

Flood Recovery Task Force, Speeches, 1972 Fall

REMARKS OF JUDGE MAX ROSENN AT PRESENTATION OF CITATION TO
FRANK C. CARLUCCI BY FLOOD RECOVERY TASK FORCE, INC. AT
WILKES-BARRE, PENNSYLVANIA ON OCTOBER 26, 1972

Mr. Carlucci, Members of the Task Force, Governor and Mrs.
Scranton, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Task Force is delighted to have this opportunity to express its appreciation, and the appreciation of the community, to Frank Carlucci for the leadership and direction he has given the Federal Recovery program these past few months. We have gathered here this afternoon, quietly, in small numbers, and in modest style because we felt that our guest of honor would, under the circumstances in which the community finds itself, consider banquet, fine clothes and speeches inappropriate. I suppose a reception of this sort has the advantage of sparing our guest of honor speeches which sometimes make the recipient a trifle uncomfortable.

We know that directing a disaster recovery program is not included in the job description of the Secretary or Deputy Secretary of Management and Budget. We are aware, Frank, that the President entrusted you with this enormous responsibility because he knew that you would bring to it special abilities and competence, extensive experience and unusual talents. The assignment has not been easy. The devastation wrought by Hurricane Agnes left

uncharted seas for you and each of the federal agencies. You have had to guide the Recovery Ship through murky depths and rocky channels, with untried and often inexperienced crew. The people of this community have not always been the most congenial or convivial passengers. We have not been gay or festive, relaxed or reposed. On the contrary, we have been tense and taut, often demanding and dictatorial -- sometimes exceeding the expectations of first class passengers on the best trans-Atlantic liner.

Throughout this entire journey in strange and troubled waters, you have charted a steady course. You have been calm and cool under fire, and when we have been unreasonable, you have been understanding. When we have been impatient, you have been calm and patient -- sometimes frustratingly patient. We know the schedule that you have set for yourself and your staff -- hours which virtually commence at the break of dawn and do not end until long after the sun has set. You have been dedicated and devoted, sacrificing and sagacious. You have served your President and this community far above and beyond the call of duty, and every thoughtful person in the Wyoming Valley is beholden to you.

John Gardner, in his small but powerful book on Excellence, wrote at one point that: (p.131) "Our society cannot achieve greatness unless individuals at many levels of

ability accept the need for high standards of performance and strive to achieve those standards within the limits possible for them."

You set for yourself the highest conceivable standards of service and achieved excellence in your performance. For this performance and for these great qualities, we honor you today.

In behalf of a deeply grateful community, I have the honor and the pleasure to present to you this citation expressing in a few, simple words, our abundant appreciation:

"Certificate of Appreciation Presented to Frank C. Carlucci by the Flood Recovery Task Force, Inc. on behalf of grateful citizens of Wyoming Valley, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania in recognition of his superior qualities of leadership and service in coordinating the activities of various federal agencies engaged in bringing help and hope to many thousands of victims of the great flood spawned by Hurricane Agnes on June 23, 1972 and to their devastated communities, and of his quiet effectiveness, patience, and skill, in directing the largest flood recovery program in the nation's history as the personal representative of RICHARD M. NIXON, The President of the United States.
Presented this 26th day of October, 1972."

Signed by the First Vice-Chairman, Thomas H. Kiley, the Second Vice-Chairman, Andrew J. Sordoni, The Secretary, Charles Hardwick and myself, as Chairman.

I congratulate you.

REMARKS -- CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONIES
LUZERNE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1972
OCCASION, MISSISSIPPI DELEGATION

Thanks to Committee et al.

In behalf of the Flood Recovery Task Force and the people in this old and historic valley, I welcome our dear friends from the Gulf Coast of Mississippi. Before this day is over, they will have traveled almost three thousand miles to extend the warm hand of friendship and brotherly love to the floodstricken people of the Wyoming Valley.

What we do here today on these historic -- and sometimes cruel-- banks of the Susquehanna River makes new history in this country. About 200 years ago, John Wilkes lifted his eloquent voice in our behalf in the Halls of Parliament 3000 miles away when we were beset by the oppressions of King George III. We never forgot his friendship as is attested by the name of this city. Today, new found friends from the deep South have flown many, many miles -- some for the second time -- to express their concern for us during a trying period of our life--when the holiday season is marred by the devastation about us. Their presence here, however, not only lights up our spirit, but even makes the drab and dreary world about us look festive and gay. In a world full of tension and anxiety, beset with

economic, military and unparalleled social problems, our friends from Mississippi have had the thoughtfulness, the interest and the awareness to take time out of their lives at this busy time of the year to find sentiment for us.

Walter Winchell once said a real friend is one who walks in when another walks out.

In an epic and touching experience, they have rekindled our faith in our fellowman. They have set an example for all Americans, not merely by their words but by their actions. They realize that these are dark days for us; that this -- more than any other time -- is the season of the year when our homes should be filled with lights and merrymaking. Their presence here today, therefore, is to let us know that their communities -- Biloxi, Gulfport, Ocean Springs, Long Beach, Bay St. Louis, and all of the Gulfport Coast -- are thinking of us and that we are not forsaken. They also want us to know that we are not alone in the sufferings we have endured, for they too have walked in the valley of the shadow of death and destruction.

They want us to know from their example -- their courage, faith, strength and will to live -- they arose from the desolation and devastation about them. They rebuilt their cities, their homes, their stores and their factories. Three years after the terrible hurricane which leveled their cities, they are a more thoughtful, imaginative, progressive and stronger area.

Mr. WEeks, Mayor Guice, Mayor Shaw, Mayor Skellie, Mayor Carver -- I again reiterate our warmhearted welcome to you and your delegation. You are indeed in our hearts and a related extension of our Valley.

"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

*Remarks - Christmas Eve
Lighting ceremonies at
Court House on Dec. 2nd - 1972
- Session Mrs. Selley*

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THE PRESIDENTS TELEGRAM.

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NOTES FOR ADDRESS TO BELL TELEPHONE CONFERENCE
November 27, 1972, TREADWAY INN, WILKES-BARRE

A. INTRODUCTION (Chavez story)

B. What is important is that the great flood of 1972 is not a catastrophe which marks the decline and disintegration of an old, established and dynamic community. Instead, our experience can be and it must be the springboard from which a stronger, more vital and more beautiful community will grow. Like the legendary phoenix, the Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Valley of today has an enormous opportunity for rebirth, redesign and new vitality.

C. I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the unsung heroes of this terrible disaster without whose effective, fruitful and often heroic assistance, this recovery could not have been possible. They responded promptly even though they were among the hardest hit victims. They disregarded their own destruction to help others. They sought neither help nor sympathy. They offered no apologies or explanations. They called for men, materials and money and they moved speedily. I refer, gentlemen / to our public utilities, the light companies, the gas and water company, and last, but not least, the telephone companies. Their record of achievement in the post-flood period is a magnificent tribute to the ingenuity, resourcefulness and capabilities of our regulated industries. Bell Telephone's role and accomplishments were especially significant. Bell was not

only called upon to restore telephone service immediately, though it was under water in this area and in its key city of Harrisburg, but also to extend its services within the matter of minutes and hours to supply telephone communication to the emergency forces -- the Office of Emergency Preparedness, Army Engineers, emergency field hospitals and other emergency installations, HUD and the Office of Presidential representatives. As Chairman of the Flood Recovery Task Force of the Valley and for myself personally, I want to take this opportunity to express the appreciation of a grateful community to the Bell Telephone Company for its state and local leadership, its management and to the men and women for a job superbly done. They worked unceasingly day in and day out, and often around the clock, to restore communications to this devastated area. It would have been much simpler and easier to have constructed a new telephone system. They rebuilt and reconstructed an old system in an inconceivably short time and really wrought a miracle.

D. My function here today, however, is ^{not} to talk about the utilities but to tell you what we are doing in the recovery:

1. Our industries will remain and rebuild. There is only one major loss in the area -- Interstate Bakery.
2. Our people are rebuilding and will rebuild their homes...

- (a) SBA loans (See recap attached)
- (b) Interim assistance
- (c) Redevelopment.

3. Pierce Street Bridge
4. North Cross-Valley Expressway
5. Transportation Authority
6. The Colleges
7. Important new construction:
 - (a) Grit - new 14 story building
 - (b) First Valley Bank - 16 story combination office and apartment building.
 - (c) United Penn Bank - 9 story bank and office building
 - (d) New Federal Building - 60 thousand square feet
 - (e) First National Bank - new computer center
 - (f) New Vocational Rehabilitation facility
 - (g) New addition to Wilkes College (part of Stark Science Hall - Learning & Resource Center)
 - (h) General redevelopment of Wilkes-Barre City (approximately 100 million investment of federal and state funds over next three to five year period....)
8. Restructure of local government'
9. Future flood control -- the dikes and dams
10. The new citizen role in local government and planning.

"Man is no mere automaton in his routine, but that in the dust of which he is made there is also fire, lighted now and then by great winds from the sky." Walter Lippman

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B- 1993 *Approved* 73.986.065
H- 27,167 203.941.057

UB 634 \$ 1.558.100

UH 17706 58.622.966

11-27-72

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Remarks of Judge Mrs. P. at presentation
of Citation to Frank C. Carlucci by
J.P.T. at WB Pa. on Oct 26, 1972

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I suppose a reception of this sort has the advantage of sparing our guest of honor speeches which sometimes make the recipient a trifle uncomfortable. ~~(Marc Anthony Story) And so, Frank, since we have the feeling that you are not prone to listen, we shall make our remarks brief.~~

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" To

Signed by the 1st V-Chorus, Thomas H
Kelly, the 2^d V-Chorus — AJS
The Key, and myself, as Chairman.
I Congratulate you

Bill -
Billie -
Mollie -
Fannie -

1) Introduction -

~~Floods are not a new experience. But~~
Thanks for invitation.

Following so closely your activities.
Splendid leadership - Min, Bessie, Mrs Backus
Common Cause.

2) Floods are not a new experience.
1902 flood.

1936 Flood - No help - state, fed etc.
Local Contributions -
Little organization.

3) This has been a great catastrophe. It
need not be a calamity if we strive.

a) Co-insurance could have done much.
It would not have been the full answer but
it would have gone a long way.
(Congressional action.)

b) Much has been done, but in a
disaster w/ these dimensions, there is no
limit to what must be done -
4 years have elapsed - the next 4 are
critical.

- 4) ~~The~~ The battle for Recovery cannot be fought alone. Nor can it be won if we seek only our own personal interests.

An old biblical proverb - If I am not for myself what can I do? If I am only for myself what can I do?

If our interests is only to get out of the recovery what we can for ourselves - we will go down to defeat. Of what value is restoration of our home, if the rest of the Community lies devastated. - factories, libraries, stores, churches & other houses.

- 5) The great obstacle - The fragmented Communities

a) The duplication of efforts

b) The gap in needs

c) The needless administrative expenses etc.

- A) Restoration What must we do limited resources - if possible.

- B) Wise use of Redevelopment funds - 500,000,000

- C) Top priority - careful & sensible spending. We must play a strong role in local govt. Interim assistance - Good program.

Insufficient funds. We need 20 Million more. We must secure this from state.

- D) Bridges and Expressway -

We must plan for completion of these projects.

- ~~E) Fair dealing w/ the Gov't, the state & w/ each other.~~

- F) SBA Loans.

Conclusion

