Correspondence: from Rosenth, Max, Judge, 1972
July - 1973 June

7/14/72 White House Conference

July 12, 1972

Honorable Frank Carlucci, Jr.
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Carlucci:

It was a pleasure to see you again today in Wilkes-Barre. We regret that the disarray in which you found us made it impossible to extend the appropriate amenities.

We are grateful to you, General Lincoln, and the rest of your party for your personal visit to Wilkes-Barre and for the genuine interest demonstrated by the President and his staff in the grave problems that confront this entire area in the enormous task of rehabilitation. We have called a meeting of our community leadership tomorrow to report on your visit and to implement some of the suggestions made by you and General Lincoln.

All of our responsible leadership is convinced that the speedy reestablishment of most of the industrial and commercial life of the area cannot be accomplished without a massive restoration of equity capital. We do not deprecate or minimize the assistance that will be forthcoming from a number of the established federal agencies such as SBA, EDA and Urban Renewal, but these agencies are not geared to restore the unprecedented erosion of equity capital caused by the devastating flood waters to the entire area, business, banks, industry and homeowner.

The problems of rehabilitation become more complex because the businessman has the additional expense of equipment, inventory and start up costs. The homeowner must also refurnish his home in addition to the repair of the damaged or the rebuilding of the destroyed structure. A further complication for the businessman and the homeowner is that the cost of replacement of buildings, equipment and home furnishings is higher today than it was last year and considerably more than it was five years ago.

We recognize that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has concerns and responsibilities also for the Pennsylvania communities which were devastated by the flood waters. The problems are so overwhelming, however, that the eyes and hopes of every family and citizen in the Wyoming Valley are necessarily cast in the direction of the White House and the Congress.

Please convey to the President our gratefulness for his concern and his prompt action to assist.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjc

Blind cc:

Senator Scott

Governor Shapp

Governor Scranton

July 24, 1972

Dear Frank,

This will acknowledge receipt of the publication on the Seattle approach to stimulating public and private business investments. I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending it on to me. I think it will be of help. In this connection, I am certain that you will be pleased to know that we have had an offer from the Biloxi, Mississippi community to send a ten man team to Wilkes-Barre to give us some guidance and help based upon their experience with "Camille."

We are moving ahead with our plan for rehabilitation. As of this past week, our committee has been expanded so as to embrace a greater cross-section of the community. We have also decided to form a permanent organization to be known as "Community Council Recovery, Inc." Application will be made to the court for authority to operate as a non-profit corporation.

We are now moving on many fronts. A committee chaired by Edward Schechter, a prominent businessman with considerable expertise in connection with our streets, roads and bridges, will go to Washington to press for the Cross-Valley Expressway.

Again, let me thank you personally for your tremendous interest and insight into our problem. We deeply appreciate everything that you are doing for us.

Warmest personal regards.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Frank C. Carlucci, Deputy Director
Executive Office of the President
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Past

July 31, 1973

Mr. Roy Morgan
WILK
North Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Roy:

Enclosed you will find a copy of letter that Harden Coon has sent to Robert Bielo, Executive Director of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission. Harden has over the past year come up with some very valuable suggestions. As you know, he has a great deal of interest in the matter and considerable expertise. I think this suggestion that he makes is one that is practical, reasonable and not too costly. As Chairman of the Flood Recovery Task Force Committee on Flood Control, I felt that you ought to know about it and I would hope that you would support it.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts
Enclosure

cc: Andrew Shaw, Jr.
A. Harden Coon

August 7, 1972

Mr. Bernard B. Blier
Bernard B. Blier & Associates
Chamber of Commerce Building
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18501

Dear Bernie:

Thank you for sending on the material to me with reference to the agreement between the Federal Regional Council and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. I was unaware of the agreement. It was signed while I was attending some meetings in New York City and Washington.

Thank you very much for your continued interest in our problems. I hope that you are having a good summer.

Warmest personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

August 8, 1972

General George A. Lincoln, Director
Office of Emergency Preparedness
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C.

Dear General Lincoln:

When you came to Wilkes-Barre shortly after Hurricane Agnes devastated this area, I briefly commented to you - at the meeting also attended by Frank Carlucci - on the splendid performance of your Regional Coordinator, Francis X. Tobin.

Since my comment to you, there have been weeks of untold privation and suffering on the part of many thousands of people in this area. There have been indescribable problems and innumerable crises, each differing in degree and nature. Throughout this difficult and critical period, "Fran" Tobin, as we have come to know him, has given a superior accounting of himself and of the Office of Emergency Preparedness.

Under Fran's leadership on the local scene, the Office of Emergency Preparedness has given magnificent service to the devastated area in Wilkes-Barre and its environs. He has worked tirelessly without regard to days or hours. He has made decisions quickly and coolly. He has demonstrated presence of mind and resourcefulness. As far as I have been able to ascertain, his relationships with local agencies and governmental municipalities have been cordial and cooperative. He has had the situation in hand at all times.

We know of his genuine concern and sympathy for the sufferings of our people. We are far from being free of the multitude of problems which confront us. We realize that the road before us is long, tortuous and uphill, beset with countless obstacles. Fran Tobin has at least pointed us in the right direction and we are grateful that you have assigned him to this community in our desperate hour of need. We also appreciate the strong support that you and the President have given him during these past critical weeks. We deeply appreciate your continuing concern and interest.

I write this letter to you in my capacity as Acting Chairman of the Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc., a non-profit community organization formed on a permanent basis to cope with problems growing out of the flood. At our meeting today, the organization endorsed the foregoing sentiments I have expressed and also adopted a resolution authorizing me to advise you that it was their considered judgment that it would be inadvisable to withdraw Mr. Tobin from this area at this critical time. They believe that it would be highly desirable for him to remain here for at least another two weeks.

Again, I thank you for your many courtesies.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

August 10, 1972

Dear Iz:

Your letter of July 6th was trapped for almost a month with mail that arrived while our Post Office was completely inundated with flood waters and mud. Apparently, this mail with many others like it was stored somewhere until distribution could be made. When it ultimately did arrive I was out of town and this is my first opportunity to respond to your letter.

It will be most difficult for me to express the appreciation of the community for your generosity and consern. Expressions like yours help make our problems a bit easier. More importantly, it lifts up our morale to know that there are people like you and your friends who are concerned.

I regret that you could not reach me by telephone but our phones have been out and are still out. I have communicated to Rabbi Kerzner and I have sent him a copy of your letter.

I am returning your check to you, however, because I think it would be in everybody's interest if you were to make the checks directly to the beneficiaries. You may mail them to me and, in fact, I would prefer to have it done that way but I believe that if the checks are made directly to the institutions there will be no difficulty in obtaining your tax deduction. The largest school for education in the area is the Israel Ben Zion Academy. It is a day school that serves the entire community and sustained the most serious losses. Temple B'nai B'rith, the reformed temple, also sustained losses to its school as did Temple Israel, the conservative congregation. I would suggest that you make out the following checks in lieu of the check which I am returning: Israel Ben Zion Academy - $700.00, Temple Israel Hebrew School - $150.00, Temple B'nai B'rith Hebrew School, $150.00.

I am back in my office now and can be reached

at any time. My telephone number is 717-829-1701. I can also be reached on Federal telephone service which is 825-6811.

Rabbi Kerzner has been responsible in large measure for the tremendous growth and importance of the Israel Ben Zion Academy. He is delighted to know of your interest and generosity. I have also informed him of my suggestion for the distribution of this money and he approves.

The Jewish Community Center sustained damages in excess of one million dollars. The Israel Ben Zion Academy and its related branch congregation has been devastated. None of our stores have been reopened as yet, and very few homes have been reoccupied. It will be many months, if not years, before we can be restored to normal.

Again, my deepest thanks and appreciation to you, your wife and to all those who have joined with you in your expression of compassion.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

Isidor Ostroff, Esquire
Ostroff & Lawler
37 South 20th Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

August 10, 1972

Honorable Hugh Scott
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Hugh:

For myself personally, and in behalf of the Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc. which I have been chairing for the community, I want to express our deep appreciation for your personal interest and concern for the thousands of people in this Valley, and in the State of Pennsylvania. We know of the indefatigable labor and effort you and Senator Schweiker have extended in our behalf. Although we are disappointed that the amendments and views espoused by you and Senator Schweiker were not adopted in toto, we do recognize that what you gentlemen have done will go a long way toward relieving the stupendous losses sustained by the flood victims in Pennsylvania. There undoubtedly will be many that must fall by the wayside as the result of the losses they sustained unless we can discover other resources with which to help them. You can be assured that we will explore these but we are dubious of very much help from private sources in amounts that can be meaningful.

I am very happy that the Conference Committee eliminated the restrictions of the forgiveness feature of the SBA loan. The strictures imposed by the Senate did produce a tremendous amount of resentment. I hope that the Congress will adopt the bill in final form without these restrictions.

I have already called to Mr. Hardquist's attention the tax features pertaining to the forgiveness. Section 165(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 provides that a deduction is allowed for losses sustained that are not compensated for by insurance or otherwise. I am informed that the Internal Revenue Service views the SBA forgiveness as a partial reimbursement for casualty losses. I believe that it would be very disappointing to the recipients of SBA loans to discover that the

forgiveness feature of it will be subject to income taxation. In view of the unwillingness of the Congress to increase the forgiveness features in an amount that would have some relationship to the loss borne by the individual flood victim, I do not believe it would be unreasonable to suggest that the Internal Revenue Code be amended so as to provide that the forgiveness feature of the SBA loan would be tax free. It seems to me that the most logical and practical approach would be to have Section 165 amended to specifically exclude disaster funds or forgiveness funds "as other compensation" for loss under this Section of the Code.

Again, our heartfelt thanks to you for your prompt and genuine concern for the people of Wyoming Valley in their tragic hour.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

August 10, 1972

Honorable Richard S. Schweiker
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dick:

For myself personally, and in behalf of the Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc. which I have been chairing for the community, I want to express our deep appreciation for your personal interest and concern for the thousands of people in this Valley, and in the State of Pennsylvania. We know of the indefatigable labor and effort you and Senator Scott have extended in our behalf. Although we are disappointed that the amendments and views espoused by you and Senator Scott were not adopted in toto, we do recognize that what you gentlemen have done will go a long way toward relieving the stupendous losses sustained by the flood victims in Pennsylvania. There undoubtedly will be many that must fall by the wayside as the result of the losses they sustained unless we can discover other resources with which to help them. You can be assured that we will explore these but we are dubious of very much help from private sources in amounts that can be meaningful.

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Again, our heartfelt thanks to you for your prompt and genuine concern for the people of Wyoming Valley in their tragic hour.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

August 11, 1972

Mr. David A. Hartquist
c/o Honorable Richard S. Schweiker
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Dave:

I received the Congressional Record this morning pertaining to the legislation enacted last week. Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation in sending it on to me. I appreciate the immense help that you gave us in this trying matter.

Warmest regards and appreciation.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

FRANCIS X. TOBIN
REGIONAL DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
SUITE 1500, 1125 GRAND AVENUE
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI 64106

PHONE: (24 HOURS:) 816-374-5912 TWX: 910-771-2136

gust 11, 1972

re for Kansas leaves us with a feeling of sadness because we know we are losing a friend. One of the few favorable aspects of Hurricane Agnes was your appearance on the scene here in Wilkes-Barre. As I indicated in my remarks at the meeting of the Flood Recovery Task Force earlier this week, you have been a tower of strength in an hour of great distress. It is a comfort to us to know that General Lincoln can rely upon men like you.

There are many things that I could say about the quality of service you rendered but much of that has already been incorporated in my letter to General Lincoln. I am enclosing a copy of it for your information.

In behalf of a grateful community and for myself personally, we express our deepest appreciation to you for your genuine, able and splendid service. May you be spared for many years to come to continue your labors in the vineyards of humanity.

Warmest personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN, Chairman
Flood Recovery Task
Force, Inc.

MR:cjr

August 11, 1972

Dear Fran:

Your departure for Kansas leaves us with a feeling of sadness because we know we are losing a friend. One of the few favorable aspects of Hurricane Agnes was your appearance on the scene here in Wilkes-Barre. As I indicated in my remarks at the meeting of the Flood Recovery Task Force earlier this week, you have been a tower of strength in an hour of great distress. It is a comfort to us to know that General Lincoln can rely upon men like you.

There are many things that I could say about the quality of service you rendered but much of that has already been incorporated in my letter to General Lincoln. I am enclosing a copy of it for your information.

In behalf of a grateful community and for myself personally, we express our deepest appreciation to you for your genuine, able and splendid service. May you be spared for many years to come to continue your labors in the vineyards of humanity.

Warmest personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN, Chairman
Flood Recovery Task
Force, Inc.

MR:cjr

Greater Wilkes-Barre

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA

8/14/72

The attached was mailed this date to the home addresses of the legislators and a duplicate sent to each at Harrisburg.

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.
P.O. Box No.1367
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.18701

August 14, 1972

Senator Martin Murray
Senator T. Newell Wood
Representative Stanley Meholchick
Representative Raphael Musto
Representative Bernard O'Brien
Representative Frank J. O'Connell
Representative Fred J. Shupnik

Gentlemen:

Some important problems have arisen with respect to streets, roads, bridges and mass transportation in Wyoming Valley. The Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc. believes that before any further measures are taken the Committee on Transportation should have the benefit of discussions with you. We have, therefore, called a luncheon meeting for this Friday, August 18, 1972 at the Hotel Sterling at 12:15 p. m. We very much hope that each of you can attend because the matter is of the utmost importance to the future of the Valley.

Unless I hear from you to the contrary, I shall assume that you will be present.

Sincerely,

Max Rosenn
Acting Chairman

MR:ar

August 14, 1972

Rabbi Abraham Barras
236 South River Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Rabbi Barras:

I enclose herewith a check forwarded to me by a very good friend of mine and member of the Bar of Philadelphia. The check is for the use of Temple Israel Hebrew School in rebuilding.

Mr. and Mrs. Ostroff have also made contributions to the Israel Ben Zion Academy and to Temple B'nai B'rith Hebrew School.

I know you will want to acknowledge the letter in an appropriate fashion. Mr. Ostroff's address is on the margin of his check. He has also been instrumental in sending clothing and other materials into the Valley and will continue to do so.

I hope that you and Mrs. Barras are managing to get your house and affairs into shape after the devastation.

Warmest personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

August 14, 1972

Isidor Ostroff, Esquire
2104 Walnut Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19103

Dear Is:

I have received the checks you forwarded and I have mailed them out promptly. You will undoubtedly receive asknowledgments from each of the institutions promptly.

The appropriate agency to deliver the blankets, linens and tableware is the Jewish Welfare Agency. Its offices and quarters are at the Jewish Community Center at 60 South River Street, Wilkes-Barre. The director in charge is Mrs. Dorothy Schwartz who is a very knowledgable and compassionate woman. I am sending her a copy of this communication. Anything you send up will be deeply appreciated by the community.

I cannot understand the difficulty you have in reaching me. The numbers you have are quite correct. The difficulty is probably attributable to my covering so many ports of call and waterfronts. However, there should be no difficulty reaching me here at the office and if you can't get me in the evening, my secretary's telephone number is 822-7937. She will always know where I can be reached.

Again, our deepest appreciation to you and your good wife for your generosity and compassion. We are all very grateful.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

August 14, 1972

Rabbi Jerome Kerzner
332 South River Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Rabbi Kerzner:

Supplementing my conversation with you with respect to the letter and contribution I received from Attorney Isidor Ostroff, I enclose herewith a check in the sum of $700.00 to the Israel Ben Zion Academy as a contribution. I would appreciate your acknowledging the same with an appropriate letter directly to Attorney Ostroff.

I presume that you will be leaving the community shortly. I feel quite certain that despite your departure your relationship with us is such that we shall be in touch with each other through the years.

You have made a tremendous impact upon the community. You have not only been concerned with congregational matters but also with the promotion of the best interests of the Jewish Community generally. Your work in connection with the Day School and Hebrew Education had a significant effect upon our young people at a most critical time. I also believe that you have given Orthodox Judaism a much more favorable image in the community at large.

As I said to you and Mrs. Kerzner, we deeply regret your departure. On the other hand, I believe that the decision you make is the proper one for you and your family. We do find solace in knowing that wherever you go you will be promoting the best interests of humanity generally and Judaism in particular. Toronto should offer a much broader

stage for your activities.

Tillie joins me in extending our warmest regards and best wishes to you and your family in your new life adventure.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

August 15, 1972

Francis J. Michelini, President
Wilkes College
South Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Mike:

Thank you for a copy of your letter to the President. It is an excellent statement and an attractive invitation. I don't know how he can turn it down.

Thank you for sending me a copy.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

August 15, 1972

Mr. Ralph C. Mathewson
1025 Exeter Avenue
West Pittston, Pa. 18643

Dear Ralph:

I have your letter with respect to the consolidation of communities in Luzerne County. I read the release of it when it first appeared in the newspapers. It sounds to me like a very good idea and it seems to me that no one can find fault with it. I would like to see you pursue it.

I hope this letter finds you in good health.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

August 15, 1972

Mr. Ralph C. Mathewson
1025 Exeter Avenue
West Pittston, Pa. 18643

Dear Ralph:

I have your letter with respect to the consolidation of communities in Luzerne County. I read the release of it when it first appeared in the newspapers. It looks like a good idea but our communities in the past have not been enthusiastic about it, to say the least. I shall bring it to the attention of our task force. The answer to the problem is the people. They can have it if <u>they want it</u>.

I hope this letter finds you in good health.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

August 15, 1972

Rabbi Arnold M. Shevlin
408 Wyoming Avenue
Kingston, Pa. 18704

Dear Rabbi Shevlin:

I enclose herewith a check forwarded to me by a very good friend of mine and member of the Bar of Philadelphia. The check is for the use of Temple B'nai B'rith Hebrew School in rebuilding.

Mr. and Mrs. Ostroff have also made contributions to the Israel Ben Zion Academy and to Temple Israel Hebrew School.

I know you will want to acknowledge the letter in an appropriate fashion. Mr. Ostroff's address is on the margin of his check. He has also been instrumental in sending clothing and other materials into the Valley and will continue to do so.

I hope that you and Mrs. Shevlin are managing to get your house and affairs into shape after the devastation.

Warmest personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

August 17, 1972

Dear Mitch,

I read your extremely fine letter on consolidation. It sets the issue up and the goals squarely. I agree with you that it is now up to the people. They can have it if they want it. It's going to take many voices such as yours making a loud crescendo that will ultimately pierce the ears of every concerned citizen. Keep up the good work and yell.

Warmest regards to you and Janet.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Mitchell Jenkins, Esquire
1000 Blue Cross Building
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

August 17, 1972

Louis Smith, Executive Director
Wyoming Valley Jewish Committee
60 South River Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Lou:

Thank you for your kind comments with respect to my feeble effort in flood relief.

I assume that you know that contributions I am sending through to you are intended really for flood relief by the Wyoming Valley Jewish Committee. This is what Judge James Rosen intended with his contribution.

I was also the recipient of a contribution of a thousand dollars for educational institution rehabilitation. You may want a record of this contribution and $700.00 of it has been allocated to the Israel Ben Zion Academy, $150.00 to Temple B'nai B'rith and $150.00 to Temple Israel.

I am now enclosing a contribution in the sum of $312.00 which comes from the proceeds of a campers' carnival conducted by the campers at Camp B'nai B'rith at Starlight, Pa.

As you know, they have been keenly interested in our problems down here. I was up at Camp B'nai B'rith last night to attend their final sessions at the Camp and personally received the check and acknowledged it. I believe, however, that it would be well for you to also make a direct acknowledgment to Sam B. Skolnick, Director of the Camp at Starlight, Pennsylvania. He will still be there for another two weeks.

Sincerely,

MR:cjr
Enclosure

MAX ROSENN

August 18, 1972

Honorable George Romney
Secretary of Housing
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Secretary Romney:

I have been out of the city for several days and did not have an opportunity before today to express the appreciation of the Flood Recovery Task Force of Wyoming Valley for your inspection trip to Wilkes-Barre this past week. We regret that you incurred some discomfort and exascerbation on your visit here. Notwithstanding, it is my opinion that the community by and large was impressed with the purpose of your visit, your genuine concern and the positive action flowing from your activity. I enclose some articles which have appeared in the local press which sustain this point of view.

On the occasion of your visit, I submitted several questions to you at our private conversation at the airport. You suggested that I write to you so that you might give further consideration to the matter.

1. An important question that concerns the community, particularly the City of Wilkes-Barre which is involved in extensive urban renewal, is whether pre-flood prices are to be paid for property that is condemned or taken over by contractual purchase for purposes of urban renewal. For example, there is considerable discussion concerning the acquisition by the City of Wilkes-Barre of the Riverside Park area for urban renewal purposes. This is an area which you saw on your inspection trip. It was a new residential development in which homes were almost totally destroyed. It is the considered judgment of many people that this area should not be rebuilt. The question, therefore, is if the city acquires it for urban renewal purposes, will the Authority be empowered to pay pre-flood prices? You indicated that you would advise me after you had further opportunity to make inquiry.

2. Under the Housing Act, there is a $3500.00 grant to low income people in urban renewal areas. Can

this sum to be paid in addition to any forgiveness permitted under the SBA loan program and the amendments to the Agnes Recovery Act?

Warmest personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

August 21, 1972

Dear Governor:

Edgar Lashford sent the material out with respect to the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area on July 25th. Since we checked with Dan Flood and he had not received the material, he sent out another duplicate set on August 8th, 1972. We will be supplementing it with a resolution of the Flood Recovery Task Force.

Thank you very much for the lunch last week. I regret that I had to run away. There is a glimmer of light and we are grateful to you for supplying much of the oil.

Warmest regards to you and Mary.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Honorable William W. Scranton
Box 116
Dalton, Pennsylvania

August 21, 1972

Mr. Kenneth Davis
c/o Honorable Hugh Scott
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ken:

I tried to reach you by telephone Friday but missed you.

I covered the meeting Thursday night in behalf of Senator Scott and Senator Schweiker at the ILGWU Hall. The meeting was very well attended and I think the interests of both senators were presented effectively. I enclose a news release covering the meeting which may be of interest to you.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

August 22, 1972

Theodore Robb, Director
Federal Regional Council
Hotel Sterling
West Market Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Ted:

Pursuant to your request, I enclose herewith list of the presently functioning committees of the Flood Recovery Task Force. These are standing committees of our organization. There may be additional ad hoc committees appointed from time to time.

1. The Committee on Legislation and Equity chaired by Harold Rose has been concerned with the enactment of Federal and State legislation for the relief of the flood stricken communities and individual victims. They will also be pursuing other sources of funds for flood stricken victims.

2. The State Aid Committee, chaired by Attorney Andrew Hourigan is charged with the mission of pressing for appropriate state legislation and relief for the communities. This is to supplement what sources of relief may be offered by the Federal Government.

3. The Committee on Planning and Development chaired by Tom Kiley has the long range responsibility for attempting to co-ordinate the planning and development activities on the part of all of the flood stricken communities. Because each community seems to have its own plan, as well as the county, we visualize a great need to avoid duplication of effort and funds. The objective is to try and harmonize all of the plans so as to provide the maximum planning and service with the available funds.

4. The Road, Bridge and Transportation Committee chaired by Ed Schechter is concerned with the rebuilding of our streets, roads and bridges. It also carries responsibility for pressing the construction of the Pierce Street Bridge, the Cross Valley Expressway and providing long range mass transportation.

5. The Labor Construction and Contractors Assistance Committees have been combined under the chairmanship of Andrew J. Sordoni, III and vice-chairmanship of Edward J. Boltz. They are concerned with the recruitment of contractors, the cooperation of unions, expediting construction and repairs and consumer protection.

6. The Committee on Education chaired by Dr. Francis Michelini and co-chaired by Father Kilburn, is concerned with relief for the independent colleges and private schools, the libraries and the availability of public school education to children transplanted in strange communities.

7. The Flood Control Committee chaired by Roy E. Morgan carries the responsibility for long rang planning to avoid a recurrence of another witch like Hurricane Agnes. They will be concerned with the construction of dams in upper New York and the early restoration of dikes.

8. The Committee on Families, Health and the Aging, chaired by Mrs. Frank W. Anderson, carries responsibility for the coordination of all local agencies with state and federal agencies working in the area of social concerns, including the problems of the aging, health and shelter. They carry responsibility for assisting state and federal agencies in carrying out their missions and providing liason with their local agencies.

9. "Telling the Recovery Story" Committee is a committee that will commence its function on September 1st. It will be chaired by David DeCosmo and will carry responsibility for developing material, data and iteas for telling the story of the recovery. Their responsibility is to create a whole new image for the community; tell how we are bouncing back (I hope) and coordinate their efforts with the committee headed by Tom Shelbourne which carried the responsibility for telling the story to the nation through the national press.

If there is anything further we can do, please let me know.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

August 22, 1972

Hal,

I have revised the resolution and trust it meets with your approval.

I am enclosing an extra copy of the resolution and letter. Perhaps you may want to release it to the press.

M.R.

August 23, 1972

Raymond F. Lowery, Jr., Esquire
515 United Penn Bank Building
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Ray:

Thank you for your application for a staff position with the Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc. We have a number of applications on hand and I have referred the matter to an appropriate committee for them to make a selection. You can be assured that your application will be given careful consideration.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

August 23, 1972

Francis Carney, Federal
Coordinating Officer
Office of Emergency Preparedness
Ninth Floor
Holy Cross Hall
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Frank:

Enclosed you will find a letter from Stephen S. Warner which is self-explanatory. I have also received some telephone calls from people interested in the situation concerning this family. I understand that some HUD inspectors have been around but nothing has been done to relieve the situation. Could you have someone look into it and follow through?

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

August 28, 1972

Louis G. Feldmann, Esquire
Northeastern Building
Hazleton, Pennsylvania 18201

Dear Lou:

Thank you for sending me the correspondence in connection with modular homes. Iddid not know of your interest nor of the plant down there. I am pleased to have the information and if there is anything I can do to help your cause along, as well as our cause in this instance, I shall be glad to do so. In any event, despite its limitations on our ability to see you more frequently, I am glad that you are no longer living in the flood area.

Warmest regards and best wishes to your lovely wife.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

August 28, 1972

Mr. Thomas Kiley
First National Bank
West Market Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Tom:

Enclosed you will find original letter I received from Leon Case which is self-explanatory. Inasmuch as the Committee is already appointed, the letter serves no useful purpose except his comments on page 2. I felt that you would want to have the benefit of them.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

August 14, 1972

Louis Smith, Executive Director
Jewish Community Center
South River Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Lou:

Enclosed you will find a contribution from Judge James Rosen of the United States Court of Appeals with an accompanying letter. The contribution and letter are self-explanatory. He is one of my colleagues on the bench, a dear friend, and I would appreciate your dropping him a note of acknowledgment and appreciation.

Keep up your good work and take care.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

August 31, 1972

Mr. Martin Hamburger
c/o Honorable Hugh Scott
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Martin:

In accordance with my conversation with you, I enclose herewith article appearing in the Wilkes-Barre Times Leader Evening News of August 21, 1972 pertaining to the death of Admiral Harold Stark. As the article indicates, Admiral Stark was chief of Naval Forces in Europe prior to and during the Allied invasion of Normandy. He was born in Wilkes-Barre and was very active in the development of Wilkes College. It was one of the beneficiaries of his generosity while he was alive.

His many friends and family would greatly appreciate it if this account were introduced into the Congressional Record.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

August 31, 1972

Dear Betty,

I have your copy of your letter to Frank Carlucci of August 29th. I appreciate your interest in sending it to me. It is the message that we have presented not only to him but to the Congress. Our problem is that there are many people out of the Valley who have no idea of the problems we have here. It has been most difficult to try and present a picture to them of the suffering, the hardship and devastation that the people in the Valley are enduring. I know because I've talked with them from time to time and they just do notrealize. I hope that your efforts and those of your friends will be more successful.

I have thought from time to time about Jack because I had heard that he wasn't well. I hope that he is mended and able to be back to his usual genial self despite all of the hardships and illness. Please give him my best and I hope that for you and your family the forthcoming year will be one of good health, happiness and prosperity.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Mrs. Jack Frier
c/o Kowalski
33 Oliver Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18705

August 21, 1972

Honorable Jacob Kassab
Secretary of Transportation
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Secretary:

In behalf of the Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc. and for a grateful community, I express our appreciation to you for your attendance at our meeting last Friday. Your announcement concerning the immediate construction of a temporary bridge at Pierce Street followed by the permanent installation has created a tremendous amount of favorable excitement in the area. It is only equaled by the stir caused by the announcement of your plans for the commencement of the Cross Valley Expressway.

Except for the SBA legislation enacted this past week, I know of no single item that has raised the hopes of the people in Northeastern Pennsylvania more than has your announcement concerning the Pierce Street Bridge and the Cross Valley Expressway. We are grateful to you and to the Governor for your concern and interest in our devastated community.

We hope that your plans for both of these structures will go forward promptly as scheduled and that everything will be done to expedite the construction. We would appreciate your keeping the Task Force advised from time to time as construction commences and progresses.

Again, may I express our appreciation.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

August 21, 1972

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Mr. President:

We noted in the press this morning that yesterday you signed the third emergency measure you had recommended to Congress in mid-July for relief and recovery in areas devastated by the Agnes hurricane and by the flooding of Rapid City, South Dakota.

In behalf of the Flood Recovery Task Force of Greater Wilkes-Barre and a grateful community, we express our appreciation to you and the Congress. This legislation, while it may not be adequate for many individual cases, is essential if our community is to make any substantial recovery from the devastation.

We are grateful to you for having proposed it promptly and for supporting it in Congress. We thank you for your concern and genuine interest.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

August 22, 1972

Roland Weeks, Jr., President
Gulf Publishing Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 4567
Biloxi, Mississippi 39533

Dear Mr. Weeks:

I regret that I did not personally have the pleasure of meeting you and your committee when you were in Wilkes-Barre. Regrettably, I had other commitments out of the Valley that weekend.

I am advised that you and your committee were most helpful. Your narration of your experienees had a great impact upon the community. As you know, it was reproduced by television and everyone had an opportunity to hear you.

I enclose a resolution adopted by the two organizations in the community who sponsored your visit. It expresses only in small part our appreciation for your kindness, concern and aid.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.
P.O. Box No.1367
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.18701

August 22, 1972

Theodore Robb, Director
Federal Regional Council
Hotel Sterling
West Market Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Ted:

Pursuant to your request, I enclose herewith list of the presently functioning committees of the Flood Recovery Task Force. These are standing committees of our organization. There may be additional ad hoc committees appointed from time to time.

1. The Committee on Legislation and Equity chaired by Harold Rose has been concerned with the enactment of Federal and State legislation for the relief of the flood stricken communities and individual victims. They will also be pursuing other sources of funds for flood stricken victims.

2. The State Aid Committee, chaired by Attorney Andrew Hourigan is charged with the mission of pressing for appropriate state legislation and relief for the communities. This is to supplement what sources of relief may be offered by the Federal Government.

3. The Committee on Planning and Development chaired by Tom Kiley has the long range responsibility for attempting to co-ordinate the planning and development activities on the part of all of the flood stricken communities. Because each community seems to have its own plan, as well as the county, we visualize a great need to avoid duplication of effort and funds. The objective is to try and harmonize all of the plans so as to provide the maximum planning and service with the available funds.

4. The Road, Bridge and Transportation Committee chaired by Ed Schechter is concerned with the rebuilding of our streets, roads and bridges. It also carries responsibility for pressing the construction of the Pierce Street Bridge, the Cross Valley Expressway and providing long range mass transportation.

5. The Labor Construction and Contractors Assistance Committees have been combined under the chairmanship of Andrew J. Sordoni, III and vice-chairmanship of Edward J. Boltz. They are concerned with the recruitment of contractors, the cooperation of unions, expediting construction and repairs and consumer protection.

6. The Committee on Education chaired by Dr. Francis Michelini and co-chaired by Father Kilburn, is concerned with relief for the independent colleges and private schools, the libraries and the availability of public school education to children transplanted in strange communities.

7. The Flood Control Committee chaired by Roy E. Morgan carries the responsibility for long rang planning to avoid a recurrence of another witch like Hurricane Agnes. They will be concerned with the construction of dams in upper New York and the early restoration of dikes.

8. The Committee on Families, Health and the Aging, chaired by Mrs. Frank W. Anderson, carries responsibility for the coordination of all local agencies with state and federal agencies working in the area of social concerns, including the problems of the aging, health and shelter. They carry responsibility for assisting state and federal agencies in carrying out their missions and providing liason with their local agencies.

9. "Telling the Recovery Story" Committee is a committee that will commence its function on September lst. It will be chaired by David DeCosmo and will carry responsibility for developing material, data and iteas for telling the story of the recovery. Their responsibility is to create a whole new image for the community; tell how we are bouncing back (I hope) and coordinate their efforts with the committee headed by Tom Shelbourne which carried the responsibility for telling the story to the nation through the national press.

If there is anything further we can do, please let me know.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

Enclosures

September 11, 1972

Frank C. Carlucci, Deputy Director
Executive Office of the President
King's College
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Mr. Carlucci:

The Planning and Development Committee of the Task Force has an important meeting scheduled for this Friday, September 15th at twelve noon at the Hotel Sterling. They are quite anxious to have the benefit of your opinion and your reaction to some of their long range problems and program.

We hope that you can find the time in your busy schedule to attend this meeting and honor us with your presence. May we hear from you?

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Thomas Kiley

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.
P.O. Box No.1367
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.18701

September 11, 1972

Frank C. Carlucci, Deputy Director
Executive Office of the President
King's College
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Mr. Carlucci:

The Planning and Development Committee of the Task Force has an important meeting scheduled for this Friday, September 15th at twelve noon at the Hotel Sterling. They are quite anxious to have the benefit of your opinion and your reaction to some of their long range problems and program.

We hope that you can find the time in your busy schedule to attend this meeting and honor us with your presence. May we hear from you?

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Thomas Kiley

September 11, 1972

Honorable Ernest Kline
Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Frank C. Carlucci, Deputy Director
Executive Office of the President
King's College
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Dear Governor and Mr. Carlucci:

The Flood Recovery Task Force is greatly concerned with the surprising differences announced in the press last Friday between the Federal Government and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with respect to flood relief. We are alarmed because of its potential harmful effect on the vital remedial programs for flood victims in the Wyoming Valley.

Our first reaction is that these differences are in form rather than substance. On the other hand, the Flood Recovery Task Force may have some definite ideas on the subject of the unresolved services to be rendered to the mobile sites in Wyoming Valley which may be helpful. We would be pleased to meet with both of you at your earliest convenience to discuss the problems.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Thomas Kiley

September 12, 1972

TO: ANDREW SHAW

FROM: JUDGE ROSENN

Dear Andy:

Enclosed you will find various applications that require consideration and ultimately response. Would you see that they are presented at the Executive Committee on Thursday night with your recommendations.

I also feel it is very important that a committee of the Task Force go to Harrisburg this week. Would you plan and arrange for that?

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosures

September 12, 1972

Mr. Edmund J. O'Neill
101 West Pettebone Street
Forty Fort, Pennsylvania 18704

Dear Mr. O'Neill:

Thank you for your application to the Flood Recovery Task Force. I have referred it, together with other applications, to the Personnel Committee. You will probably be hearing from them in the very near future.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Thomas Kiley
Andrew Shaw

September 12, 1972

Mrs. Judith A. Hurley
130 West Ross Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Mrs. Hurley:

Thank you for your application to the Flodd Recovery Task Force. I have referred it, together with other applications, to the Personnel Committee. You will probably he hearing from them in the very near future.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Thomas Kiley
Andrew Shaw

September 12, 1972

Mr. Raymond F. Lowery, Jr.
59 North Landon Avenue
Kingston, Pennsylvania 18704

Dear Mr. Lowery:

I appreciate your interest in the Flood Recovery Task Force and your application for the position of its Executive Director.

I have referred your application, with others, to the officers sitting as a personnel committee. Since no funds have as yet been forthcoming to the Task Force and mindful of its potentially limited life, it was the opinion of the personnel committee that it would be an imposition to accept your services with these uncertainties before them. They have, therefore, decided that they would draft Andrew Shaw, Director of the Institute of Regional Affairs at Wilkes College, to fill the position on a part time basis.

We deeply appreciate your willingness to help us out. We hope that we can continue to look forward to your interest in and support of the Task Force.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Thomas Kiley
Andrew Shaw

September 12, 1972

Mr. William E. Bachman
61 Arlington Road
Forty Fort, Pa. 18704

Dear Bill:

Thanks for your application to the Flood Recovery Task Force. I have referred it, together with other applications, to the Personnel Committee. You will probably be hearing from them in the very near future.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Thomas Kiley
Andrew Shaw

Blind cc:
Thomas Tiley
Andrew Shaw

September 12, 1972

Timothy Atkeson, General Counsel
Executive Office of the President
Council on Environmental Quality
722 Jackson Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Atkeson:

I thank you for your letter of August 29th with respect to the waiver of the impact statement on the National Environmental Policy Act for the temporary bridge at North Street over the Susquehanna River between the City of Wilkes-Barre and the Borough of Kingston.

You are correct that plans for a permanent bridge at this location are underway. It is expected that the permanent structure will be a four lane bridge, the former being a two lane bridge. Of course, I cannot speak for the Federal agencies but I assume that their plans will give full consideration to the question of whether or not a permanent structure would require an environmental impact statement. I can, however, state at this time that the environmental impact can only be de minimus since the westerly terminal of the bridge can at best only occupy a few feet of "Nesbitt Park" in Kingston. All of this park is inside the levy area of the Susquehanna River and was appropriated around 1936 by Army Corps engineers for flood protection purposes.

I thank you very much for your courtesy and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

cc: Hon. Jacob Kassab
Secretary of Transportation
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Dr. James Costantino
Regional Representative
of the Secretary
U.S. Dept. of Transportat

Edward Schechter, Chairman
Road, Bridge & Trans. Committee

September 15, 1972

Albert Aston, Esquire
United Penn Bank Building
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Albert:

I am bery happy that you will serve as Chief Counsel of the Flood Recovery Task Force. The lawyers who have agreed to serve are as follows:

Richard Goldberg
Charles Lemmond
Richard Caputo
Gifford Cappellini
Anthony Panaway
Peter Kanjorski, Jr.

There will be several others we expect to add and we will advise you.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

September 14, 1972

Thomas Harrington, District Engineer
Pennsylvania Department of Highways
O'Neill Highway
Scranton, Pennsylvania

Dear Tom:

You will recall that I spoke to you at the Irem Temple Country Club about the traffic conditions on Union Street, Pringle and Luzerne. Traffic is unnecessarily tied up on this street in the morning and in the evening. In the morning, there is only one lane available going East toward Kingston. This lane is generally stacked up all the way through Luzerne as far back as O'Malia's Laundry. On the other hand, the westerly lanes from Kingston are generally unoccupied and have little or no traffic in the morning. In the evening between four and six, the situation is in reverse. Moreover, because of the no passing zone, one lane forms in the evening going in a westerly direction even though two are available. This situation could be earily corrected with your help. We would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Thomas Kiley
Andrew Shaw
Clifford Bigelow

September 14, 1972

Dear Judge,

I have received a follow up report on Stephen Warner, including his pre-temporary housing expense problem.

I enclose a letter which you may want to have.

Tillie and I enjoyed being with you last week and I hope that when I return from court two weeks hence we shall be able to do it again.

Warmest regards to you and Adelaide.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Honorable Thomas M. Lewis
60 Elmcrest Drive
Dallas, Pennsylvania

September 8, 1972

Leon E. Case, Jr., Executive Director
Redevelopment Authority
City of Wilkes-Barre
1000 First National Bank Building
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Leon:

Enclosed you will find reply to my communication to Governor Romney. I think the reply is self-explanatory and should be helpful.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

September 19, 1972

Albert Aston, Esquire
United Penn Bank Building
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Albert:

The following additional counsel will serve on your legal staff:

William Degillio
Joseph Muston
Al Danoff
Frank Harrison.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

October 2, 1972

Dear Sid,

I apologize for the delay in replying to your recent letter. I have been away for the past two weeks and this accounts for the delay.

We were delighted to hear from you and appreciate your offer of help in connection with the flood recovery work. The Task Force has been in operation now since the first week of the flood and we have accomplished a great deal. There is much to be done, however, and the projection envisions activities for the next three to five years.

The recovery task calls for a stupendous effort and we are going to need all the help we can get in order to make the recovery. We appreciate your offer of help and it is good to know that we can call upon you in the event of need.

We had, as did the rest of the community, an immense amount of water in our home. Our first floor is gone, as is all of our furniture. We returned to our home in Kingston for the first time since the flood this weekend. We are now back there on a camping basis using the second floor.

Tillie is reasonably well and she joins me in extending to you, Mazie and your family our best wishes for a good, healthy and happy New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

October 5, 1972

Marilyn C. Jones, Associate Professor
School of Social Work
Marywood College
2300 Adams Avenue
Scranton, Pennsylvania 18509

Dear Miss Jones:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Miss McFadden. I think your point is well taken and I agree with everything you have to say. The Task Force has already taken up the problem with the City of Wilkes-Barre with respect to contractors engaged by Army Corps engineers to work in the city. The city agreed to waive some of the fees and the ordinance pertaining to permits. However, that does not solve the situation to which you refer .

I shall pass your communication on to our appropriate committee and see if something cannot be done.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

TO: ANDY SHAW

FROM: JUDGE ROSENN

DATE: October 5, 1972

Dear Andy:

Enclosed you will find communication from Professor Jones of Marywood College. Her letter is self-explanatory and you have some familiarity with the problem as a result of our prior meeting at City Hall. Maybe you ought to take this up with Bernie Gallagher and see whether the situation can't be easied for the duration of the flood.

M.R.

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

2300 Adams Avenue Scranton, Pennsylvania 18509 (717) 343-6521

Marywood College

September 20, 1972

The Honorable Max Rosenn —

Dear Judge Rosenn,

Thought I'd like to share the enclosed letter with you!

Cordially,

Marilyn C. Jones

October 11, 1972

Marvin Roth, President
Israel Ben Zion Academy
c/o Roth Novelty Company
60 North State Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Marvin:

Pursuant to my conversation with you, I enclose herewith two checks of the Congregation Mikveh Israel in the sum of $325.00 as a contribution for the restoration of the Israel Ben Zion Academy. Will you kindly acknowledge the same directly to Rabbi Musleah with indications to him what the proceeds will be used for.

I am also enclosing personal checks as contributions to the Yom Kippur Appeal to the Israel Ben Zion Academy and to the United Hebrew Institute.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

RM:Cjr

Enclosures

October 11, 1972

Andrew Shaw, Executive Director
Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Andy:

I met today with Vern Bergelin representing the architect-engineer firm of Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas of New York City. This firm is engaged in the preparation of technical data for possible increased heights of levee along the Susquehanna River in the areas of Plymouth, Wilkes-Barre, Kingston, Edwardsville, Swoyersville and Forty Fort.

They were doing an environmental impact study which is required under the statute if they are going to do this program. They wanted to know my views personally and the views of the Task Force. I believe I gave them the views of both in the light of the meeting we had today. They made inquiry, however, as to whether we have adopted any formal resolution urging the increased heights of the levee in the areas and communities I have just described. I told him that we had not yet done so but would be prepared to adopt such resolution after a meeting of the Task Force with Army Engineers and Civil Defense. I also told him I expected such a meeting would be held this coming week.

I write to you to tell you that a resolution apparently will be desirable and that an early meeting with the Army Engineers and Civil Defense by Roy Morgan and his Committee would be desirable. We ought to know what the situation is, what the plans are and to adopt an appropriate resolution.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

cc: Thomas Kilcy

Local liaisons:
Robert Sukarmer
Snoqualmie
Vern J. Bergelin
288-9816

Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas
Engineers • Architects • Planners
111 John Street, New York, New York 10038 (212) 233-6300

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21203

NABPL-N

25 September 1972

To whom it may concern:

This office has engaged the services of the Architect-Engineer firm of Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade and Douglas, Inc., 111 John Street, New York, New York 10038 for the preparation of technical data for possible increased heights of levee along the Susquehanna River in the areas of Plymouth, Wilkes-Barre, Kingston, Edwardsville, Swoyersville and Forty Fort. As a part of the work may need to be coordinated with your office, your cooperation will be appreciated.

Mr. Robert W. Lindner of this office, telephone (301) 962-2530, will act as project manager for this project.

Sincerely yours,

LOUIS W. PRENTISS, Jr.
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Vern J. Bergelin

Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade & Douglas
Engineers · Architects · Planners
111 John Street, New York, New York 10038 (212) 233-6300

October 13, 1972

Edward Boltz, Vice President
United Penn Bank
West Market Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Roman Rubenstein, Manager
Pomeroy's Department Store
Public Square
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Ed and Roman:

This will confirm my conversation with you yesterday in which I asked you both to serve as co-chairmen of a Committee on ReOpening of Stores. I will assume that you will organize the Committee with the expectation that two or three will call on each store on a selective basis.

It is my belief that a visit from such a Committee would do a great deal to stimulate reopening, build morale and also might provide necessary advice and assistance. I have talked to Ed Lashford and he has assured me that the Chamber of Commerce will cooperate with you and lend all possible assistance. I think time if of the essence and it would be most helpful if you could undertake this at once.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Thomas Kiley
Andrew Shaw
Edgar Lashford

October 13, 1972

Roy Morgan, Chairman
Flood Control Committee
c/o WILK Radio
North Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Roy:

I enclose herewith communication from Ralph C. Mathewson concerning the preservation of the Susquehanna River Basin. He apparently has given the matter considerable thought and I hope it may be valuable for you and your committee.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

cc: Thomas Kiley
Andrew Shaw

October 12, 1972

Dear Governor,

I tried to reach you immediately after the President's visit but learned that you were in Washington. I was quite anxious to discuss with you the reaction to his visit. I called you again this week to report to you on our trip to Biloxi, Mississippi but again learned you were in Washington. When you are home for a bit, I would appreciate your having your secretary call me.

The Task Force is planning an informal cocktail reception in honor of Frank Carlucci. We felt we ought to do this before he leaves the community. We have made arrangements for it at the Treadway Inn on Thursday, October 26th at 5:30 in the afternoon.

We consider you and Mary a vital part of our recovery force. We hope that you can arrange to join us and share in our expression of appreciation to Frank for his vigorous effort in bringing leadership and direction to Wyoming Valley in the flood recovery program. Please let me know whether you and Mary can attend.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Honorable William W. Scranton
Box 116
Dalton, Pennsylvania 18414

October 11, 1972

Dr. Ezekiel Nissim Musleah, Rabbi
The Congregation Mikveh Israel
Broad and York Streets
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19132

Dear Rabbi Musleah:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of October 5th, 1972 together with checks in the sum of $325.00 payable to Israel Ben Zion Academy of Wilkes-Barre.

I have transmitted the checks to the Academy with indications of your wishes in the matter. You will hear directly from them. In the meantime, in behalf of the community and the Academy, may I express our appreciation to Congregation Mikveh Israel and to Joseph B. Sarner for your generosity and concern. You can be assured that the money will be used most effectively. Marvin Roth, President of the Academy will respond directly as to the specific use to be made of the money.

Much is being accomplished in the rehabilitation of the community but it will be a process of several years before the recovery will be visible. In the meantime, the Academy and the United Hebrew Institute are conducting classes on the upper

floor of the Jewish Community Center. The Jewish Community Center sustained very severe losses on their lower floors which will take several years to repair and which aggregate about a million and a half dollars.

We are grateful to you for your support and interest.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

October 19, 1972

Mr. Samuel Z. Moskowitz
24 Maui Circle
Naples, Florida 33940

Dear Sam:

In accordance with your suggestion, I enclose herewith Betterhouse Appraisal of our property at 177 James Street. You are familiar with this property because you did some work for Percy Brown in designing a portico entrance.

The property was easily worth $75,000.00 before the flood. Mrs. Mary Untermann sold her ranch house across the street to Judge Aston for $75,000.00 about a month before the flood. That house has very much less land and had considerably less house. Judge Aston sold his house, quite similar to ours in cubic feet and quality, over on Butler Street for $80,000.00 just about a week or two before the flood. I, therefore, think a conservative price for the property is $75,000.00 before the flood.

The lot is 75' front on James Street and a depth of 150'. Marvin Weisberger, in his appraisal, gave no consideration to the depreciation in value as a result of the flood nor did he give any consideration to the damage to the landscaping. His was based primarily on replacement in the house.

The lawns, both front and back, will have to be redone. A certain amount of the shrubbery was damaged and also two of the trees on the front lawn. I would estimate that damage to the landscaping to be between $1500.00 and $2000.00.

I hope you have a fine trip down to Florida and that you enjoy your new home. Have a good winter, stay well and continue to enjoy life.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

P.S. I would appreciate having your appraisal at your earliest convenience.

October 23, 1972

Herbert L. Winkler, Esquire
Winkler, Danoff, Lubin and Toole
21 South Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Herb:

I have your letter of October 20th with respect to the new power plant in the Shickshinny area. We shall pursue the matter because the point you make is well taken.

Thank you for your generous personal comments. I shall place them in deep freeze until we see how successful we are in making the recovery. I hope that you and your family are comfortable in the meantime.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

October 23, 1972

Jack K. Busby, President
Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.
901 Hamilton Street
Allentown, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Busby:

The Flood Recovery Task Force has recently received some communications concerning the contemplated construction of a large power plant in the Shickshinny area by the Pennsylvania Power and Light Company. The concern of the inquiries is the current tightness of the labor market. It is their feeling that any large scale construction by you at this time would only aggravate a problem that is troublesome at the moment. It is expected that the labor problem may be relieved by next summer.

I have no information as to whether you really do intend to construct a new power plant in the Shickshinny area and, if so, when such construction will commence. I would appreciate any information that you may have to offer which can be used by us in responding to these inquiries.

I also enclose a recent article which appeared in our local press.

Warmest personal regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

October 23, 1972

Frank C. Carlucci, Deputy Director
Executive Office of the President
King's College
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Mr. Carlucci:

The Borough of Kingston has sent me a copy of its communication to you under date of October 18th, 1972 with its attached resolution complaining about what it claims to be a discriminatory policy with respect to the administration of the Interim Assistance Program.

Although Mr. Lowery signed the letter in his capacity of Borough Administrator, he is a member of the Flood Recovery Task Force. We disclaim any responsibility for the language used in the letter addressed to you signed by Mr. Lowery and Mr. Brown, President of the Borough Council. We know there is no basis for the allegations contained in that letter and I am certain that after further reflection Mr. Lowery and Mr. Brown will agree. I believe that the statements made in their letter about the "unconscionable capricious and discriminatory policy" is one made out of a momentary state of emotion. I know Mr. Brown for many years, and Mr. Lowery only since the Flood Recovery Task Force has been organized, and I am certain that the statement does not represent his considered judgment.

As I indicated at the press conference on Saturday, we of the Flood Recovery Task Force are delighted that the Interim Assistance Program will be administered on a Valley wide basis.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Hon. Hugh Scott
Hon. Richard Schweiker
Hon. Daniel Flood
William Connor
Theodore Robb
Ralph M. Brown
Raymond Lowery, Jr.
Frank O'Connell

October 24, 1972

Frank C. Carlucci, Deputy Director
Executive Office of the President
King's College
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Mr. Carlucci:

The Borough of Kingston has sent me a copy of its communication to you under date of October 18th, 1972 with its attached resolution complaining about what it claims to be a discriminatory policy with respect to the administration of the Interim Assistance Program.

We know there is no basis for the allegations contained in that letter and I am certain that after further reflection Mr. Lowery and Mr. Brown will agree. I believe that the statements made in their letter about the "unconscionable capricious and discriminatory policy" is one made out of a momentary state of emotion. Many of us in the Valley these days are traumatized and our "fuses" have become abbreviated. I know Mr. Brown for many years, and Mr. Lowery only since the Flood Recovery Task Force has been organized, and I feel quite certain that the statement does not represent their considered judgment.

As I indicated at the press conference on Saturday, the Flood Recovery Task Force is delighted that you will administer the Interim Assistance Program on a Valley wide basis.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Hon. Hugh Scott
Hon. Richard Schweiker
Hon. Daniel Flood
Frank O'Connell
William Connor
Theodore Robb
Ralph M. Brown
Raymond Lowery, Jr.

October 26, 1972

Dear Frank,

I enclose a copy of the remarks I made at the presentation to you last night at the Treadway. They probably are a vast understatement of what really deserved to be said. I hope that sometime in the future when normality has returned to the community and conditions are propitious I may have another opportunity to appropriately amplify what you are doing.

Warmest regards and best wishes for your continued good health and success.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

Enclosure

Honorable Frank C. Carlucci,
Deputy Director
Executive Office of the President
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

October 27, 1972

James Lee, Editor
Times Leader Evening News
North Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Jim:

For the Task Force and for myself personally, I want to express our appreciation to you for the supportive editorial that appeared in the Times Leader Evening News on Sunday, October 15th. It is good to know that you think well of what we are trying to do. We are at least pleased to know that you think well of our efforts.

It was great to have you with us at Biloxi and I appreciate your comments concerning your observations. They are being distributed together with comments of others and we shall send you a compilation in the next few days.

I hope that we may continue to have your interest and support.

Warmest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

HOTEL STERLING
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701
717 - 829-1981

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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David DeCosmo
Andrew Hourigan, Jr., Esq.
Rev. Lane D. Kilburn
Dr. Francis Michelini
Roy E. Morgan
Joseph A. Quinn, Jr., Esq.
Edward Schechter

November 13, 1972

Andrew Shaw, Jr.
Executive Director

Thomas S. Kleppe, Administrator
Small Business Administration
Washington, D.C. 20416

Dear Mr. Kleppe:

I have your letter of October 26th for which I thank you.

I am very happy that there has been a decided improvement in the processing of Small Business loans during the past two weeks. The situation began to improve immediately after your telephone call. Mrs. Posey's presence was also very helpful.

Our Committee continues to meet with representatives of SBA each Wednesday morning and I believe they have been able to aid each other.

I thank you for your continued interest and I hope that we have rounded the turn with this problem.

Should you be in this community, I hope you will let me have the pleasure of meeting you.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

November 22, 1972

Honorable William H. Wilcox
Secretary for Community Affairs
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Secretary Wilcox:

I regret very much that I did not have the opportunity to hear your address at the Service Clubs yesterday. I had hoped to attend but, unfortunately, could not make it. I read the account of it in the newspapers and the splendid editorial this morning complimenting you on your talk.

Personally, I approve of the views expressed by you as indicated in the editorial on consolidation of our local governments and restructuring them. I commend you for your interest and forthrightness in this statement. It needs to be said and it is important that a person in your position say it. When the Secretary for Community Affairs of the State of Pennsylvania sees from his own experience and observation the obvious need for the restructuring of local governments and unification, it is time that we take heed.

Personally, I live on the West Side. I have never lived in Wilkes-Barre. I chaired the Commission for Metropolitan Government some twelve years ago at which time I felt very vigorously that we needed to restructure local government. I still continue to adhere to these views and I favor a public hearing on the issue. This view also reflects the opinion of the Flood Recovery Task Force.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Andrew Shaw
Thomas Kiley

October 30, 1972

John Ruddick, Chief
Wilkes-Barre Police
East State Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear John:

It has become very obvious this past week that the traffic flow in and out of the City of Wilkes-Barre has increased tremendously. With the construction work done along Franklin Street and River Street, South Main Street and Public Square is being taxed to the limits.

The flow of traffic on South Main Street and Public Square is impeded at the most critical time of the day. This is done by cars parked along the curb of South Main Street and Public Square by men or women waiting for friends and family to come out of work at the close of the day. As a consequence, two lanes of traffic are tied up on South Main Street and one on Public Square. If husbands or wives want to wait for someone to pick up at the end of the day, they should be compelled to park their cars in alleys or in other areas where it will not interfere with the flow of traffic. There is absolutely no reason why they should be waiting outside of the door of the respective store in which they want to pick someone up merely because that is the most convenient. It would seem to me that we must be concerned with the flow of traffic and that it not be interrupted at 5:00 to 5:30 in the evening.

We would appreciate your looking into the matter and seeing if it cannot be remedied. It would seem to me that a patrolman or two along these streets at around that hour of the day would be most helpfull I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience as to whether something can be done.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Andrew Shaw

October 30, 1972

Francis X. Carney, Regional Director
Office of Emergency Preparedness
Holy Cross Hall
King's College
North Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Frank:

Moses Kleinstein, who I have known for many years, is now living in a mobile home at the site of his damaged residence at 55 Third Avenue, Kingston. His son, a seriously disabled war veteran of Vietnam lives with him. He is 100% disabled and has difficulty getting in and out of the bathtub shower because of his injuries.

As early as September, he requested of HUD that they attempt to give him a mobile home with a larger bathroom. The present bathroom only has 23 inches between the commode and the wall which makes it extremely difficult to get their son in and out. Moreover, Mr. Kleinstein himself is suffering from a very bad heart condition and his wife is not well.

I have verified that there is difficulty with the present mobile home and with the bathroom use. Apparently, Mr. Stone recognized that fact, too.

I hate to trouble you with this problem but I have it before me now. I am leaving for court in Philadelphia this morning and I wanted to take care of this matter before I departed. I would appreciate your having someone of your staff look into it to see if this situation cannot be corrected. Inasmuch as there are such a large number of mobile homes on a standby basis, it would seem to me that something could be done for this deserving case.

I would very much appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr
P.S. I am enclosing Xerox copy of the medical report on Mr. Kleinstein and his last letter to Mr. Stone.

November 10, 1972

Mr. Roy E. Morgan
WILK Radio
North Franklin St.
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Roy:

I had an interesting conversation with Harden Coon today about some of the problems involving flood control. I found him extremely knowledgeable and with some excellent ideas that would be helpful. I asked him whether he would serve on your Committee and he agreed to do so. I wald appreciate your being in touch with him and also inviting him to your next meeting. He has some specific ideas with respect to Richards Island and anbther area in the river bed that requires attention.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Betty Schechter

November 14, 1972

Rabbi Herman Shulman
Congregation Ohav Zedek
242 South Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702

Dear Rabbi Shulman:

I have your letter concerning Rabbi and Mrs. Teitz. It seems to me that HUD is being unreasonable in their disposition of this matter, although technically, within regulations. I shall be glad to have our staff look into the matter.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

November 20, 1972

Honorable William W. Scranton
Box 116
Dalson, Pennsylvania

Dear Governor:

I overlooked sending you a copy of the attached resolution which I sent out in support of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area. I have since talked to you on the telephone about my conversation with Frank Carlucci. We are making progress down here but it is indescribably slow.

Warmest regards to you and Mary.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

November 15, 1972

Mr. Oscar Snead
Office of Emergency Preparedness
Holy Cross Hall
King's College
North Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Dear Oscar:

I was delighted to read the profile in the Sunday Independent on your activities and background. It was very well done and complimentary. I congratulate you and hope you will continue the good work for many years to come.

Warmest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

November 20, 1972

Dear Paul,

I regret that you were unable to attend the reception in honor of Frank Carlucci. We had hoped that you might be able to make it.

I am sorry that you have left the community. You were a tower of strength to us while you were here and in your own quiet, thoughtful manner, most effective. We miss you, but we were delighted to have you here when we needed you most. We hope that you will return to the community again and see us when we act better and look more presentable.

Warmest regards and best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

Mr. Paul Royston
Program Co-Ordination Division
Executive Office of the President
Office of Management & Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

November 28, 1972

Mrs. Dorothy Cohen
Family Services Association
73 West Union Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Dorothy:

The enclosed letter is forwarded to you for your information.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure (letter from Theresa Boyer, Huntington Mills)

November 30, 1972

Mr. Roy E. Morgan
WILK Radio
North Franklin St.
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Roy:

Thank you for your letter of November 28th. I see no point in getting in touch with Mathewson. I have known him for many years and while he does at times show a certain amount of perception, I have no way of evaluating the substance of his letter. I thought you or the engineers might.

I have received a reply from Colonel Prentiss and I have asked Andy Shaw to make it available to you. He responded in the affirmative and apparently this matter of cleaning up the river channel will be the subject of discussion at the December 5th meeting. I assume that you will be there.

Many thanks to you for the fine job you are doing.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

cc: Andy Shaw

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

HOTEL STERLING
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701
717 - 829-1981

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Rev. Lane D. Kilburn
Dr. Francis Michelini
Roy E. Morgan
Joseph A. Quinn, Jr., Esq.
Edward Schechter

November 30, 1972

Andrew Shaw, J.
Executive Director

Stephan Zneimer, CPA
116 South Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Steve:

I have your letter concerning Mr. and Mrs. Jack Frier. I understand the problem but I am not certain that relief is available. I am forwarding it to Harold Rose, Chairman of our Committee on Finance who has been handling SBA matters. I shall ask him to be in touch with you.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

A. Shaw

HOTEL STERLING
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701
717 - 829-1981

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Andrew Shaw, Jr
Executive Director

November 30, 1972

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WILK Radio
North Franklin St.
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

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I have received a reply from Colonel Prentiss and I have asked Andy Shaw to make it available to you. He responded in the affirmative and apparently this matter of cleaning up the river channel will be the subject of discussion at the December 5th meeting. I assume that you will be there.

Many thanks to you for the fine job you are doing.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

cc: Andy Shaw

cc: Ed. Schechter
Tom Kiley

December 7, 1972

E. C. Wideman, Jr., Chairman
Luzerne County Commissioners
Luzerne County Courthouse
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

Dear Bud:

In behalf of the Flood Recovery Task Force, I want to extend our appreciation to you for your participation in the ceremonies last Saturday involving the delegation from Mississippi. I think both of us agree that this was a great experience for the community.

The proffer of help and the concern of the communities on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi is unique in the annals of this country. I think this was best expressed by the telegram of President Nixon. I recently ran into Harrison Smith and he made a very fine suggestion that we recognize this concern and friendship in a lasting manner. He specifically referred to the problems we have with respect to the identification of the Pierce Street Bridge. Sometimes it is referred to as the North Street Bridge and at other times the Pierce Street Bridge. Both of us were of the opinion that since the bridge is about to be renewed that this would be the occasion to perhaps rename the bridge.

Harrison and I were in agreement that it would be a very appropriate gesture on our part to rename this bridge the "Gulf Coast" bridge in honor of the people from Mississippi. We both think this is a great idea and we welcome the support of the County Commissioners for this purpose and suggest that when the bridge is re-opened it be renamed.

I would appreciate the reaction of the County Commissioners.

Sincerely,

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

HOTEL STERLING
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701
717 - 829-1981

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Andrew Hourigan, Jr., Esq.
Rev. Lane D. Kilburn
Dr. Francis Michelini
Roy E. Morgan
Joseph A. Quinn, Jr., Esq.
Edward Schechter

December 8, 1972

Andrew Shaw, Jr
Executive Director

Dear Tom and Andy:

The time has come when I must lay down my hoe and return to the hermitage where I suppose a judge is expected to remain in the first place.

It has been a privilege and satisfaction to serve as Chairman of the Flood Recovery Task Force. I have reached a point now in my judicial duties where I can no longer put aside tasks which must have undivided attention. Moreover, the increased work load of the court this past year has had additional burdens imposed because of the tragic and sudden death of one of my colleagues two weeks ago. There was already one vacancy before his death and it has been virtually impossible to keep abreast of the increased number of appeals.

I am, therefore, compelled to tender my resignation as chairman of the Task Force and do so herewith effective January 5, 1973. I have already notified orally Charles Hardwick, Harold Rose and Andrew Shaw. I will not release the resignation publicly until December 20th.

I feel twinges of conscience in tendering my resignation. I do not propose, however, to disassociate myself from the Task Force and propose to continue my service on the Executive Committee.

While the Task Force has made many significant accomplishments, much remains to be done. I believe that we are entering a new and important phase of the recovery program, especially dealing with long range measures, which will require careful and constant attention. We must also phase out several of our committees along the lines of our previous discussions. Since you and Andy are the Vice Presidents, the initiative for future action and direction must come from you. Although I shall be in court considerably during the next 45 days, please feel free to call me if I can help.

Seasons Greetings and best wishes.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Thomas H. Kiley, Chairman
First National Bank of Eastern Pa.
11 West Market Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Mr. Andrew J. Sordoni, III
Sordoni Enterprises
45 Owen Street
Forty Fort, Pennsylvania

December 5, 1972

Andrew Shaw, Executive Director
Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Andy:

The officers of the Flood Recovery Task Force met yesterday to consider reorganization matters. It was their considered judgment that Jim Tarity should be relieved of his duties on December 31st. While they are reluctant to terminate his services, they recognize that you need the assistance of a seasoned and experienced person who can complement your work, especially since you are not available on a full time basis. While Jim is a very personable young man, the officers believe that he just does not have the experience and qualifications to fulfill the role that is required. I assume that you will communicate this information to him diplomatically and tactfully.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjc

cc. Thos. Kiley
Chas. Hardwick

December 6, 1972

Mrs. Margaret Anderson
822 IBE Building
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Margaret:

Enclosed you will find copies of letter I have addressed to Secretary Wohlgemuth and Secretary Wilcox. I believe that the report should be released to the press at once. The report should also indicate that I have forwarded copies of the report to Secretary of Public Welfare Helene Wohlgemuth and to Secretary of Community Affairs, William Wilxoc urging the adoption of the recommendations.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

Enclosures

December 6, 1972

Mrs. Margaret Anderson
822 IBE Building
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Margaret:

Enclosed you will find copies of letter I have addressed to Secretary Wohlgemuth and Secretary Wilcox. I believe that the report should be released to the press at once. The report should also indicate that I have forwarded copies of the report to Secretary of Public Welfare Helene Wohlgemuth and to Secretary of Community Affairs, William Wilxoc urging the adoption of the recommendations.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

Enclosures

December 6, 1972

Honorable Helene Wohlgemuth
Secretary of Public Welfare
Health & Welfare Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Helene:

I feel quite certain that your Regional Office has been in touch with you concerning the shortage of nursing home beds in Northeastern Pennsylvania, exacerbated in recent months because of the destruction of facilities by the flood. The shortage had surfaced much before the appearance of Hurricane Agnes, as documented by the Rosenfeld Associates hospital study of last spring. The shortage of manpower to staff existing beds, threatened closing of additional beds because of stringent new safety standards, and the low rates of state reimbursement for indigent patients, are factors aggravating the shortage. The low rate of state reimbursement has always been a problem but it is more acute today than ever.

A committee of the Flood Recovery Task Force of Wyoming Valley has made a careful analysis of this critical situation and has prepared a report which I am enclosing. This report is made on the basis of their own direct study and, I believe, can be fully documented.

The committee has made the following recommendations to meet the needs of the immediate future: (1) that additional beds be opened at Valley Crest, the County home for the aged, at Wilkes-Barre. (2) That the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital be encouraged to reactivate the beds in the nurses' residence which were utilized during the flood. (3) That Luzerne, Wyoming and Lackawanna Counties be designated a pilot project area

in which state reimbursement rates should be raised as of January 1, 1973.

In behalf of the Flood Recovery Task Force, I would appreciate your giving this report and its recommendations immediate consideration. These recommendations have the support of the Flood Recovery Task Force, the Welfare Planning Council of Luzerne County, the Health and Hospital Planning Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Adult Advisory Board and Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley. We are today sending copies of the report and recommendations to other concerned agencies in the area and to the Secretary for Community Affairs, Honorable William Wilcox.

I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

December 6, 1972

Mr. Thomas Shelbourne
WNEP T.V.
Wilkes-Barre, Scranton Airport
Avoca, Pennsylvania

Dear Tom:

Enclosed you will find Xerox copy of a letter I received today from Senator Schweiker with the accompanying enclosure.

I hope you and your family are well. Warmest regards, Seasons Greetings and best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

November 30, 1972

Stephan Zneimer, CPA
116 South Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Steve:

I have your letter concerning Mr. and Mrs. Jack Frier. I understand the problem but I am not certain that relief is available. I am forwarding it to Harold Rose, Chairman of our Committee on Finance who has been handling SBA matters. I shall ask him to be in touch with you.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

December 6, 1972

Honorable William H. Wilcox
Secretary for Community Affairs
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Bill:

I know that you have some idea of the shortage of nursing home beds in Northeastern Pennsylvania, exacerbated in recent months because of the destruction of facilities by the flood. The shortage had surfaced much before the appearance of Hurrican Agnes, as documented by the Rosenfeld Associates hospital study of last spring. The shortage of manpower to staff existing beds, threatened closing of additional beds because of stringent new safety standards, and the low rates of state reimbursement for indigent patients, are factors aggravating the shortage. The low rate of state reimbursement has always been a problem but it is more acute today than ever.

A committee of the Flood Recovery Task Force of Wyoming Valley had made a careful analysis of this critical situation and has prepared a report which I am enclosing. This report is made on the basis of their own direct study and, I believe, can be fully documented.

The committee has made the following recommendations to meet the needs of the immediate future: (1) that additional beds be opened at Valley Crest, the County home for the aged, at Wilkes-Barre. (2) That the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital be encouraged to reactivate the beds in the nurses' residence which were utilized during the flood. (3) That Luzerne, Wyoming and Lackawanna Counties be designated a pilot project area

in which state reimbursement rates should be raised as of January 1, 1973.

I have sent a copy of this report today to the Secretary of Public Welfare, Helene Wohlgemuth. I felt that you would like to have a copy of the report as well and one has already been made available to Katherine McKenna at the United Services Agency. The recommendations have the support of the Flood Recovery Task Force, the Welfare Planning Council of Luzerne County, the Health and Hospital Planning Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Adult Advisory Board and Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley. We are today sending copies of the report and recommendations to other concerned agencies in the area.

I welcome any comments or suggestions you may have.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

Enclosure

December 6, 1972

Dear Governor,

Enclosed you will find a recent communication that I received from Senator Schweiker, and the earlier reply he had from Roye Lowry.

I hope you and Mary had an enjoyable trip to Hawaii.

Warmest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

December 7, 1972

Tom Bigler, News Director
WBRE TV, Inc.
62 South Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Tom:

Your editorial several days ago on the visit of our friends from Mississippi was excellent and I commend you for it. I agree that it was distressing that we did not have a larger crowd at the Courthouse. The dinner, of course, had an overflowing crowd, literally and figuratively.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have just sent today to Bud Wideman and Mayor Salwoski. If you approve of the idea, would you make some comments on it? It needs to be pushed.

Seasons Greetings and best wishes to you for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

December 7, 1972

Mr. Tom Moran
Wilkes College
South Franklin St.
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Tom:

Enclosed you will find copy of letter to Ed Wideman and Mayor Salwoski. This should be of interest to you and it should be the subject of an appropriate article indicating we propose the change of name to "Gulf Coast." Perhaps you may have something more fitting to suggest in the way of a name but I think the idea of doing something to mark the friendship between this community and the Mississippi communities is appropriate and desirable. Would you go ahead along these lines?

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosure

cc: Ed. Schechter
Tom Kiley

December 7, 1972

Mayor Con Salwoski
City Hall
Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

Dear Mayor Salwoski:

In behalf of the Flood Recovery Task Force, I want to extend our appreciation to you for your participation in the ceremonies last Saturday involving the delegation from Mississippi. I think both of us agree that this was a great experience for the community.

The proffer of help and the concern of the communities on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi is unique in the annals of this country. I think this was best expressed by the telegram of President Nixon. I recently ran into Harrison Smith and he made a very fine suggestion that we recognize this concern and friendship in a lasting manner. He specifically referred to the problems we have with respect to the identification of the Pierce Street Bridge. Sometimes it is referred to as the North Street Bridge and at other times the Pierce Street Bridge. Both of us were of the opinion that since the bridge is about to be renewed that this would be the occasion to perhaps rename the bridge.

Harrison and I were in agreement that it would be a very appropriate gesture on our part to rename this bridge the "Gulf Coast" bridge in honor of the people from Mississippi. We both think this is a great idea and we welcome the support of the City of Wilkes-Barre for this purpose and suggest that when the bridge is reopened it be renamed.

I would appreciate the reastion of the City of Wilkes-Barre.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cic

December 8, 1972

Dear Tom and Andy:

The time has come when I must lay down my hoe and return to the hermitage where I suppose a judge is expected to remain in the first place.

It has been a privilege and satisfaction to serve as Chairman of the Flood Recovery Task Force. I have reached a point now in my judicial duties where I can no longer put aside tasks which must have undivided attention. Moreover, the increased work load of the court this past year has had additional burdens imposed because of the tragic and sudden death of one of my colleagues two weeks ago. There was already one vacancy before his death and it has been virtually impossible to keep abreast of the increased number of appeals.

I am, therefore, compelled to tender my resignation as chairman of the Task Force and do so herewith effective January 5, 1973. I have already notified orally Charles Hardwick, Harold Rose and Andrew Shaw. I will not release the resignation publicly until December 20th.

I feel twinges of conscience in tendering my resignation. I do not propose, however, to disassociate myself from the Task Force and propose to continue my service on the Executive Committee.

While the Task Force has made many significant accomplishments, much remains to be done. I believe that we are entering a new and important phase of the recovery program, especially dealing with long range measures, which will require careful and constant attention. We must also phase out several of our committees along the lines of our previous discussions. Since you and Andy are the Vice Presidents, the initiative for future action and direction must come from you. Although I shall be in court considerablly during the next 45 days, please feel free to call me if I can help.

Seasons Greetings and best wishes.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Thomas H. Kiley, Chairman
First National Bank of Eastern Pa.
11 West Market Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Mr. Andrew J. Sordoni, III
Sordoni Enterprises
45 Owen Street
Forty Fort, Pennsylvania

December 8, 1972

Dr. R. Michael Yeller
Regional Medical Director
Region #2
Pennsylvania Dept. of Health
383 Wyoming Avenue
Kingston, Pennsylvania 18704

Dear Dr. Yeller:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter to Miss Rozell. The letter is informative and I am very impressed with what you are doing. I note that a copy of your tests are being made available to the patient's personal physician and that your program is being coordinated with services rendered in other counties. I am also pleased that your primary aim is to re-instate the patient with his physician whenever possible.

I think the work of the Department of Health was especially desirable and helpful during the flood emergency. We appreciate your initiative and imagination in stepping in promptly to assist.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

HOTEL STERLING
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701
717 - 829-1981

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Hon. Max Rosenn
Chairman
Thomas H. Kiley
1st Vice Chairman
A. J. Sordoni, III
2nd Vice Chairman
Harold Rose
Treasurer
Charles Hardwick
Secretary
James Kenny
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Edward J. Boltz
David DeCosmo
Andrew Hourigan, Jr., Esq.
Rev. Lane D. Kilburn
Dr. Francis Michelini
Roy E. Morgan
Joseph A. Quinn, Jr., Esq.
Edward Schechter

December 8, 1972

Andrew Shaw, Jr.
Executive Director

Dear Tom and Andy:

The time has come when I must lay down my hoe and return to the hermitage where I suppose a judge is expected to remain in the first place.

It has been a privilege and satisfaction to serve as Chairman of the Flood Recovery Task Force. I have reached a point now in my judicial duties where I can no longer put aside tasks which must have undivided attention. Moreover, the increased work load of the court this past year has had additional burdens imposed because of the tragic and sudden death of one of my colleagues two weeks ago. There was already one vacancy before his death and it has been virtually impossible to keep abreast of the increased number of appeals.

I am, therefore, compelled to tender my resignation as chairman of the Task Force and do so herewith effective January 5, 1973. I have already notified orally Charles Hardwick, Harold Rose and Andrew Shaw. I will not release the resignation publicly until December 20th.

I feel twinges of conscience in tendering my resignation. I do not propose, however, to disassociate myself from the Task Force and propose to continue my service on the Executive Committee.

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Edward Schechter

Andrew Shaw, Jr
Executive Director

December 8, 1972

Redmond Tyler, Director
Public Relations
Southern Airways, Inc.
Hartsfield, Atlanta
International Airport
Atlanta, Georgia 30320

Dear Mr. Tyler:

This last weekend, Northeastern Pennsylvania, especially Wyoming Valley, had as its guests a large delegation from Biloxi, Gulfport and other Gulf Coast cities in Mississippi. Their presence here, is, in my opinion, one of the most unique relationships between two American communities. They have been of immeasurable help to the citizens of this flood stricken area in assisting them in their recovery, giving them the benefit of their sad experience as the result of Hurricane Camille, and lending us considerable encouragement. This past weekend, they brought Christmas messages in the form of gifts for children of flood stricken families, books for our libraries, and the Perkinston Junior College choral group to elevate our morale with Christmas carols. I was the recipient of a telegram upon their arrival from President Nixon which accurately described their visit as follows:

"The Sister-city relationship between the Wyoming Valley and the six coastal cities of Mississippi who were so badly mauled by Hurricane Camille and tropical storm Agnes is in the finest of American tradition.

"My warmest good wishes go out to all who have had a part in this generous gesture of assistance and friendship from Mississippians to Pennsylvanians. It is an expression of the kind of unity that has made us a great and strong nation." /s/ Richard Nixon

I understand that the visit of the Mississippi delegation to this area could not have been possible except for your personal cooperation and the understandin

and cooperation of Southern Airways. In behalf of the Flood Recovery Task Force and a grateful community, I extend to you our deep appreciation of your company's magnificent display of good citizenship and humanitarian concern. Our appreciation of your thoughtfulness and interest is enhanced since we know of your problems in recent weeks. Our only regret is that your certificate does not give you a scheduled service to the Wilkes-Barre - Scranton Airport.

Please convey our deepest appreciation to the President and officers of your company and we extend to you at this time of year Seasons Greetings and the best wishes for a New Year filled with Good Health and Prosperity.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Roland Weeks

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

HOTEL STERLING
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701
717 - 829-1981

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Executive Director

December 8, 1972

Redmond Tyler, Director
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Southern Airways, Inc.
Hartsfield, Atlanta
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Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

cc: Roland Weeks

December 19, 1972

William J. Conner, Executive Assistant
Office of Emergency Preparedness
Holy Cross
King's College
North Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Bill:

This will acknowledge your letter forwarding to me the publications by the Committee on Economic Development relating to government and metropolitan areas. I appreciate your interest and thoughtfulness in sending these to me. I will find them quite helpful.

Warmest regards to you and Mrs. Conner and best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season and a Good, Healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC.

HOTEL STERLING
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA 18701
717 - 829-1981

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Edward Schechter

Andrew Shaw, Jr.
Executive Director

21 December 1972

We are delighted to advise you that on January 3rd, at 11 a.m., Jacob Kassab, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, will officially open the reconstructed North Street bridge connecting Wilkes-Barre and Kingston. Immediately after the opening ceremonies on the bridge, there will be a press conference at the Hotel Sterling, followed by a luncheon in the hotel's Blue Room starting at 12 noon.

This luncheon, to which you are cordially invited, will be sponsored by the Flood Recovery Task Force and hosted by the Wyoming Valley Motor Club, David N. Schooley, member of the State Transportation Commission, and several members of the Wilkes-Barre business community. It represents an opportunity to express our appreciation to the State and Federal Departments of Transportation who have cooperated in so quickly restoring to this community this vital North Street bridge link, destroyed by Hurricane Agnes.

Secretary Kassab will invite Governor Milton Shapp to Wilkes-Barre for this occasion, and we hope to have him join us in spite of his heavy commitment to the legislature in the first week of the New Year. The Secretary has also indicated that there will be high level representation from the Federal Department of Transportation.

We hope you will be able to make this meeting as our guest. We look forward to seeing you on January 3rd. Please let Mrs. Alice Ellman at Flood Recovery Task Force headquarters know by December 29th if you will be able to join us.

Very truly yours,

Max Rosenn

Max Rosenn
Chairman

Edward Schechter

Edward Schechter
Chairman, Transportation Committee

1/8/73 Talked to Carlucci by phone. Complex problems. Sent more it along. MF

December 22, 1972

Frank C. Carlucci, Deputy Director
Executive Office of the President
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Frank:

This letter supplements my telephone conversation with you when you were in Wilkes-Barre yesterday. I am enclosing excerpts from the Pennsylvania Department of Welfare's Flood Recovery Proposal which was submitted to HEW in November and which promises to be one of the most creative, comprehensive and fiscally responsible delivery systems.

Several issues are of great importance and I am calling them to your attention because I hope that you will see their importance and give them your immediate personal attention. Two very important waivers for Luzerne and Wyoming Counties are included which required HEW's approval. The waiver on Title XIX will provide among other things reasonable costs for nursing home care, interim care and outpatient services. The Title XIX Proposal includes Federal money for I.C.F. beds and restoration beds. You are very familiar with the critical shortage of manpower and nursing home beds. Our own Task Force report makes recommendations consistent with the Department's proposals and I am also enclosing the Task Force report.

A second waiver relates to the income maintenance system and will provide among other things increased Public Assistance allowances for older people for community based living arrangements rather than institutional care. This will enable the aging services administered by the United Services Agency to recruit additional foster homes for older people.

The third issue concerns the impact of the 90%/10% formula governing eligibility for federal reimbursement to services in the Revenue Sharing legislation. On June 30, 1972, the Department of Public Welfare was granted geographical group eligibility for all Title I, IV A, X and XIV funded social services in Luzerne and Wyoming Counties. This was integral to the development of the special demonstration project for the Wyoming Valley's United Services Agency. I am most concerned about the effect the limitations imposed on the

provision of social services to past and potential recipients under the 90/10 formula will have on this project. I have recently learned that because of the retroactivity of the formula to July 1st that the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has exceeded the 10% limit to past and potential recipients. I hope that it will be possible for the Secretary to grant a waiver of applicability of the 90/10 formula for the United Services Agency demonstration project in the Wyoming Valley.

I would be very grateful if you would review these matters at your earliest convenience and help secure the Secretary's approval so that our flood recovery efforts can proceed without further delay.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

Enclosures

December 28, 1972

Dear Mr. President:

I thank you for your generous comments on my modest contribution to the Flood Recovery effort in the Greater Wilkes-Barre area. It was extremely kind of you to take the time to write, especially in view of the many burdens of your high office.

We are very exercised here by the unfounded criticism recently made by Jack Anderson of Frank Carlucci's role in the recovery effort. We honestly believe that he carried out his mission with ability and fidelity. In my comments to the local media on Mr. Anderson's remarks, I pointed out, among other matters, that "If Mr. Carlucci was highly visible while he was in the valley, that was as it should have been. He was here as the President's personal representative, and his many activities as director of the Federal Relief Program were demonstrations of the President's deep concern for the safety and well-being of the Valley's residents."

For all of the residents of Wyoming Valley who are indebted to you for your deep personal concern for them, for the Task Force, and for myself personally, I extend the Seasons Greetings and best wishes for a New Year filled with good health, happiness and peace.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Blind cc. Frank Carlucci

December 28, 1972

Dear Frank:

I am enclosing several articles from the Wilkes-Barre and Scranton newspapers replying to the Anderson articles. I also made a television reply this week. The Task Force at its meeting yesterday also went on record officially supporting my reply and amplifying the statement.

I am satisfied that with few exceptions the Wyoming Valley is deeply appreciative of the conscientious, capable and indefatigible service you gave.

Warmest regards and best wishes to you in your new office and for a good, healthy and happy New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosures

Frank C. Carlucci, Deputy Director
Office of Budget & Management
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20054

December 29, 1972

Honorable Hugh Scott
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Hugh:

Thank you for your telegram advising me of the grant to the Greater Wilkes-Barre Industrial Fund from the Economic Development Administration. I also thank you for your letter advising me of the response to the Task Force by the Office of Management and Budget to study the Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area. We appreciate your continued interest in the recovery problems for Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Warmest regards and best wishes to you for a Healthy New Year with a world at peace.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

December 29, 1972

Dear Mr. President:

I enclose herewith a statement released yesterday by the Wyoming Valley Flood Recovery Task Force in response to Jack Anderson's comments on Frank Carlucci. I am satisfied from the reactions we have had in the press that it pretty well represents the feelings of our entire community.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

Enclosure

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

December 29, 1972

Harrison Smith, President
Wilkes-Barre Publishing Company
15 North Main Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Hal:

I thank you for sending me a copy of your editorial on "A Bridge Called Friendship." In fact, the editorial had escaped me because I was out of town at the time. I think it is a fine editorial and a fine idea which needs to be pushed. I shall follow through on your suggestion.

Many thanks for calling this to my attention. Warmest regards to you and Peggy and best wishes for a Good New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

December 22, 1972

Ralph O. Kerman, Executive Secretary
American Friends Service Committee
319 East 25th Street
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

My dear Mr. Kerman:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated December 12th enclosing the Agnes Disaster Report by the American Friends Service Committee. They both arrived this morning. I appreciate the concern of the Committee and its interest in the study they have made and your thoughtfulness in sending me a copy. I am taking it home with me today for holiday reading and I expect to respond with comments early next week.

Seasons Greetings and best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN
Chairman

MR:cjr

January 4, 1973

Honorable Richard S. Schweiker
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dick:

I am about to wind up my duties as Chairman of the Flood Recovery Task Force. I could not do so before expressing appreciation of the Task Force and my personal appreciation for the significant support you gave the flood devastated communities in Pennsylvania, and especially in this Valley. You were at all times highly concerned and sensitive to our problems and I am aware with what vigor you espoused remedial legislation for us in the Senate.

There were many lessons we learned from our terrifying experiences and we tried to communicate them to the pertinent agencies of the federal and state government. Some of them were:

1. The co-insurance program that we initially proposed and which you and Senator Schweiker supported would have been less costly in the long run and more effective than the SBA loan, redevelopment and related programs.

2. This nation needs a National Disaster Insurance program which should be carefully drafted to encompass all natural disasters -- flood, earthquakes, hurricanes, etc.

3. Mobile homes are not the answer for temporary housing for disaster victims. Preparing the pad, the connections and other installationscosts ran, I am told, in excess of $10,000 for each mobile unit. This sum would have gone a long way to rehabilitate a flood damaged home. Consideration should be given to some form of modular temporary housing which would be less costly and serve a temporary purpose in disaster.

4. Except for a limited cadre in OEP, neither federal nor state government had trained or experienced personnel ready to move in, take charge and direct emergency and recovery efforts. HUD had none and this was a major problem. I do not know what is the answer but it deserves early consideration.

These were among a number of suggestions we made to OEP representatives at a joint meeting we had last November with the Gulf Coast cities of Mississippi.

Again, many, many thanks to you for your invaluable support and cooperation.

Warmest regards and best wishes to you and your family for a Good, Healthy and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

P.S. I am enclosing several items which appeared in the local press on the occasion of your recent visit here.

January 5, 1973

The Honorable William H. Wilcox
Secretary of Community Affairs
216 South Office Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Bill:

The time has come when I must wind up my duties as Chairman of the Flood Recovery Task Force. I regret doing so because I realize that there is still much that remains to be done. Additional judicial duties are imposed upon me as of the first of the year which make it well-nigh impossible for me to continue to carry on as Chairman of the Task Force. In tendering my resignation effective at the end of today, as Chairman, I do not intend to disassociate myself from the activities of the Task Force or from the Executive Committee.

Before I wind up my duties, I want to express my appreciation to you in your official and personal capacities for the invaluable assistance that you have given the community and me in the flood recovery effort. You have been dynamic, concerned and vigorous in pursuing the interests of the communities, both with respect to current problems and those that present themselves in long range form. I believe the Governor is indeed fortunate in having you in his Cabinet and he can take great pride in the manner in which you have discharged your duties in the flood recovery effort.

It was a pleasure to work with you and I hope that our paths will cross frequently in the future. I am also confident that you will continue your interest in the recovery effort in the area so long as this is possible.

Warmest personal regards and best wishes for your continued good health and success.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

January 4, 1973

Honorable Daniel J. Flood
House of Representatives
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Dan:

I am about to wind up my duties as Chairman of the Flood Recovery Task Force. I expect, however, to remain on as a member of the Force and its Executive Committee. I could not wind up my duties as Chairman, however, before expressing appreciation of the Task Force and my personal appreciation for the stupendous support you gave our flood devastated communities. For months you set aside almost all of your other Congressional duties to personally give your full presence and energies to the enormous problems confronting our people. You were at all times highly concerned and sensitive to our devastation, suffering and recovery effort and I am aware with what vigor you espoused remedial legislation in the Congress.

Many, many thanks to you for your invaluable support and cooperation. I know that you will continue to work in behalf of Luzerne County and the recovery effort.

Warmest regards and best wishes to you and Kathryn for a Good, Healthy and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

January 4, 1973

Dear Andy and Betty,

Before I wind up my duties as Chairman of the Task Force, I want to express my appreciation to both of you for your cooperation and support. You were dependable, responsible and, at the same time, pleasant even though at time the duties imposed may have been disagreeable. In addition, the Chairman had his shortcomings. I do want you to know how much I appreciated the pleasure of working with you.

Please convey to Alice my appreciation for her cooperation.

Best wishes to all of you and to the Task Force for its continued leadership and success in the recovery effort.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Andrew Shaw, Jr., Executive Director
Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.
Mrs. Edward Schechter
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania

January 4, 1973

Honorable Hugh Scott
United States Senate
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20005

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1.,The co-insurance program that we initially proposed and which you and Senator Schweiker supported would have been less costly in the long run and more effective than the SBA loan, redevelopment and related programs.

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3. Mobile homes are not the answer for temporary housing for disaster victims. Preparing the pad, the connections and other installation costs ran, I am told, in excess of $10,000 for each mobile unit. This sum would have gone a long way to rehabilitate a flood damaged home. Consideration should be given to some form of modular temporary housing which would be less costly and serve a temporary purpose in disaster.

4. Except for a limited cadre in OEP, neither federal nor state government had trained or experienced personnel ready to move in, take charge and direct emergency and recovery efforts. HUD had none and this was a major problem. I do not know what is the answer but it deserves early consideration.

These were among a number of suggestions we made to OEP representatives at a joint meeting we had last November with the Gulf Coast cities of Mississippi.

Again, many, many thanks to you for your invaluable support and cooperation.

Warmest regards and best wishes to you and Marian for a Good, Healthy and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

January 8, 1973

William P. Culp, Esquire
Small Business Administration
Legal Division
P.O. Box 1368
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Re: SBA Disaster Loan No.
DL 431231 10 03

Dear Mr. Culp:

I have the legal instruments which you forwarded in connection with the SBA loan application by my wife, Tillie R. Rosenn, at 177 James Street, Kingston, Pa.

Item 14 contains several conditions which I request that you reconsider. We intend to avoid firm repair construction contracts except where absolutely necessary and, therefore, request that 14(d) be deleted. The probability is that a firm construction contract will be entered into with respect to the commercial property at 85 First Avenue, although this is not certain. Our plans for the rehabilitation of our home at 177 James Street, however, does not contemplate the engagement of a contractor to do this work. We see no need to pay exorbitant prices for the rehabilitation of our home that are required by many contractors at this particular time, many of whom are using inexperienced and unsatisfactory craftsmen. We will enter into a contract with Marvell Kitchens for the manufacture and delivery of the kitchen cabinets and some of the kitchen appliances. Much of the labor for the installation, however, will be performed by carpenters and plumbers of our selection who will make the installation. They will be paid on an hourly rate and will also do the major repair work for the balance of the property. Electrical installations have already been performed by us and electricians will be engaged and other craftsmen for the balance of the work. Electrical fixtures and appliances will be purchased directly by us.

Nor do we see any need under the circumstances for compliance with condition 14(c) relating to the performance bond for the real estate repairs. This is an additional expense which I do not deem necessary under the circumstances. It

January 15, 1973

Dear Betty:

As you know, there has been a good deal of discussion concerning the flood recovery buttons and I am fearful that we have missed the ball with respect to them. On the other hand, they could be of use now only in connection with the Flood Recovery Fair. You know the one that the committee prefers and I think if it's to be ordered it ought to be done now because it does take time. I think I turned over the design to you or Andy. If there is any other information you want, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

Enclosures

Mrs. Betty Schechter
Flood Recovery Task Force
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

January 18, 1973

Andrew Shaw, Jr., Executive Director
Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Andy:

You will recall that sometime ago I suggested that you see Attorney Marshal Jacobson with reference to securing a tax exemption from the IRS for the Flood Recovery Task Force. This is highly important and should not be neglected because the exemption will relieve the Task Force from unnecessary reporting to the IRS. I have again discussed this with Attorney Jacobson within the past twenty-four hours and he is perfectly willing to cooperate and help if you see him and provide him with the necessary information. I suggest that you do because of its importance.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

cc: Andrew J. Sordoni, III

Basin Authority.

5. Traffic and transportation. We must support the Transportation Authority and give careful consideration ~~to~~ the development of a mass transportation system and the construction of the additional bridges and cross-valley expressway.

6. Recovery Fair. This is an important project and time is already running out.

7. Rehabilitation of a viable steam heat delivery service to downtown Wilkes-Barre.

8. Support of a national insurance program.

9. The renaming of the Pierce Street Bridge to the "Friendship Bridge" in expression of the appreciation of the community to the people and communities in other parts of the country that came to our relief. We must do something tangibly to express that appreciation.

10. An industrial development program to support the activities of the Chamber of Commerce.

11. An inspection of the educational activities of the community, including high schools and vocational schools.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR:cjr

cc: Andrew Shaw
Thomas Kiley
Harold Rose
Charles Hardwick

January 24, 1973

Mr. Andrew J. Sordoni, III
Sordoni Enterprises
45 Owen Street
Forty Fort, Pa. 18704

Dear Andy:

In accordance with your request at today's meeting, I submit my views with respect to future objectives of the Task Force:

1. A carefully considered program for the disposition of funds appropriated by the Legislature of the Commonwealth for flood relief. I think this commands high priority, should be well conceived and then be the basis of discussions with Senator Murray and Lt. Governor Kline. Both should be at the meeting because this falls within the assignment to Governor Kline.

2. Restructuring of local government. This includes the delivery of services and the matters contained in our request to Secretary Wilcox for the grant.

3. Redevelopment programs. I am fearful that unless we express some views with respect to the form and specifics of redevelopment in the communities outside of the City of Wilkes-Barre, the monies will not be spend soundly. While they do have the benefit of consultants, we have no way of knowing the validity of their recommendations. Most of the consultants are outsiders as it is. Funds have been appropriated to the Flood Recovery Task Force for this specific purpose and, if necessary, we should engage the services of an expert to advise us. This does not mean a grant to him but he should be available to us for consultant purposes on a per diem or hourly basis.

4. Flood control. This is still a serious project and we should continue our interests in it as well as in the revival of the Susquehanna River

February 7, 1973

Mr. Oscar Snead
Office of Emergency Preparedness
400 Kidder Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702

Dear Oscar:

I found on my desk this afternoon the beautiful compendium prepared by you of the Twin Sister Festivities. It was thoughtful of you to think of me and to deliver it. I do appreciate it and it will be a pleasant reminder of a delightful experience.

Warmest regards and best wishes.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts

February 14, 1973

Past

Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Attention: Mr. Tom Moran

Dear Tom:

Senator Scott sent this release to me and I have been carrying it around the past few days. It is still timely, in my opinion, and important. Would you see that it gets to the press.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts
Enclosure

Flood

February 15, 1973

t

Dear Andy:

Enclosed you will find an issue of "Southernaire" which was forwarded to me this week. It may be of interest to you, including the article which appears on page 3.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts

Enclosure

Mr. Andrew Shaw, Jr.
Executive Director
Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

February 14, 1973

PERSONAL

Dear Tom:

Enclosed you will find an issue of "Southernaire" which was forwarded to me this week. It may be of interest to you, including the article which appears on page 3.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts

Enclosure

Mr. Thomas H. Kiley
Chairman of the Board
First National Bank
of Eastern Pennsylvania
11 West Market Street
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

February 14, 1973

Mr. Andrew Sordoni
Sordoni Construction Co.
45 Owens Street
Forty Fort, Pa. 18704

Dear Andy:

I am enclosing an issue of "Southernaire" which I received. I thought you might want it for your information and records.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts

Enclosure

February 12, 1973

Mr. Redmond Tyler
Director of Public Relations
Southern Airways, Inc.
Hartsfield Atlanta International Airport
Atlanta, Georgia 30320

Dear Mr. Tyler:

I thank you for sending me copies of your December issue of "Southernaire". This is the kind of public relations and thoughtfulness that should move Southern Airways higher and more frequently in the skies. Many thanks to you for your thoughtfulness and best wishes for the company's and your personal success.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts

March 14, 1973

Honorable Frank Carlucci
Under Secretary of Health,
Education, and Welfare
Washington, D. C. 20201

Dear Frank:

I thank you for your letter of March 10 in connection with the Wyoming Valley Flood Recovery Proposals submitted by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare for waiver. I deeply appreciate your interest in the matter and I will see that there is expedited action at this end by Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare.

Warmest personal regards and appreciation.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts

March 14, 1973

Mr. Andrew Shaw, Jr.
Executive Director
Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Andy:

Betty Schecter has sent me the correspondence concerning the renaming of the North Street Bridge. I quite agree that the dedication and the formal ceremonies for the renaming of the bridge should be deferred until the completion of the permanent bridge. This may take some time. I feel, however, that in the meantime whatever formal action and resolutions are required should be initiated and completed so that when the bridge is dedicated, the ceremonies for its naming would be a mere formality. It would be well, also, to refer to the bridge, in the meantime, as it is being constructed as the new Friendship Bridge. Therefore, I would like to suggest, that while the Flood Recovery Task Force is still in existence and while the matter is still fresh in our minds, that whatever formal action is required be taken and completed now.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts
cc: Harrison Smith
Andrew Sordoni, III

Past

April 10, 1973

Mr. Andrew Shaw, Jr.
Executive Director
Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Andy:

Enclosed you will find communication which I have just received from the Governor's Office of Planning and Development. It requires return by April 10. Will you and Betty attempt to complete it and promptly return it.

Sincerely yours,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts

Enclosure

Past

May 8, 1973

Mr. Andrew Shaw, Executive Director
Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania 18701

Dear Andy:

Enclosed are leases that I never executed for the Flood Recovery Task Force because, by the time they arrived, I had ceased to be chairman. I think it is too late now to sign them. In any event, the understanding I had with Mr. Engle was that the lease could be terminated by either party giving the other I think sixty days' notice.

Under the circumstances, I see no point in now signing the lease. You ought to have it in your files though.

Sincerely yours,

June 26, 1973

Mr. Andrew Shaw, Jr.
Executive Director
Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.
Hotel Sterling
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

Dear Andy:

I attended the ceremonies of the Flood Recovery Task Force winding up the Rainbow Recovery Fair. Roy Morgan had a very fine program prepared, brief but well organized.

The Governor was present with Mrs. Shapp and delivered a very fine and appropriate talk. Congressman Flood, Senator Murray and Senator Wood, the mayors of various cities, including the mayor of Scranton, county judges, and other dignitaries were present. The Flood Recovery Task Force was conspicuous by the absence of everyone except for the Chairman of the Committee, Roy Morgan, and Edward Boltz. The Flood Victims Action Council was also conspicuously absent. The audience was humiliatingly small.

Sincerely,

MAX ROSENN

MR/bts

cc: Mr. Andrew J. Sordoni, III