

(Correspondence: To Judge, Rosen, Max, [1972 July - 1973 January])

TO: FLOOD FILE
FROM: JUDGE ROSENN

On Tuesday, July 11th, 1972, while in Philadelphia, I called John Whittaker on the White House staff and discussed the devastation in the area and stated to him that we had to have White House help and new legislation if there was to be a rehabilitation in the Valley and recovery. He was quite sympathetic and informed me that the President had directed him to handle the co-ordination and they were to pull out all stops. He also stated that he and his staff had worked the previous night until around 2 in the morning in the drafting of legislation and in trying to meet the problem. He also stated that he met with Governor Shapp for two hours on Monday, July 10th.

I then called Senator Scott and reached him at his home. He indicated that he had met with Governor Shapp for several hours

TO: CONCERNED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

FROM: JUDGE MAX ROSENN, Chairman, Flood Recovery Task Force.

A major problem facing this area is the shortage of nursing home beds due to destruction of facilities by the flood. The shortage was severe before "Agnes," as documented by the Rosenfeld Associates Hospital study of last spring. The shortage of manpower to staff existing beds, the threatened closing of additional beds ~~to~~ due to stringent new safety standards and the low rates of state reimbursement for indigent patients are factors ^{aggravating} compounding the shortage.

A committee of the Flood Recovery Task Force has made a careful analysis of this critical situation and has made the following recommendations to meet the needs of the immediate future:

1. That additional beds be opened at Valley Crest.
2. That the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital be encouraged to reactivate the beds in the nurses' residence that were utilized during the flood.
3. That Luzerne, Wyoming and Lackawanna Counties be designated a Pilot Project Area, ^{in which} ~~that~~ state reimbursement rates ^{should} be raised in this area as of January 1, 1973.

^{Comments on} We urge your immediate consideration of this report and ^{welcome your} ~~hope for~~ your support of its recommendations. The report and its recommendations already have the support of the Executive Committee of the Flood Recovery Task Force, the Welfare ~~Plan~~ Planning Council of Luzerne County, the Health and Hospital Planning Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, the Adult Welfare Advisory Board and Family Service Association of Wyoming Valley.

Please send your response to Mrs. Frank W. Anderson, Chairman, Committee on Human Services, Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc.
822 IBE Building, Public Square, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18701

signed MR.

