

The threats of attachment or other judicial process against (i) the Development Fund for Iraq, (ii) Iraqi petroleum and petroleum products, and interests therein, and proceeds, obligations, or any financial instruments of any nature whatsoever arising from or related to the sale or marketing thereof, or (iii) any accounts, assets, investments, or any other property of any kind owned by, belonging to, or held by, on behalf of, or otherwise for the Central Bank of Iraq create obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq. Accordingly, these obstacles continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency protecting the Development Fund for Iraq, certain other property in which Iraq has an interest, and the Central Bank of Iraq, and to maintain in force the sanctions to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 18, 2006.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HON.
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, MEM-
BER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, Member of Congress:

14TH DISTRICT, OHIO,
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, May 15, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil subpoena for documents and testimony issued by the Cuyahoga County, Ohio Court of Common Pleas.

After consulting with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII of the Rules of the House.

Sincerely,

STEVEN C. LATOURETTE.

GULF COAST RENEWAL CAMPAIGN

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, in the months following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, FEMA sent notices to survivors indicating that they would receive up to 1 year of assistance. FEMA has recently announced that 55,000 families of Katrina survivors currently receiving housing emergency shelter assistance will have their housing assistance terminated or reduced significantly as of this May 31.

Survivors are supposed to apply for assistance under section 408 and, if the application is accepted, they can reasonably expect further assistance up to 18 months from the date of the hurri-

cane. Some reports indicate, however, that the rate of rejection has been as high as 80 percent or four out of five household applicants. Also, section 408 individualized rental assistance required reapplication every 3 months.

Now, how many landlords offer 3-month leases? It has been a sham and a shame, Mr. Speaker. FEMA and this country has to do better to its evacuees.

Mr. Speaker, in the months following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, FEMA sent notices to survivors indicating that they would receive up to one year of assistance. FEMA has recently announced that 55,000 families of Katrina survivors currently receiving housing "emergency shelter" assistance under Section 403 (Stafford Act) will have their housing assistance terminated or reduced significantly as of May 31, 2006.

Survivors are supposed to apply for assistance under Section 408, and if the application is accepted they can reasonably expect further assistance up to 18 months from the date of the hurricane. Some reports indicate, however, that the rate of rejection has been as high as 80% or 4 out of 5 household applicants. Households who are rejected but are still in distress must rely on the good will of local and state governments, even though they may not be actual constituents in those jurisdictions. Section 408 individualized rental assistance required re-application every 3 months. How many landlords offer 3 month leases? According to FEMA numbers, the reapplication rate is only 30 per cent. These facts raise very serious concerns regarding low income, elderly, disabled and other vulnerable persons among the displaced will find themselves with inadequate assistance, and there are reports of widespread despair, anxiety and lack of faith in the government.

Under FEMA regulations, only one head of household may apply for assistance. But this rule discriminates against low income African-American families from New Orleans, among whom multiple families living in one dwelling unit is common. Additionally, FEMA is telling many survivors whose applications have been refused that the basis for refusal is because their home has been deemed habitable, even when their homes are located in neighborhoods where no public services are available and where widespread destruction and environmental contamination remain. These inaccurate assessments of eligibility should be investigated and re-evaluated.

Section 408 Individualized assistance does not cover utilities. However, section 2501 of the Supplemental Bill now in Conference Committee grants FEMA the authority to provide funds to a state or local entity to pay for utility costs associated with the thousands of leases currently in place. It is essential that the Conference Committee leave this language in place, because without it many Katrina survivor households will be in further jeopardy of being unable to retain current housing leases.

FEMA has failed to submit its plan for permanent and transitional housing to Congress, which was due in January of 2006. Thus FEMA continues to operate without an overall plan, instituting more rolling deadlines and bureaucratic bungling which has brought additional hardship to survivors and their families.

FEMA has wasted hundreds of millions of dollars on mobile homes that have never been relocated to a place where survivors can use

them, and on trailers that cost as much as \$120,000 per unit after transport costs are paid, sometimes exceeding the cost of producing the unit. With FEMA set to receive \$9 billion or more from the Supplemental Bill now in Conference Committee, FEMA could use the housing envelope to simply purchase apartment buildings at a unit cost that would be less than trailers. This would allow for permanent, not temporary housing and would avert the jeopardy of returning residents being caught in trailers during hurricane season, which is only weeks away.

The President has the authority to institute alternative, comprehensive provisions for all Katrina survivors under the Stafford Act, and thus to ensure that no survivor is left homeless as a result of the disaster and subsequent evacuation.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE TRUTH ABOUT OIL PRICES

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, we heard some interesting debate on the floor today. There are those who allege, well, if only, if only we opened up our most sensitive coastal areas, areas that are critical, for instance, for our fisheries, that we could drill our way out of this crisis. We could drill our way out of high prices for oil and gas.

But as one gentleman from the Republican side pointed out, actually, that is far from the truth, because even if additional significant finds are made, they would be sold into a market which does not reflect the costs of the production of the oil or its origins. It is essentially a market controlled by OPEC, the cartel mostly based in the Middle East, that is violating international trade laws by colluding to restrict supply and drive up the price of crude oil. And the Bush administration, who are great fans of free trade, the World Trade Organization, and rules-based trade, refuses to file a complaint against OPEC. I guess they are scared of OPEC and their clout.

But the point is, even if these finds were made, for instance, today it costs about 28 bucks on average for a barrel of Texas crude. But guess what? It sells for \$70 a barrel.

Now, where does that other \$42 go, one wonders. Well, it goes, in good part, to speculators. It turns out that the trade in crude oil in the United States of America, only a quarter of that market is regulated and controlled by the government under the rules for commodities, Commodities