Correspondence: Frier, Jack, 1972
August 29th

TEMPORARY ADDRESS:
℅ KOWALSKI
33 Oliver St.,
Wilkes Barre, Pa. 18705

August 29, 1972

Judge Max Rosenn
Federal Building
197 South Main St.,
Wilkes Barre, Pa.

Dear Judge Rosenn;

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I mailed to Mr. Frank Carlucci. I hope you can take the time to read it. I am echoing the cry of hundreds and hundreds of people in Wyoming Valley.

I know you are doing everything you can to alleviate this suffering. You have no idea how it has affected our family. I am only afraid that Jack should not have another heart attack.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Betty Frier

MRS. JACK FRIER

Marvin Weisberger
287-2652

COPY TO JUDGE MAX ROSENN

Flood

TEMPORARY ADDRESS:
% KOWALSKI
33 OLIVER ST.,
WILKES BARRE, PA. 18705

Mr. Frank Carlucci, Representative of
President Nixon,
Flood Relief Coordinator
Kings College
Wilkes Barre, Pa. 18711

Dear Mr. Carlucci:

I looked forward with great anticipation to the broadcast last night on Channel 44, concerning the flood and "where do we go from here?" I really expected to hear some fresh information and clarification of rules, etc.

However, the refrain we have been hearing all along is still the same. "You get $5000.00 forgiveness, and an S.B.A. loan with 1% interest". When one looks closer, one realizes that those of us who you referred to as "the more affluent" will really not be getting anywhere near what we lost. I will give my own case as an example as my home is now nothing more than a shell. It is about 75% destroyed. The walls, floors, ceiling are all gone. My pre-flood address was 121 South Dawes Avenue, Kingston.

We bought this house in 1953; it was a ranch home, one floor, and a comfortable and valuable property. It was far from luxusious. When we bought it, we paid $16,500.00. Since then, we improved it several times, added on some rooms, put on aluminum siding, added air conditioning, etc. You can believe me when I tell you that when we first moved in, it was a struggle to meet the mortgage. At this point, the mortgage has until 1979 before it is paid up. I do not need to tell you that this house, whish was valued at about $31,000.00, pre-flood, is now worth far less.

I must also mention that this house did not just contain furniture and household goods, but all the loving memories one builds up in 22 years of marriage -- my son't Bible and religious library, all the prizes he won for scholarship excellence in both public and religious school, my daughter's precious belongings -- every vestige of human meaning. Just to get the house alone back to pre-flood condition, the cost would run to at least $25,000.00.

In your explanation of why homeowners should receive the same amount of forgiveness money as rentors, you said that because people who rent are "poorer" and "retired", and those of us who own homes (even $10,000 ones?) are more affluent and better able to pay for our losses. How many people on relief own homes, bought many years ago?

I would like to advise you that my husband has been working in Wilkes Barre for more than thirty years. He comes from a very poor family (as I do) and had to slave long hours and years, drive from Wilkes Barre to New York constantly, and finally he accumulated enough to own his own home, which he rightly deserves. He is now sixty years old -- he had a heart attack in April of this year; it seems that the best we can get out of the S.B.A. is to apply for a thirty-year loan. What if he becomes incapacitated soon? Should my two children be deprived of an education, and a hope for a start in life? What about our retirement years? Should we go on relief or an old age home?

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Another reason I feel that neglecting the middle class is counter-productive is that in a borough such as Kingston, where out of 6600 homes, only 20 were not hit by the flood, the entire area will become a ghost town. They will certainly not be able to collect taxes at the old rate; my daughter's school, Wyoming Valley West, is a shambles, and those who can, will send their children elsewhere. Many people may just refuse to complete payment on their mortgages, and abandon their homes. It would seem to me the only fair way to compensate people for their losses is not by a blanket sum -- but according to the extent of their losses.

Also, a family like mine is very community minded. My husband and his firm give to Wilkes College, Kings College, local churches, the United Fund, and many other charities that are too numerous to mention here. We will be unable to continue this for many years to come, if ever. This holds true for many of the "affluent" homeowners. ()If you wish to verify what I have told you in this letter, you have my permission to ask Judge Max Rosenn about my husband and his position in the business community.)

In other words, we have been converted from the stable middle class to penny pinching paupers, and displaced persons. You cannot seriously tell me that just because my husband has a good job, we will be able to buy a houseful of furniture (which cost three times as much as when I bought it originally;) meet the expense of paying a mortgage, taxes, living costs, health expenses, educating two children, etc. If anything, the middle class, even before the flood, was being squeezed financially by increasing taxes, inflation and prohibitive prices.

I intend to send copies of this letter to every national organization to which I belong; the Jewish War Veterans, B'Nai B'Rith, National Temple Sisterhoods, League of Women Voters, etc., and enclose pictures of my home right after the flood. I feel that people who only heard about it, and have not seen it, have no idea what a disaster it really was (and is.)

Mr. Carlucci, we are fighting for our very lives, our future, and most of all, our childrens' future. When I am gone, I do not want my children to be saddled with a burden their parents did not incur. I am looking forward to your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Betsey Frier

MRS. JACK FRIER

C.C. - PRESIDENT NIXON
JUDGE MAX ROSENN
SEN. SCOTT
SEN. SCHWEIKER

P.S. You have my permission to personally inspect my home, even if I am not there.

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