she's told the President that she is, then he considers the issue of that settled.

44 And so, I think that's a very important thing, because that's been a distraction in the last
45 couple days that wasn't helpful to the main mission of getting the relief that's so desperately
46 needed and so urgently needed to all of the folks in the affected areas.

47 We also had the first day of the Jefferson re-entry, and unless somebody else has a report
48 with specific knowledge on that, I have heard that the traffic was much less than they expected,

49 at least within Jefferson. I don't know how it was going through [garbled] and some of the other
50 parishes, but within Jefferson, it was lighter than I think a lot of people had expected.

51 I spoke with the Mayor of Gretna tonight who said that there were a number of people
52 there. He saw people come in and actually leave, which is what he was hoping for, and it seems
53 to have been successful. The first gentleman and the Commissioner of the Public Service
54 Commission [garbled] were down there and they reported the same, that the traffic wasn't as bad
55 as had been anticipated.

56 Again, let me give you the address for tomorrow's conference call, which will be
57 whenever you want to log on to www.leader.com/lagov.

58 Now I'd like to ask Colonel Jeff Smith to give an update [garbled] National Guard.

59 SMITH: Thank you, Andy. Force flow continues to build up at Belle Chasse where a
60 reception, staging and onward integration is occurring. There are 19,000 National Guard troops
61 in the State of Louisiana now and just about as fast as they flow in, they're being flowed to
62 parishes. And, these parishes are conducting search-and-rescue operations, security missions, as
63 well as distribution of commodities.

64 There is a significant National Guard presence in 11 parishes and also including the city
65 of Baton Rouge and the city of Lafayette, so the soldiers are on the street at this time in force.
66 And, we're happy to report to you that the French Quarter is secure, and, we understand that a
67 couple of bars have already opened. Thank you, Andy.

68 KOPPLIN: Let me ask Colonel Doran who's been in Plaquemines Parish to give an
69 update on Plaquemines Parish, because he had some good news from down there.

70 DORAN: We just took a helicopter in Plaquemines Parish with Senator Landrieu,
71 Congressman Melancon, Representative Wooten, and Plaquemines Parish is on the ball down
72 there. They're getting things moving. They got their FEMA rep. They have New Mexico Guard
73 who are assisting us, helping them out with their security issues, and things are moving well
74 down there. Parish President Rousselle is in charge, working well with the sheriff and the folks
75 down there to get things done. They're putting stuff on the side of the highway, and they've got
76 FEMA ready to come pick it up. They're clearing the roads and moving on. They're getting the
77 medical supplies. We brought some medical supplies down to them.

78 We also stopped in Saint Bernard today and again dropped off some medical supplies, as
79 we were there. Their FEMA rep also showed up. Also, when he showed up, he also showed up

80 with a big communications van, so we're going to have good communications in Saint Bernard
81 by tonight. Folks down there are tired, but they're doing well and we're continuing to support
82 them. We've just got to find a way to get in to them over the roads and get stuff to them, and
83 they're ready to rebuild. That's all I have, Andy.

84 KOPPLIN: Thank you, Colonel, we've just gotten the Colonel of the State Police,
85 Colonel Whitehorn, to join us and, Colonel, are you ready to go, or do you want a few minutes,
86 and we'll let somebody else go first?

87 WHITEHORN: Let somebody else go first.

88 KOPPLIN: All right, let me turn to Secretary Bradberry. Jimmy, you can move that mike
89 down to Secretary Bradberry. We've got some extraordinary news coming from the ZOCD
90 report tonight.

91 BRADBERRY: Early this afternoon at the 17th Street canal, we actually started moving
92 water from the residential areas in New Orleans from a temporary pump into Lake Pontchartrain,
93 so we made considerable progress today turning that pump on. We are about 75 feet from the end
94 of the breach with our road. So where we are right now is putting road over sandbags, which is
95 another considerable feat.

96 We've also started one of the pumps in pump station number six. As you know, pump
97 station number six is the largest pump station we have in the city, and, in fact, it's probably the
98 largest pump station of its kind in the world. Nonetheless, we've got that - one of the pumps
99 running, and the only thing we're waiting on there is - we've got a concern about pumping too
100 fast in that canal. We want to assure that we don't have scour and another breach on the west
101 side of that canal. So, we're taking it a little slow with that particular pump station, but certainly
102 by tomorrow afternoon, we should have a good portion of that station on.

103 With respect to the London Avenue breaches, we have two breaches there. We've been
104 dumping sand in the southmost breach most of the day with helicopters. As you know, it's very
105 difficult to get into the London breach - the London Avenue breaches because we've got water
106 on both sides. You really can't get equipment in there like you need to. We found a way to get in
107 there now. Some of the areas are drying out, and we've got cranes and barges on their way to
108 start fixing both of those breaches.

109 As relates to bridges, five of the seven bridges over the Industrial Canal are operable and
110 can accommodate marine traffic needed to move equipment for recovery efforts. The Seabrook

111 Bridge will be raised tomorrow to the open position. The two bridges we're really having
112 difficulty with are the Almonaster Bridge and the Florida Bridge. They remain in a down
113 position. Both of these are railroad bridges, and the issue around those bridges still being in a
114 down position has to do with sunken barges. So, we're trying to – and we have mobilized crane
115 barges to get those sunken barges out of the way so we can raise those bridges.

116 Work on the Algiers Point Ferry and Landing is going to be completed this evening and
117 operational by Tuesday morning. That ferry will move equipment, material and supplies between
118 the east and the west banks of the Mississippi River to continue to facilitate recovery efforts.

119 Today, DOTD met with Federal Highway Administration officials to discuss emergency
120 federal funding procedures. We have turned in or are turning in our first set of numbers with
121 respect to what it's going to cost us to get our infrastructure back in shape. And, in first pass, just
122 to get our highways in shape, we're talking anywhere from a billion and a half to two billion
123 dollars. But, nonetheless, we are trying to accelerate that process and get some money in the
124 bank as soon as possible so we can move forward.

125 The status of the road openings and closures has not changed in the last 24 hours with the
126 exception of Highway 61 and Highway 90 going into Jefferson Parish as Andy mentioned
127 earlier. That's it, Andy.

128 KOPPLIN: Thank you, Secretary Bradberry. Colonel Whitehorn?

129 WHITEHORN: [garbled] Thank you, Andy. Well, good evening. I just returned from
130 New Orleans, and from what I saw personally just riding around the city and visiting with the
131 many, many, many police officers and National Guard troops and army troops, and such as that,
132 that it appears to me that order has been restored into the streets of the downtown metropolitan
133 area of New Orleans.

134 In addition to that, we are now seeing people that were at one time afraid to come out of
135 their homes are now coming out when they see the police patrols. And, I saw many residents of
136 New Orleans just wandering the streets but didn't encounter any violence. There was no reports
137 of any violence. I was talking to the officers there about arresting looters, and there's really no
138 one there to arrest at this point, so no shots were fired and didn't hear any sirens going other than
139 the blue lights we were using to maneuver through the traffic. Our rescue and evacuation
140 missions are continuing throughout the metro area, and our patrols are continuing.

141 As you know, today we started the re-entry into Jefferson Parish. At one point, the traffic
142 was pretty heavy. We had some backups reported up to eight miles, particularly on U.S.
143 Highway 61. I think the re-entry went as well as could be expected, and right now some of the
144 traffic is beginning to move out. I saw a lot of pickup trucks loaded with furniture and other
145 items coming out of that area. The traffic is quite heavy right now leaving, but there are no
146 wrecks that we're working, and there is little traffic headed into New Orleans at this time.

147 There was a report today that I saw, and I think it was actually reported Friday in the
148 Times-Picayune that stated that state troopers – Louisiana State troopers – were resigning their
149 commissions in lieu of working in New Orleans, and I don't know why these reporters will
150 report some of these lies and the fact is I've got retired troopers coming back to work. I thought
151 one of my troopers that was so ill I threatened to send him home, and he told me "Colonel, you
152 couldn't make me leave", and that's the type of nonsense that's out there in the media.

153 We have a total of 843 police officers from around the country as part of the EMAC
154 agreement, 843, in addition to the 800 plus that we've sent in, and other - we have some
155 volunteer agencies that have just showed up. I couldn't tell you the number of police officers
156 down there, but they're running over one another, so we're going to have to try to get a handle
157 on that now, and start stomping the tide of all the law enforcement coming in because we're
158 going to need them for the long haul. We figure this is about a six-month process, so we're going
159 to have to try to figure out how we stagger these officers coming in, but right now, ones that I
160 have commissioned are 843. And, that's the end of my report.

161 KOPPLIN: Thank you, Colonel. I'd like to turn to Jimmy Guidry. You have an update on
162 the medical stuff, Dr. Guidry? Move that, please, move that mike closer.

163 GUIDRY: Okay, this day turning out not to be near as many people that are being
164 rescued that require medical assistance at this point in time, so we feel like we're stabilizing. We
165 have numerous medical professionals from other countries - er, other states and other places
166 volunteer to come in here and actually put a database together, so that when we do need them,
167 we will be able to call them back and say now's the time to come in here. But, right now, we feel
168 like we're able to handle any of this.

169 We do have several hospitals in the affected area that are now back up and running, and
170 their request for medical professionals to help those hospitals are being met, so we're trying to
171 make sure the resources that are available match the resources that are needed and we feel

172 optimistic that we'll be able to take care of the patients here in Louisiana without having to send
173 them outside of the state. We feel like we've really made great effort at this point and are able to
174 take care of those that are here. End of report.

175 KOPPLIN: Dr. Guidry, I'm going to give an update of something I heard in the report
176 with Secretary Chertoff and others this morning and you might want to supplement it. But, as I
177 appreciate it, there are some joint state and federal local teams doing some health assessments
178 based on the standing water in New Orleans; in particular, with regard to mosquito-borne
179 illnesses and looking at trying to identify whether there are mosquito abatement programs that
180 need to be initiated that are more substantial than the usual aggressive Louisiana mosquito
181 abatement programs which we have a lot of, and which they have in the Greater New Orleans
182 area. There was some discussion about that as well as other sampling of potential pathogens. It
183 remains a very significant concern of everybody, which is also going to be something that we
184 need to consider as the Mayor and folks are talking about similar re-entry into the area in New
185 Orleans over the coming days.

186 GUIDRY: That's correct. Essentially, these controls send a number of experts to help us
187 evaluate the need for mosquito control and also whether water – how to make sure that the water
188 is where you can drink it again, and to make sure that in some of the outbreaks of dysentery in
189 our shelters that we're making sure that we keep those under control. And, we feel like we have a
190 lot of federal experts helping to make sure that people aren't put at risk of infection as a result of
191 this situation in New Orleans and affected areas.

192 KOPPLIN: Thank you. Let me ask the Public Service Commission for a report tonight.
193 We've got a representative of the Public Service Commission to make that report on progress
194 with our utilities. Please speak loudly.

195 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION: Electric Service outages reported by the electric
196 utilities as of 1700 hours today: CLECO 72,200; DEMCO 8,264; Entergy Gulf States 420;
197 Entergy Louisiana 261,812; Entergy New Orleans 200,749; SLECA 362; Washington-St.
198 Tammany 44,799. There are 588,606 customers that remain out of service. We've had 310,687
199 customers that have been restored since August the 30th. The telephone service outages are at 89
200 – excuse me, at around 95,095 and the gas outages are at 3,000.

201 KOPPLIN: Thank you very much. From Natural Resources, a DNR report.

202 NATURAL RESOURCES: Thank you, Andy. A couple of major issues. The electrical
203 power at key energy locations in the affected area continues to improve, and the assessment of
204 pipeline infrastructure by industry continues as the manpower and the guards become available.
205 Regarding federal oil and gas production, 78.93% of the oil remains shut in in the federal waters
206 and 57.8% of the natural gas remains shut in in the federal waters. Regarding state oil and gas
207 production in Louisiana, 50% of the oil production remains shut in. 29% of the natural gas
208 production remains shut in. On pipeline issues for the loop facility, loop facility is 70% capacity
209 and expects to be at 100% capacity in seven days. We're continuing to work with the Public
210 Service Commission to provide electricity to key areas to improve the capacity.

211 Regarding a Strategic Petroleum Reserve, President Bush ordered a release of 30 million
212 barrels of oil from the SPR. As far as refineries - of the seven refineries in Southeast Louisiana,
213 five refineries remain shut down, and two refineries are restarting.

214 A couple of miscellaneous things. We were successful in obtaining National Guard
215 troops to provide security for industry personnel to ramp up their operations, and that security
216 was provided for Chevron at Belle Chasse, Shell at Norco and Convent, and Exxon Mobil at
217 Chalmette. We continue to work with EPA and DEQ for waivers on sulfur limits for gas refining.
218 And, we will issue emergency orders to relax the reporting requirements for moving oil when
219 production resumes, and we will issue any additional emergency orders as needed. Thank you.

220 KOPPLIN: Thank you. We don't have DSS here tonight, but we do have Vic Howell
221 from the Red Cross for a shelters report. Vic?

222 HOWELL: As of this afternoon, the Red Cross was still operating 131 shelters, sheltering
223 just over 51,000 people statewide. We served a little over 200,000 meals today and had about
224 3,000 Red Cross personnel on the ground. And, just as the American Red Cross has provided
225 generous support to our other countries when there was trouble, today I saw teams from the Red
226 Cross in Canada, Germany, France and Italy show up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to help our
227 cause.

228 We are beginning to go through a transition strategy now, working with the Governor's
229 Office to redefine these shelters a little bit. Typically, in a disaster of this type, on a smaller scale
230 or more normal scale, the Red Cross would look at sheltering people for 15 to 30 days. We're
231 now being told that we should expect to be sheltering people for 60 to 90 days. That transitions
232 us to a different look at our shelters to make them more community centers rather than just

233 shelters, and we're working on that strategy with representatives from the Governor's Office and
234 DSS.

235 And, finally, we had an offer today from the International Rescue Committee, an
236 organization that works worldwide to come in and help coordinate the activity of other non-
237 governmental organizations. We're receiving wonderful offers of aid from many, many other
238 non-profit organizations, and trying to coordinate that can be quite a task, and we're glad to have
239 the assistance of the International Rescue Committee to help look at that issue. Thank you, Andy.

240 KOPPLIN: Thank you. We now actually do have a representative department secretary
241 [garbled] update from DSS. Secretary Williamson?

242 WILLIAMSON: Great, thank you.

243 KOPPLIN: Why don't I do this – while the secretary is doing an update – I've got an
244 economic development update. The Governor, when she met with the President today, while
245 recognizing that we are still very much in the search-and-rescue phase, in the evacuation phase,
246 in the relocation phase, we also need to start thinking about the rebuilding phase for Louisiana.

247 And, she gave the President a letter in which she suggested that the President and the
248 Governor together appoint a council to provide some leadership in the area of restoring
249 Louisiana's infrastructure and rebuilding its economy. We want to make sure that we take care of
250 that, address coastal restoration and environmental damage, and restore the cultural fabric of the
251 impacted region and recreate one of the most notable and greatest cities in the world, as well as
252 the surrounding areas, which have great cultural assets as well.

253 Each of the parishes that was severely impacted has unique characteristics that need to be
254 restored in order for our state to reestablish itself with the kind of energy and vision that we need
255 to succeed and rebuild our way through for the future. We're going to reestablish Louisiana as a
256 global leader in energy production and shipping, in manufacturing and tourism and technology
257 industries.

258 And, she laid out some strategies for the President to consider for those areas, and so,
259 that's something that we hope to begin working on with a broad-based group of stakeholders
260 from around the state, in particular. But also, we've got an opportunity to get some of the best
261 ideas from around the country and around the world, and we're hoping to engage good thinkers
262 to help Louisianans create the kind of vision that we want for turning the devastation that we

263 face into an opportunity to honor those who have been so impacted by this storm through the loss
264 of loved ones.

265 And so, that's one of the challenges we'll have in the coming months and years, and it's
266 something that the Governor wants us to start thinking about immediately. I think Secretary
267 Williamson -

268 WILLIAMSON: Right. The out-of-state total at the start of the day in terms of our
269 displaced citizens is up to 66,213. We have approximately 51,000 displaced citizens in state
270 shelters and 1,600 in special needs shelters. In addition to that, you are likely all familiar that we
271 have now administered the emergency food stamp benefit program since Friday and have over
272 90,000 applicants certified to receive those emergency food stamp benefits, with the average
273 benefit amount being about \$370 per applicant.

274 What we have recognized is that our citizens have had to wait in extensive lines. Our
275 response time is not as quick as it should be. Therefore, we've recognized that the infrastructure
276 of our technology leads me to make the decision that beginning tomorrow, we will only accept
277 applications from 6:00 - beginning at 6:00 a.m. until midnight, and then for the six hours
278 between midnight and 6:00 a.m., the offices will still be open. What we'll be doing is processing
279 the applications and allowing the data to run through the technology system.

280 So, I do want you all to know that we will be sending a message to our citizens that, out
281 of respect to their time and our intention to become more efficient, that the public access to the
282 offices will be from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight, beginning tomorrow. We just want to increase
283 the efficiency and the responsiveness of our process and believe that this will enable us to do so
284 with technology capacity to process that.

285 KOPPLIN: Okay, thank you. Tonight we also are joined by Senator Ben Nevers. Because
286 communications have been devastated in Washington Parish, we've had little to report, but Ben
287 Nevers can give a little bit of a report as to the situation there over the last week and how it's
288 looking today. Senator?

289 NEVERS: Thank you, Andy. And, certainly, we take the opportunity to talk to my fellow
290 legislators. Communication has been non-existent in Washington Parish. Last time I really spoke
291 to the legislators was Sunday night prior to the storm and our last conference call. Washington
292 Parish is devastated. It is [garbled] on almost every home. It's been almost impassable from the

293 rural areas to get the hospitals to come to the staging areas where some of the supplies have been
294 sent in.

295 In my opinion, FEMA has failed the rural portions of Louisiana in a manner that's not
296 acceptable. Day 7, I'm speaking of the day, I have two parish presidents that have yet to meet
297 with a FEMA representative. They have not talked to a FEMA representative in seven days.
298 Totally unacceptable. And, I met with FEMA and they are flying in tomorrow to meet with these
299 gentlemen.

300 But I'll say to you that the Governor's Office – her administration has worked with me
301 hand-in-hand trying to get help to our people. If it was not for the private citizens across this
302 great country and corporate individuals that have stepped up to the plate, there would be
303 hundreds of people dead in Washington Parish, I can tell you right now.

304 LSU hospital system's done a tremendous job under very adverse situations. We had to
305 take two local pharmacists, put them in the LSU Hospital and try to open up a pharmacy, with
306 security surrounding the area. They actually filled 800 prescriptions in about eight hours, and I'm
307 talking about medications that people had to have to live. No narcotic drugs prescribed, and it
308 was advertised that they would not be. When I say "advertised", the only means of
309 communication we have is word of mouth.

310 I've traveled to Baton Rouge almost every night to bring messages here. It just seems
311 unbelievable that in a world that we live in today with so much technology that we can't
312 communicate. The only communication we have in Washington Parish is a ham radio between
313 here and Bogalusa. But, I simply say that if it was not for the Governor's Office and her
314 administration working with Washington Parish and northern Tangipahoa, I think there would be
315 hundreds of people dead today that will survive.

316 Things are getting better. There has been a small amount of electricity restored to the
317 hospital and sewage treatment plant in Bogalusa and some in Tangipahoa Parish. The people are
318 coming into our area. FEMA will be there tomorrow, they've assured me of that. The Red Cross
319 is there. There are people from all over the United States has responded to a plea that we made
320 over WWL Radio. There's a sheriff of Massachusetts which the Governor's Office sent to us. He
321 had called the Governor's Office and asked where they might could go to do to help people. He
322 brought 22 deputies with him and a command center - state-of-the-art command center, and what

323 a sight that was to be rolling into Washington Parish to help those people. The Sheriff's
324 Department was in tears.

325 The National Guard has beefed up its troops. They have about 180 troops in Washington
326 Parish now and around 200, little better than 200 in Tangipahoa. Security was a problem. I think
327 we're overcoming that situation. We did have one convenience store that was looted and burned
328 to the ground the night we were over here looking for security.

329 It's been a very, very tough situation, communication being, I guess, the worst nightmare
330 than any of us has faced. I cannot talk to my parish president even within the parish. And, just
331 unbelievable, satellite phones don't work, I mean, it's just unbelievable trying to communicate.
332 But, I say to all of you, we can be proud of our Governor and our staff, because they come
333 through for the rural areas of Louisiana, and I hope we never forget it. Thank you, Andy.

334 KOPPLIN: Thank you, Senator. And, we know you've gone through - everybody in the
335 area has gone through a tough time. We appreciate your sharing your experience with it.

336 NEVERS: One other thing, Andy, I need to bring to all of your attention. We have many
337 people in Louisiana that have food stamp cards. Right now, where you have no power or no
338 phone lines or where you have power and no phone lines, no one will take those cards. So, we
339 have people out there with no cash, no way to get food, and we have to find a way to address this
340 situation. These people in the poor communities that actually have no other means of income
341 other than taking a food stamp card, and going to the grocery store and getting food for their
342 family. That's non-existent in northern Tangipahoa and Washington and maybe parts of Saint
343 Helena and maybe some in northern Saint Tammany. While we are having power restored, the
344 phone systems will follow maybe a week or two or three behind that, so we're still going to have
345 that problem.

346 So, I'm asking Secretary Williamson that maybe she could find some way to deal with
347 this situation quickly. So, if we can get a handle on that, I think we can begin to at least restore
348 some confidence in the system and allow these people to get to some facilities that they can get
349 proper nutrition and proper health care provided to them. Thank you.

350 KOPPLIN: Thank you, Senator. Secretary Williamson, do you have any comments on
351 that?

352 WILLIAMSON: Sure, to everyone, and especially to Senator Nevers, thank you so much.
353 What my intent is is to immediately reach out to the food and nutrition services of the USDA,

354 who are clearly equipped with The Commodities Program, a national commodities program.
355 That means what we can do, short of the technology challenges, is get trucks of food and drink to
356 the citizenry and avail our offices to be a distribution point. We can go to shelters and ensure that
357 those citizens - well, the shelters, of course, are being [garbled] - you know, those that are
358 suitable. But, for all of you, if you feel that your community's citizenry is being shortchanged in
359 terms of getting their food and nutrition needs met, I welcome you to bring that to my attention
360 either via email or my cell phone 931-9394 and let me know about that. How does that sound?

361 NEVERS: Well, it certainly sounds very good other than the fact that many of these
362 people have no transportation from the small communities into one of the sites that you might
363 man. We have to find a way to get these services out into their communities. They have no
364 gasoline. There's a ten-gallon ration on gasoline in Washington Parish, and most of the time,
365 there's a line at least three-quarters to a mile long to get to the gas station. Many people never
366 make it there before the gas station runs out of fuel.

367 That is another critical need in Washington and northern Tangipahoa is gasoline. The
368 facts are ten gallons is not much fuel, when if you are lucky enough to have a generator at home
369 to try to run it, and if you think about what you'd have left after running that generator, you
370 wouldn't have enough really to get anywhere, so I would hope we could move those goods out
371 into the rural areas.

372 WILLIAMSON: Even [garbled] charges?

373 NEVERS: Whatever it takes, we have to do it. Thank you.

374 KOPPLIN: Thank you. I also wanted to point out something, Senator Nevers. For those
375 of you who are in Washington Parish and might have wanted that communications truck to
376 process was, we did get the call from the Governor's Office. I called Colonel Doran who just
377 walked in and said we got a communications truck and 18 sheriffs' deputies from Massachusetts,
378 and they're looking to help. Where are they most needed and where have you got requests? And,
379 Colonel Doran said "Well, we need communications in Plaquemins and Saint Bernards, but
380 [garbled] communications [garbled] the truck. That means Washington Parish is the place that
381 needs it. So, since - that's the way the process works. We do coordinate that, so it's not a random
382 decision up here by the Governor's Office. We try to get help to whoever needs it based on the
383 advice that we're getting from the folks in the field.

384 NEVERS: Might have said that the sheriff himself came, from Massachusetts. He
385 represents a county that has 1.4 million people in it. He actually came and is staying in
386 Washington Parish for at least a week.

387 KOPPLIN: The final report I think we got tonight. The Governor asked – the Governor of
388 Virginia, Governor Mark Warner - asked his Chief of Staff, Bill Leighty, to come help us, and
389 Bill volunteered to come down here and help the people of Louisiana and the Governor of
390 Louisiana for the next two weeks. In three days, he's only had one night's sleep since he's been
391 here, and the guy's done an incredible job. And, last night he was helping try to get replacement
392 firefighters for the fire departments in the affected areas, and I wanted to give Bill an update on
393 the progress of that effort that the Governor asked him to get involved in.

394 UNKNOWN: Thank you, Andy. Yes, and Governor Blanco was particularly concerned
395 about the firefighter replacement, the amount of hours people had been working down there, and
396 I'm very pleased to report that as of about five o'clock today, we had 87 New Orleans Fire
397 Department and rescue workers and EMS workers over at the Belmont.

398 And, Colonel, I have to give quite a tip of the hat to Lieutenant Fudge, because although
399 we were able to secure air transport to get them out, and air transport to get 40 replacement
400 workers in, Lieutenant Fudge found a vacant hotel and turned it into a habitable place in a matter
401 of hours today with food, lodging, got the air conditioning turned on, got a crew in there to clean
402 it up, and to top it all off – I don't know how he pulled this off – he had a crew from here in
403 Baton Rouge there to welcome them when they got off the buses and have a party for them and
404 celebrate. It was quite an event. I went over there myself.

405 We also facilitated last night, and literally all night long until about 3:30 this morning,
406 350 firefighters from New York – a fire department in New York - that flew in today into
407 downtown New Orleans. Lieutenant Fudge also handled a lot of the ground arrangements for
408 this. They did fly in, and we also brought out 350 firefighters from downtown. They're over at
409 LSU at the gym. You need to understand all these firefighters are getting in-depth counseling,
410 debriefings. They're getting mental health counseling, they're getting shots, they're getting
411 medical attention as well. And, all of that was arranged through your Guard, sir, and we do
412 appreciate it. And, I know, I don't want to undermine any of the work that the other
413 organizations that were touched on in pulling all of this together. The Red Cross arranged for the
414 food, the lodging and the cots and things.

415 I'm also pleased to report that about two to three hours away, we are also going to be
416 receiving 600 firefighters from Illinois that bring in their own equipment self-contained. They've
417 got their own fuel truck. They've been moving on their way down, and they're driving non-stop.
418 We also do - right now, my next task after this meeting is over, I've got 50 Saint Bernard Parish
419 firefighters I've got to get out here very, very shortly.

420 KOPPLIN: Thank you. Finally, we've got a new gentleman joining us who's given
421 Plaquemine Parish reports from time to time. We got a little bit of a Plaquemine Parish report
422 from Colonel Doran, who is down there today, but Councilman Cormier, you could give us a
423 wrap-up. Anything from Plaquemine today?

424 CORMIER: Yeah, I was able to go to Ground Zero today. I've seen aerial pictures. We
425 will be opening up Belle Chasse and Jesuit Bend in two or three days for residents to come back.
426 That's the good news. The bad news is from Diamond on down. It's total destruction. I'm not
427 talking water damage. I'm talking houses reduced to kindling. So, we will need every ounce of
428 federal and state assistance that we can possibly get. Thank you.

429 KOPPLIN: Thank you for that report. Some tough news. Well, ladies and gentlemen,
430 again, the conference call - this is the last conference call. Tomorrow, we will have folks - I will
431 be calling different folks to give a phoned-in report at their convenience, which will be
432 accessible online at www.leader.com/lagov. We're also going to have to come up with a phone
433 number that you can call in if you don't have computer access, that you can listen to those
434 reports that way, because that way you'll be able to listen to them at your convenience, and we'll
435 be able to deliver the information more timely and at more convenient times for all of us.

436 Again, I thank everybody here. We continue to make progress. Today marks another day
437 of significant progress in what's going to be a very, very long effort for Louisiana to bring our
438 family back together, to unite them, mourn those - the many who have perished and find them,
439 and give them a respectful recovery process, which is underway, particularly in the most affected
440 areas and in New Orleans. And, with that, I will sign off, and we will hopefully see you all very
441 shortly. Bye-bye.

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